

Fountaingrove II Gazette

A Publication of the Fountaingrove II Open Space Maintenance Association

Volume II, Issue 2

June 2005

OSMA Board Members

- Gary Specker, President
- Bill Andrews, Vice President
- Sy Rothbard, Secretary
- Bill Mulert, CFO
- Rosemary Yates

OSMA Board Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. at Focus Real Estate & Investments, Inc., 3936 Mayette Ave. Call 544-9443 to confirm the time and date.

The Fountaingrove II Gazette is a continuation of previous newsletters of the Association. Previous newsletters can be found at www.fountaingrove2.org

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Park Dedication Party Held

The Rincon Ridge Neighborhood Park Dedication and Grand Opening celebration was held at the park Saturday, May 21, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. It was estimated that as many as 175 people were in attendance.

The community welcomed Jane Bender, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa; Kim Costa, Chairman, Board of Community Services; Rich Hovden, Parks Project Superintendent; Jeff Kolin, Santa Rosa City Manager; and representatives of the Santa Rosa Fire Department. Thanks was expressed to all those in City administration who made the park possible, and especially to Rich Hovden, who worked so closely with the community during planning and construction. He received a commendation plaque from the neighborhood, presented by Park Committee Chairperson Kim Nielsen-Glynn. Also on hand for the ceremonies was the California Native Plant Society. Lynn Houser and several other representatives had an information booth and gave tours of the sensitive plant area which is part of the park, adjacent to the play areas.

Mayor Jane Bender said that the park was an example of how a community and the City



Mayor Jane Bender with neighborhood children

can work together to bring to fruition a project like this, in a time when the City has been struggling with budget problems. Many neighborhood residents and several other interested people and businesses contributed to the fund raising campaign, which raised almost \$17,000 for park amenities.

The festivities included hot dogs and chicken, strawberries, cake and cookies, a giant slide for the many children present, and a pleasant time for neighbors to meet and talk with others in their community.

More to Come at Rincon Ridge Park

By Kim Nielsen-Glynn

After rain ruined the first attempt, the bench walls are finally installed. Soon the wonderful, whimsical tiles created by many of our neighbors will be placed along the sides of those bench walls, making Rincon Ridge Park a truly unique and delightful space!

There is still room for more creative tile work, and there are still some remaining amenities we'd like to see installed at the park (How does a shade structure sound for those warm summer afternoons?). So if you'd like to have a tile displayed AND make a difference in your community, write your check for \$100/per tile to the City of Santa Rosa, c/o

Focus Real Estate, 3936 Mayette Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95405. All new \$100 contributions are eligible for a tile. The price is a bit higher than the previous, but worth it!

Some neighbors have expressed an interest in creating a neighborhood watch program specifically targeting the park. If you'd like to explore this idea, please contact Kim Nielsen-Glynn at glynn@sonic.net or 544-7871.

Many thanks go to those who have contributed, in any way, to Rincon Ridge Park! Without you, the park still would be nothing more than a patch of weeds.

Fuel Management Projects Update

By Bill Andrews, Chairman, Fire Safety Committee

As readers know from previous newsletters, the OSMA has undertaken a two-year fuel reduction program within the 200 acres of open space in Fountaingrove II, extending the existing fire breaks from 30' from property lines to 100', the new state standard. The East Ridge Fuel Reduction Project, discussed below, is along the northern and eastern sides of Fountaingrove II East.

The long rainy season had its effect on the East Ridge project. The project was started in January but was delayed until almost May because of the wet conditions. Mud, standing water, the steep terrain and limited access combined to delay the project. Now that the conditions are improved it looks like the project can be completed in the next few

weeks.

The limited access meant that much of the work had to be done by hand and the cut material was moved down the slope to an old access road be chipped. This process resulted in essentially a second fuel break that parallels the one adjacent to the property lines at the top of the ridge. The Santa Rosa Fire Department has noted these breaks and the additional access points on their maps, and is prepared to use them in the event of a fire approaching from the East.

Despite the rain delays and associated problems, the cost remains at the original contract amount of \$98,260.

After completion of the East Ridge

project, the contractor will return to the first project area on Parker Hill Road to extend the fuel breaks to the new 100' standard. (When the Parker Hill project was done in early 2004 the scope was conservatively defined to extend the existing breaks to 60').

There are several other small areas to be completed. The total for these and for the Parker Hill addition will be a total cost of \$7,942. Work will begin as soon as the East Ridge project is completed and should be done in less than two weeks from the start date.

The OSMA Board will probably then have the fire department and/or a consultant do an assessment of future requirements for further work and appropriate maintenance.

