



NOV. – DEC. 2020

Orange County Cemetery District

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Paving Project Nears Completion at El Toro Memorial Park

The final phase of the El Toro Memorial Park asphalt paving project is nearing completion. During this last phase, the roads and curbs surrounding all of the older sections of the cemetery, around the dirt/trash area, and the intersection next to the public restroom are being demolished and repaved. Drainage improvements in the older areas of the cemetery have also been completed, as well as the installation of a large truck turnout near the dirt/trash area to aid traffic flow, and an improved garden and flag pole area in the flower bed across from the public restroom.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED
FINAL SLURRY SEAL IS SCHEDULED FOR
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 29th and 30th.**

The District strongly encourages families to avoid visiting El Toro Memorial Park on these days when the final slurry is being installed. While the park will be open for visitation, there will be varying times during these two days when areas of the park will be inaccessible. The District is aware of Dia de los Muertos and will ensure that the grounds are open for visitation during the weekend of October 31st and November 1st. Parking lot striping should take place the week of November 2nd. Parking in front of the Los Alisos lawns may be limited when this is occurring.

We apologize for any inconvenience and noise during this time of construction and appreciate your patience and cooperation. We hope you will enjoy the newly paved roads and enhancements to the park.



Repaving of the main street from the front gate to the public restroom building.



New Concrete Curbs replace the old asphalt curbs around the Park Vista loop.

Angel of Hope Memorial Program to Stream Live on Facebook

For 18 years a candlelight memorial service has been held on December 6th at 7:00 p.m. at El Toro Memorial Park to remember and honor the precious children who have left us all too soon.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program cannot be held at El Toro Memorial Park this year as we would like. Instead, program organizers will be holding the memorial service off-site and will stream the program live on the Angel of Hope Facebook page.

To view the program live without even having to leave your home, please go to:

www.facebook.com/angelofhopesocal

or search Angel of Hope, Lake Forest on Facebook.

The program will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 6th and will feature a guest speaker, special music and poetic readings. Traditionally, the program always ends with a touching and personal time



White Flowers of remembrance adorn El Toro Memorial Park's Angel of Hope Statue located in the Infant Section.

when families come forward, speak their child's name, and place a white flower of remembrance at the Angel of Hope statue.

This year, families are encouraged to visit the Angel of Hope monument at El Toro Memorial Park, beginning on Sunday December 6th through Monday, December 7th to speak your child's name and place a flower. The park will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Angel of Hope was inspired by Richard Paul Evans' national bestseller, *The Christmas Box*. It is a story of a woman who mourns the loss of her child at the base of an angel monument. The original Angel of Hope Statue resides in the Salt Lake City Cemetery. The sculpture is the creation of father and son, Ortho and Jared Fairbanks. It was modeled according to the description in Evans' book. If you look closely, you can find in the angel's right wing the word "hope."

The sculpture was brought to El Toro Memorial Park to support parents who have lost a child of any age, for any reason. It was dedicated on September 28, 2002. While there are many Angel of Hope statues throughout the world, El Toro's monument is the only one in Southern California.

For more information on the Angel of Hope, please visit:

www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope/

Celebrate Dia de los Muertos... And Help Everyone Stay Safe!



Over the last several years, the District's popular Dia de los Muertos events bring hundreds of people together to celebrate and remember their departed family members. As with all other large District events, the Dia de los Muertos programs at Anaheim and Santa Ana Cemeteries have been canceled this year due to the pandemic.

However, an important tradition of the holiday is the decoration of gravesites and the creation of personal ofrendas or altars to honor loved ones. Even though our programs are canceled, the District anticipates a

high volume of visitation from October 31st through November 2nd, particularly at Santa Ana Cemetery.

In an effort to keep everyone safe and ensure that roads within the cemetery are accessible for emergency vehicles, some roads at Santa Ana Cemetery will be one-way only, with parking only allowed on one side of a street. If the park fills with cars and roads become congested, security will close the gates and only allow pedestrian traffic to enter.

When you are on the grounds at any district cemetery, protective face coverings should be worn and people not residing from the same household should maintain the required six-foot social distance from one another.

Remember Veterans with Wreaths Across America on Dec. 19th

Wreaths Across America started when a wreath company had a surplus of wreaths and donated them to Arlington Cemetery. After several years, their efforts took off and Wreaths Across America was born. Today, over 1.5 million wreaths are placed on veteran graves worldwide. Local groups can register with Wreaths Across America to sell the wreaths as a fundraiser.

EL TORO MEMORIAL PARK

Since 2017 a dedicated group of American Heritage Girls from Troop 356 have been selling wreaths for El Toro Memorial Park. Each year the Troop conducts a beautiful wreath presentation ceremony at El Toro's flag pole, and everyone attending the ceremony is encouraged to place the wreaths that have been sponsored.

Because it is unsafe to have large gatherings in the cemetery, this year's wreath ceremony will be streamed live on Facebook.

