

Fountaingrove II Gazette

A Publication of the Fountaingrove II Open Space Maintenance Association

Volume II, Issue 3

Fall 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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OSMA Fire Safety Committee had a busy year

By Bill Andrews, Fire Safety Committee Chairman

The OSMA Fire Safety Committee had a busy year in 2005. The East Ridge Fuel Reduction Project (north and east facing slopes of Fountaingrove II East) and the Parker Hill Road project addendum were completed as described in the June '05 newsletter. These were the last two major projects in our two-year effort to reduce vegetative fuels to mitigate the potential for a disastrous wild fire.

Additionally, maintenance work was completed in previous project areas. The annual weed abatement work was completed in spite of heavy rains and a bumper crop of annual grasses and weeds. Work was completed before the vegetation got dangerously dry.

We learned that because of the new expanse of fuel breaks, it will take more time and effort to perform annual maintenance in the future. We have plans to be more aggressive in next year's maintenance program. Fuel management is not a program that will ever be complete. The grasses, brush and trees in our Open Spaces are constantly growing and reseeding, and can't be allowed to get dangerously overgrown. In 2006 we are going to concentrate on improving our annual maintenance program with two objectives: 1) to perform the work more efficiently and 2) to create a feedback loop that will identify

problem areas that might need extra attention.

The Fire Safety Committee believes that it is prudent to have all of the Open Space parcels audited again to see if there are any areas that might require additional fuel reduction. The Board will be considering this recommendation.

Wild land fire is still a potential threat until the rain returns. Homeowners should be alert for any outbreaks or suspected fires either in structures, on private property, or in Open Space. Call "911" immediately and describe the situation and its location as accurately as possible. Don't worry about false alarms or trying to confirm the source of the smoke or fire. Let Fire Service personnel investigate and get their action started as soon as possible.

Special note to all new residents: Be sure to check out our Web site for information about fire safety. Links are found on the Home page at www.fountaingrove2.org.



Living with Fire in Sonoma County: A Guide for the Homeowner—a brochure available as a pdf

Bill Mulert Will Retire from the Board

Bill Mulert, a resident of Fountaingrove II East in the Pinnacle Ridge neighborhood, is retiring from the OSMA Board, effective January 1, 2006. Bill has been a member of the Board for almost five years.

In that time, Bill has served as President, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and was active on every committee of the Board. During his tenure he oversaw or played a key role in OSMA activities including all of the major landscaping projects, the development of Rincon Ridge Park, and advocating for Parkway safety and fire safety including addressing the City Council on behalf of Measure F—the fireworks ordinance subsequently passed by Santa Rosa voters last year.

Bill's work on behalf of the OSMA cannot be overpraised. He has been a guiding hand throughout all

of the start-up problems and decisions that any organization goes through. His experience as CEO of a software company, his educational background in engineering and management, and his kindness and sense of humor have benefited all of us in ways both seen and unseen.

His tireless service also included serving on the East Architectural Review Committee (not a part of the OSMA) during its formative period. He and Tom Rutledge, another former OSMA president, started the ARC East by approaching the developers and then participating in the transition to a homeowner-run Committee.

Bill and his wife, Loretta, love to travel. They also enjoy being with their three children and their grandchildren. Fortunately for us, they plan to stay involved in our community!

Landscape Committee Announces Fall Projects

By Karen Andrews, Chairman, Landscape Committee

We continue to have many new residents in our area as developments are completed and new residents move in. For the benefit of new residents, 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 in OSMA Open Space 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 (now part of the Neighborhood Council), and approved by the OSMA Board.

The Landscape Committee has three planting areas planned for this fall's project.

- The first will be plants and mulch to fill in areas planted two years ago on the east side of Fountaingrove Parkway south of Rincon Ridge Drive (lower end).
- The second will be to complete plantings on a section of Parker Hill Road north of Crown Hill Drive (north).
- The third will be planting on the west side of Fountaingrove Parkway from Rocky Point to Boulder Point.

For each planting area, shrubs and perennials will be added to areas that already have trees planted, and the entire area will be mulched. Irrigation will be upgraded if necessary.

The Committee met with neighborhood representatives in late September to discuss priorities for 2006. Projects for next year include plant and mulch installation from Rocky Point to the edge of the Summit, a small section of Parker Hill Road from Crown Hill Drive (north) to Crown Hill Drive (south), Darlington Court and Sage Hill Place.

Residents may be interested in what is being planted in these project areas. To the right is a list that has been developed by the Committee

over time. These are plants that "work" in our area that are more drought tolerant and are deer resistant.