What Every Homeowner Should Do for Fire Safety

By Bill Andrews, Chairman, Fire Safety Committee

Now is the time to take a good look around your property to assure that you are ready for the upcoming fire season. Here are some items that need to be done now:

- Make sure that any dead brush and plants are removed.
- If you have weeds and dry grasses, these need to be cut and removed.
- Check for trees overhanging the house or deck and consider getting them trimmed.
- Look at plants and shrubs near the house and decide if they have become overgrown and may now pose a risk.

The idea is to create breaks in vegetation between the house and surrounding vegetated spaces that could create a "fuel ladder" which could lead a fire to the house.

The OSMA has done its part in establishing a 100' break

adjacent to property lines, but it is the homeowner's responsibility to do same for their property!

There is a brochure available that outlines requirements in more detail. Our website (www.fountaingrove2.org) has the latest copy of "Living with Fire in Sonoma County". While this brochure has not been updated to account for the new fuel break standards that were legislated in November 2004, the principles are the same and it is a good source for information.

There are contractors who specialize in fire protection if you think the task is more than you can handle by yourself.

Be sure to check out all the fire safety information on our Web site. There are links to it from the Home page at www.fountaingrove2.org.

Now is the time to take a good look around your property to assure that you are ready for the upcoming fire season.



Weed Abatement to be Enforced In Santa Rosa

OSMA Is Overseeing Maintenance Work in Open Spaces

The OSMA Board has been notified that the City of Santa Rosa will be enforcing a new Weed Abatement resolution aggressively this year. City Council Resolution 26180 dated February 1, 2005 calls for inspections and enforcement at property owners' expense.

Property owners including builders are required to cut any weeds or grasses by May 15, 2005 and to maintain grasses below four (4) inches throughout the dry season. Those who fail to comply run the risk of being cited.

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The Fire Department Weed Abatement Information Bulletin 007 is available at www.santarosafd.com. Use the "Find it Fast" menu and select "Information Bulletins", then look for Information Bulletin #007.

OSMA Maintenance Work

The OSMA has a contract with a landscape company for maintenance of landscaped areas, the open space perimeters of roadways and for maintenance of the fire break areas in our open spaces. (Note: the City owns the parking strips between sidewalks and roads, and they also are responsible for the medians in roadways.)

This year's extended rains have re-

sulted in a bumper crop of weeds and grasses! Crews have been delayed in getting out to cut the weeds and the work has been slower because of the vigorous growth. The OSMA contractor is working through the many acres of open space that need weed control. The initial work should be done by mid July.

Board members will be inspecting the areas as they are completed and pointing out any problems to the contractor. Additional passes as needed will be done throughout the summer and into the fall to maintain the safety of the environment.

Safety Committee Reports Money to be Available for Parkway Improvements

By Robert Greenberg, Chairman, Safety Committee

The Safety Committee has monitored several items during the past three months and reports the following:

Fountaingrove Parkway

We are all aware of the excessive number of automobile accidents on the Parkway, many of which are caused either directly by speeding, or by the relationship of high speeds to limited sight distance.

The proposed budget represents a lot of money in these times and clearly demonstrates the support we have received from the Mayor & the City.

The Committee has finally received the Fountaingrove Parkway Road Safety Audit, prepared by independent consultants and paid for by the City. It confirms almost everything we, who regularly use the Parkway, already know about unsafe conditions.

The Public Works Department sent to the City Council a first year budget request of \$500,000 to begin working on safety improvements. This budget request was approved for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

This money would not have come about without the firm commitment and support of Mayor Jane Bender. We have all read about the tough times cities are facing financially.

Santa Rosa is no different. The proposed budget represents a lot of money in these times and clearly demonstrates the support we have received from the City.

Our requests over the coming years will be substantial. Thanks to the support of Public Works, the Mayor, City administration and the City Council, we will finally begin to see implementation of much needed improvements.

Crime Rate is Low

It is always great to report that homes in the Fountaingrove II area have had a very low incidence of crime. The most recent attempted burglary was thwarted by the homeowner's security system. Unfortunately, even though the Santa Rosa

Police Dept. responded very promptly, the burglars were not apprehended.

If you have an alarm system, use it! When you are going away for awhile, notify your neighbors, cancel your newspaper and place your mail on hold. Have someone check your home daily for an unexpected delivery and to remove solicitations that are attached to our front doors. If they stay up they are a sure sign to the burglar that you are away.

Graffiti

I am sure you have all noticed the graffiti. The longer it stays up the greater an invitation it is for taggers. The City has been very responsive in cleaning up any within their right-of-way. You may call the City's graffiti hotline at 543-3499. If you notice any in Association open space areas, please notify the Board immediately by contacting the Association's property manager (Focus Real Estate—544-9443), and request that it be painted out or removed.