**VIEW THE WREATH CEREMONY LIVE
ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19th AT 9:00 a.m.
ON:**

www.facebook.com/wreathseltoro

After the ceremony concludes, volunteers who wish to help lay wreaths throughout the grounds, can visit El Toro Memorial Park from 9:30 a.m. until the wreaths are gone. Wreaths will be positioned at various stations around the cemetery. All volunteers should wear protective face coverings and maintain a six-foot social distance.

SANTA ANA CEMETERY

Thanks to the Orange Coast Elks District, this will be the first year that Santa Ana Cemetery participates with Wreaths Across America. Santa Ana Elks Lodge 0533 will be hosting a virtual wreath ceremony at 9:00 a.m. and volunteers will be placing wreaths on Saturday, Dec. 19th beginning at 10:00 a.m. until wreaths are gone.

YOU CAN ALSO HELP BY SPONSORING A WREATH

Wreaths can't be placed unless they are sponsored. Last year, due in large part to a generous donation by the Orange Coast Elks District, we had enough wreaths sponsored to honor almost every veteran interred at El Toro Memorial Park. Help us reach that goal again for El Toro and for Santa Ana Cemetery as well in 2020!



How to Sponsor a Wreath

To sponsor a wreath to be placed on the grave of a veteran at El Toro Memorial Park or Santa Ana Cemetery, please follow these instructions.

1. Visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org
2. You will need to select El Toro Memorial Park or Santa Ana Cemetery, so please do not just click on the red "sponsor" box. Instead, scroll down the home page until you see a red box that says, "**Find a Specific Location**"
3. Type "El Toro Memorial Park" or "Santa Ana Cemetery" in the search field and then click on the option for that cemetery when it populates.
4. Click on the red "View" Tab.

Wreaths cost \$15.00 each. Please be advised that wreath placements cannot be assigned to specific gravesites and are placed randomly on veteran graves. Wreaths ordered are delivered directly to the cemeteries prior to the wreath placement ceremony in December.

El Toro Gates Close at 5 p.m. Starting Sunday, November 1st



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, October 31st. Sunday, November 1st marks the end of Daylight Saving Time and also signals the end of extended visitation hours at El Toro Memorial Park.

We ask that all visitors please be mindful of the gate closing time and be sure to exit the park prior to 5 p.m. Security makes every effort to clear the park before locking the gates, but the grounds are large and it is possible to get locked in the park. El Toro will return to Extended Visitation hours on Sunday March 14, 2021 when Daylight Saving Time resumes.

ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT November/December Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees for the Orange County Cemetery District holds regular meetings the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 25751 Trabuco Road, Lake Forest, CA 92630. **Until further notice these meetings are being video conferenced, but the public may also attend electronically. Please call the District office for the meeting link.**

Agendas are available at least 72 hours prior to each meeting and are also posted on our website at www.occemeterydistrict.com. In November and December, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, November 3rd at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m.**

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact the District Secretary, Mary Funk at (949) 951-9102 ext. 110.

CEMETERY VISITATION HOURS

**Anaheim Cemetery,
Santa Ana Cemetery, and
El Toro Memorial Park**

**are open year-round for visitation, seven days
a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Extended hours at El Toro Memorial Park end
on Nov. 1, 2020 when Standard Time begins.
When Daylight Saving Time begins on March
14, 2021 the park will resume Extended Hours.**

Offices are open M-F - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
All offices are closed on the weekends
and on holidays.

Flower Removal and Holiday Schedule

Every Wednesday, groundskeepers remove and discard flowers and decorations throughout all three cemeteries. Families are encouraged to remove their flowers and/or decorations on Tuesday night; you can then place the flowers back on the space on Wednesday afternoon. Please remember that the District policy only allows for two items to be placed on gravesites. This includes the in-ground flower vase and one other item. If gravesites exceed the number of allowed items, staff may remove and discard the excess items. Please do not leave items of great monetary or sentimental value on gravesites as the District cannot prevent theft.

Throughout the year, various holidays are recognized with extended periods between flower clean-ups. During these times, we do ask that you empty the vase and place fresh water in the container every four to five days to eliminate mosquito breeding sources, which can cause serious health issues. Your cooperation in this regard is greatly appreciated.

In honor of Dia de los Muertos, Halloween, and Veterans Day, flowers may be placed at all District Cemeteries on Thursday, October 15th and must be removed on Tuesday, November 17th. Flowers for Thanksgiving may be placed on Thursday, November 19th and must be removed by Tuesday Dec. 1st. Flowers for Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa may be placed on Thursday Dec. 3rd and must be removed by Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2020 is available on our website at www.occemeterydistrict.com. Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

All Cemetery Offices will be closed on the following holidays: Veterans Day – Nov. 11th; Thanksgiving – Nov. 26th & 27th; Christmas – Dec. 25th; and New Year's Day – Jan. 1, 2021.

Our Mission Statement & Values

The Orange County Cemetery District manages and maintains Orange County's public cemeteries in a manner that preserves their beauty, dignity, historical and cultural values, and offers affordable interment service for County residents.

The Trustees and staff of the Orange County Cemetery District are committed to the following values:

Integrity ■ Respect ■ Accountability
Responsiveness ■ Empathy ■ Transparency
Appreciation for Diverse Needs