Fountaingrove II OSMA Plant List

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical name/variety</u>
Manzanita	Arctostaphylos— Emerald Carpet
Lavender	Lavandula—Munstead or pinnata buchii
Grevillea	Grevillea Lanigera—woolly grevillea
Arbutus (Madrone)	Arbutus Marina
Ceanothus	Wild Lilac—Dark Star
Pacific Wax Myrtle	Myrica Californica
Bottlebrush	Callistemon citrinus
Rosemary (spreading)	Rosmarinus officinalis prostratus
Sticky Monkey Flower	Mimulus aurantiacus
Deer Grass	Muhlenbergia Rigens
Sage	Salvia
Lavender Cotton	Santolina incana
Oregon Grape	Mahonia aquifolium

What Is "Open Space"? What's Up with the Parkway Weeds?

The OSMA Board gets many comments about the maintenance of the land bordering our streets and Fountaingrove Parkway. There may be confusion about what is defined as "open space", and what is and isn't within the charter of the Association for landscaping and maintenance.

The Open Spaces in our community were defined under the 1992 Design Guidelines. When Fountaingrove II is fully developed, Open Space acreage will be about 293 acres. Parcels are turned over to the Association as home building is completed. A large part of Open Space acreage is comprised of the steep slopes surrounding the community. Additionally there are significant parcels of Open Space along the streets and Parkway. We as Fountaingrove II residents all own the Open Space, and the Association dues we pay go toward caring for it.

As you drive along the Parkway all the land between the sidewalks and road, and the center (medians) are the responsibility of the City. The slopes from sidewalks to property lines are OSMA Open Space with two exceptions: City

park land from the west end of Rincon Ridge to east of Sedgemoore, and a private parcel opposite the east end of Hadley Hill. Along the rest of the streets, land not part of individual homeowner lots is also OSMA Open Space.

The OSMA Board is working in an orderly fashion to landscape and maintain Open Space areas along the Parkway and residential streets. The Association also provides for fuel reduction and fire break maintenance in other Open Space areas. The Association has no role in maintaining City-owned parcels of land.

That being said, the Board is actively exploring ways to have better maintenance performed on City-owned land along the Parkway. The City now appears to be working 1 day per week here, a great improvement over nothing. While the Board appreciates the financial problems of the City, pressure will continue to be exerted to have at least minimal maintenance performed, including removal of dead vegetation, weed removal, and trimming of overgrown plants. Stay tuned!

Tiles for Rincon Ridge Park may still be done!

By Kim Nielsen-Glynn, Chairwoman, Park Committee

If you haven't already done so, take some time to visit Rincon Ridge Park. Stroll across the vast lawn, squish the sand between your toes, or fly a kite in the strong breeze. Pack a lunch and meet a friend. The park has become a wonderful neighborhood gathering place, thanks to the City and to many of our generous neighbors who knew the dream of the park could become a reality. It is a jewel to be treasured!

And forget not that the earth
delights to feel your bare feet
and the winds long to play with
your hair...

Kahlil Gibran

As many of you have seen, the colorful tile walls are nearing completion, and have become delightful centerpieces to the park. Many residents have asked how they might be able to add their personal touch to the

walls. Well, there is still time! Not all the completed tiles have been installed yet, but we do have some spaces for new tiles. If you missed out on the original opportunity to decorate a tile, or if you want to add even more of your artistic flair to the park, here's your final opportunity. All proceeds will go directly to the Rincon Ridge Park Fund and help us secure any final amenities we may need.

Interested? Write your check for \$100 per tile to the **City of Santa Rosa** (make sure to write "Rincon Ridge Park" in the memo line) and mail it to: Focus Real Estate, 3936 Mayette Ave., Santa Rosa 95405. You will receive a certificate for each tile you purchase to take to The Pottery

Studio located in downtown Santa Rosa. The Pottery Studio will provide you with a 6" tile and all the materials you need to decorate your tile right there in the store. After completing your tile, just leave it with The Pottery Studio. The tile will be fired and someone will pick it up for installation at the park. The deadline for completing the new tiles is December 31st, so get those checks in soon!!

Incidentally, many thanks go to Lori Barekman for her donation of the frog to the toddler play area. He brings a smile to everyone's face!

Again, thank you to everyone in the community who helped bring Rincon Ridge Park to life. It was well worth the effort!