Landscape Committee Report on Spring 2005 Projects

By Karen Andrews, Chairman, Landscape Committee

For the benefit of the many new residents of the area, we'd like to tell you a little about the Landscape Committee. It was formed several years ago to plan and oversee the plantings and landscape restoration needed along the roadways of Fountaingrove II as construction is completed within the East, the West and the Summit. Typically two planting projects are undertaken annually, paid for by Association dues, with projects recommended by the Committee and approved by the OSMA Board.

The Spring 2005 planting program was completed several weeks ago. These included the following:

- Adding plants and mulch on Rutherford Place and Beauford Place in the Vistara neighborhood
- Infilling sections previously planted on the west side of Fountaingrove Parkway in the Hadley Hill area



Pinnacle Ridge Monument DriWater experiment area

- This totaled approximately 550 plants that were installed, and all of these areas were mulched.

For the fall, additional infilling has been proposed for the east side of Fountaingrove Parkway and for Parker Hill Road. The Landscape Committee and the Neighborhood Representatives will meet later this summer to begin evaluating projects for 2006.

DriWater Experiment

The area pictured to the left on Sage Hill Place had previously been a DriWater experimentation area. The Board decided that the success rate for even drought-tolerant plants was not sufficient under our conditions. Drip irrigation for this area was recently approved by the Board and will be installed soon.

For more information on the Landscape Committee, see our Web site: www.fountaingrove2.org under Landscape Committee.

Miscellany

Use of Open Space Reviewed

Residents sometimes wish to access their property through Association open space for purposes of construction and improvements. The Board has a policy, posted on the Web site, outlining what the requirements are for its granting access through open space. Foremost among these is the requirement for pre-approval for access. The requesting property owner may be asked to place a deposit prior to the commencement of work to ensure that any damage is correctly repaired. Please review the complete policy at www.fountaingrove2.org, and click on the "OSMA" tab and then "Policies".

To request access through open space to your property, please contact our property management company, Focus Real Estate and Investments, Inc.: 707-544-9443.

In the last several months some residents on Rocky Point Way have reported loud, disorderly parties being held in the open space below the street. The open space is specifically designated for casual recreational use by "Members [residents] of the Fountaingrove II OSMA and their invited guests." If residents notice non-residents in

open space, residents should call the police. These visitors are not there legally. They may be leaving behind their trash and may be disrupting the normal calm of the neighborhood.

Trash Pick-up in Open Spaces

We've said it before and we will say it again: the community and the OSMA Board appreciate the efforts of individuals in our community who are picking up trash along roadways and in the open spaces. While the Association has its landscape maintenance contractor remove trash regularly, it is sometimes not enough. We sincerely thank these volunteers for their efforts!



Have a great summer, everybody!

Photo Gallery

Rincon Ridge Park Grand Opening Celebration attendees



Park Committee Chairperson Kim Nielsen-Glynn, left, and Rich Hovden, Parks Project Superintendent, with cake for all attendees



The giant slide for the kids



Mayor Jane Bender, left, Park Chairperson Kim Nielsen-Glynn, center, and Gary Specker, OSMa Board President



Stay Informed - Send in Your E-mail Address for News

Our Web site is now in its third year, www.fountaingrove2.org. It's a fast way to get current news. Be sure your name is on our Web update list. Get timely and important Web update notification. Your name and e-mail address will not be shared with anyone else, and it will be hidden in group e-mails.

Simply send an e-mail with your name to: editor@fountaingrove2.org. State that you want to be on the update list.



Letters to the Editor & Newsletter Contributions

If you would like to comment or contribute to the newsletter, please send an e-mail to:

editor@fountaingrove2.org

Letters to the Editor and contributions will be published as space permits. Next issue: September 2005. Deadline: September 1, 2005.

FOUNTAINGROVE II
Open Space Maintenance Association

The Fountaingrove II Gazette

The Fountaingrove II Gazette is published quarterly by the Fountaingrove II Open Space Maintenance Association. Any submission information/requests should be directed to the OSMA Board through its property management association:

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Fountaingrove II is a residential community in the hills of northeastern Santa Rosa, CA, in the heart of the Wine Country in Sonoma County. When construction is completed there will be nearly 600 homes within the community.

The Open Space Maintenance Association (OSMA) is responsible for managing the open space within the defined boundaries of the community. All homeowners share the ownership and maintenance of this open space. The Association strives to preserve the natural beauty of the wooded spaces while promoting safety to homeowners and improvements to the landscaped areas along the streets and Parkway.

Keeping our open spaces beautiful

We're on the Web:
www.fountaingrove2.org

FOUNTAINGROVE II
Open Space Maintenance Association

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