Fall Plant Highlights

By Rosemary Yates, OSMA Board and Landscape Committee Member

Fall is a great time of year to watch the leaves fall, enjoy the cooling, blustery days and clean up after the summer bloomers in our gardens. Most of the plants in open space are getting ready for winter. However, there is one tree that you might have noticed in full bloom on the Parkway – the crape myrtle or botanically speaking: *Lagerstroemia indica*.

The crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia sp.*), native to SE Asia, is a widely popular woody ornamental flowering shrub/small tree used throughout U.S. landscapes, especially southeastern and western. The wide assortment of colors, forms and sizes, coupled with a rather long flowering period (up to 120 days), plus a commonly found exfoliating bark, have given rise to the popularity of this genus.

Breeding programs in the U.S. and Europe have generated, in the last three decades, a wide range of plant sizes (from miniature 1 ft. shrubs to 30 ft. tall trees), growth tendencies (broad, upright, weeping, etc.), cold hardiness (Zones 6-10), disease resistance (powdery mildew) and a wide range of bark characteristics, flower color and

fall foliage colorations. Likely unknown to gardeners and horticulturists are the commercial timber and medicinal uses of some of the approximately eighty (80) species found in the *Lagerstroemia* genus.

The widespread use and popularity of *Lagerstroemia* has led to its categorization as a 'naturalized' U.S. plant.

Out of all the *Lagerstroemia* species, *L. indica*, and *L. speciosa* are the most widely known and cultivated. *L. indica* or the common crape myrtle is generally described as a multi-trunk medium to large shrub or tree that usually does not exceed 25 to 30 feet in height. The trunks or stems are smooth, fluted, pale to pinkish-brown color with peeling bark. The deciduous simple leaves are undivided, mostly opposite or whorled with the upper leaves sometimes alternating. Leaf fall color can have a range of yellow, orange, and red color hues. The most distinctive feature for these plants is

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their long (4 to 16 inches) panicles with ruffled flowers in various shades of red, pink, white, lavender and purple colors. The symmetrical flowers range in size from 1 to 2 inches, with six to nine segments. The petals, commonly six, have broad, fringed or crinkled blades with their lower portions narrowed into long, slender shafts or claws. There are many (about 40) long-stalked stamens and a long style tipped with a head-like stigma. The dry fruit are six-parted brown capsules that contain seeds winged at their tops.

The Crape Myrtle is not only beautiful but perfectly suited to joining our native plants along the Parkway and other OSMA landscaped areas. After about three years, once the tree is established, it is drought tolerant and able to withstand little or no water in our summer months. You may want to consider adding this tree or its other shrub cultivars in your own garden.

Safety Committee Meets

Progress Report on Parkway Safety

The Safety Committee met recently at the home of Robert Greenberg, Chairman. There were fifteen committee members and other interested residents present, the largest turnout ever.

David Corsi, an attorney, resident of Fountaingrove II and committee member, related his knowledge about the legal issues regarding the enforcement of posted speed limits on Fountaingrove Parkway, and the court order requiring enforcement as the result of a settlement in a 1992 lawsuit. A discussion followed about actions that could be taken by the Committee and the Fountaingrove community as a whole to become more politically active in seeking enforcement, not only of posted speed limits, but also of the ban on through commercial traffic on the Parkway. The Committee has been actively lobbying for aggressive speed enforcement and other safety measures to be taken along the whole roadway. All committee members are mindful of the fatality which occurred at the corner of Stagecoach Road and the Parkway on September 15, 2005.

Robert reported on a lengthy telephone conversation with Rick Moshier, Director of Public Works, concerning the City's budget process and specifically how it relates to improving the safety at the intersection of Fountaingrove Parkway and Stagecoach Road. Briefly, Public Works (Traffic) has already begun the process of implementing an interim step to greatly improve safety at the intersection. Four-way stop signs will be installed with all necessary warning signage at the intersection. This work will most

likely be completed within the next month. (Web update: it is done as of 10/14/05.)

Mr. Moshier has already instructed his engineering staff to begin designing for a signaled intersection to replace the stop signs. By getting an early jump, the time line appears to be as follows: design work already begun; go out for bid for the intersection improvements sometime after the first of the year (could be earlier); get bids back with review—will take approximately two months; the City Council may, at its discretion, fund the improvements as soon as Public Works advises them of the funds necessary or they could hold the awarding of the bid until July 1st of next year when the new fiscal year budget is officially in place.

Then it takes approximately six months for all the work to be completed because the actual work will not be started until the signal equipment is delivered.

At the earliest, we could see signal installation completed by sometime next summer. However, the Fountaingrove community could request that the City Council approve an advanced time line so that the intersection will be complete as close to the opening of the proposed shopping center and the senior housing project as possible, avoiding the delay of waiting for the new fiscal year.

The City is currently doing the survey work for another new traffic light—at the corner of Rincon Ridge (upper) and the Parkway, by Rincon Ridge Park.

Neighborhood Council Meets

The Fountaingrove II Neighborhood Council met on Wednesday, September 28th at the home of Gary Specker, OSMA Board President. Over 20 people were present at the meeting. There were representatives from all three areas of Fountaingrove II: The East, The West, and The Summit.

Karen Andrews, Landscape Committee Chairperson, led a discussion on the choices for planting priorities for 2006 in our Open Spaces. The OSMA Board needs input from the Council in order to accurately budget and make plans. At the close of the meeting, all votes were collected. (Please see the article on page 2—Landscape Committee.)

The Council then discussed how to get the City to maintain its land along the Parkway. There were several suggestions including thanking the City for its current 1 day/week work (and thereby giving positive reinforcement), investigating where money from the recent sale of City-owned "excess property" along the Parkway is going (and its appropriate or legal use), and lever-

aging the fire safety issue (weeds along the Parkway). The Board is pursuing all of these ideas.

There was a discussion about the status of architectural review for all three areas of Fountaingrove II. At the current time only Fountaingrove II East has a homeowner-run committee. More information will be coming soon on this issue.

One committee member brought a pest issue to the attention of the Council. Ground squirrels have invaded his property. He encouraged everyone to become informed about them. Our Web site now has links to the information posted on the UC Davis Web site regarding these animals, the diseases they carry and their over population in some areas of California—www.fountaingrove2.org.

The OSMA Board thanks all of these Council members for their participation. If you would like to become involved, please contact Focus Real Estate and Investments, Inc. (544-9443), or send an e-mail to [edi-
tor@fountaingrove2.org](mailto:editor@fountaingrove2.org).



Santa Rosa Fire Department to relocate Station #5

The Santa Rosa Fire Department is beginning the process of implementing plans to relocate Station #5, the result of voters passing Measure O earlier this year for improvements in many areas of public safety.

Several Fountaingrove II Board members and two other residents attended a presentation on October 12th by Fire Department Chief Bruce Varner, Deputy Chief of Operations Bart Lewis and Fire Marshal Mark McCormick. The presentation occurred just prior to the regular meeting of the Fountaingrove Ranch Master Association Board, and was just the first of several opportunities for all residents to hear more about this project. There will also be public hearings in a few months.

Station #5 is currently located on the lower part of Parker Hill Road. It consists of one engine company (1 vehicle and three fire personnel). It is the first-response station for all of Fountaingrove II.

A Sonoma County Grand Jury investigation in 2004 reported that Santa Rosa needs to add three new fire stations and relocate three existing stations to meet a goal of a 6-minute response time. One of these new stations is a critical part of the overall plan for all of Fountaingrove—the building of a new station in the vicinity of Mendocino Ave. and Steele Ln. which is also scheduled for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

Because the budget is limited for all of these fire station projects, existing City-owned property must be used for the Station #5 relocation.

An extensive property search has been done, and the only suitable property is at the corner of Fountaingrove Parkway and Newgate Ct., adjacent to a City-owned water tower at The Summit. The relocation will be to an interim set of modular-type buildings. Several architectural concepts have been explored and were presented at the meeting. A fire-department controlled traffic light will be installed at the intersection of the Parkway and Newgate.

Those attending expressed support for the project. Two residents from The Summit expressed a concern for the appearance of the buildings. Chief Varner said the Fire Department is well aware of this concern and will incorporate decorative facades to improve traditional modular design as funds allow, and will do landscaping to blend with the area. Concern about sirens was expressed. Chief Varner said they anticipate an average of only two calls per day once all projects are implemented, and typically turn sirens on only when absolutely necessary, not when immediately exiting the fire house and not typically at night. Ingress and egress designs are still being studied.

The OSMA Board will arrange a meeting later this fall for all residents to learn more about this project.

Deadline for completing tiles: December 31

Help Us Finish Rincon Ridge Park!

Buy a Tile!

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Fountaingrove II

Open Space Maintenance Association

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

6:30 p.m.

Fountaingrove Club @ The Golf Course

1525 Fountaingrove Parkway

If you cannot attend the meeting, please fill out and mail in the proxy you were sent. We need a quorum (143 homeowners). The proxy is also available on our Web site:
www.fountaingrove2.org

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: Winter 2005. Deadline: December 15, 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

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Open Space Maintenance Association

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