

# Fountaingrove II Gazette

A Publication of the Fountaingrove II Open Space Maintenance Association

Volume III, Issue 3

Summer 2006

## OSMA Board Members

- Gary Specker, President
- Kim Nielsen-Glynn, Vice President
- Keith Kerr, CFO
- Sy Rothbard, Secretary
- Jeff Schween

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](http://www.fountaingrove2.org)

### Inside this issue:

<i>Spring Planting Program Completed</i>	2
<i>Fall Planting Program Planned</i>	2
<i>Rincon Ridge Traffic Signal to be Installed</i>	2
<i>Scotch Broom Problem in Fountaingrove II: Part II</i>	2
<i>How to Report Dead Trees and other Open Space Problems</i>	3
<i>Annual Meeting Planned for October 25th</i>	3
<i>Is a Neighborhood Watch Program of Interest?</i>	3

## “Woodstock Wingding” Planned for October 8th!

By Kim Nielsen-Glynn, OSMA Board Member and Park Committee Chairperson

We love our park, and now we love having Woodstock perched there, enjoying the view of all the activity around him. For now, Woodstock has flown off to the Schulz Museum for a brief visit with the other 70+ Woodstocks until the auction on September 24<sup>th</sup>. (Be sure to make the trek down to the museum with your family to see them all before they're gone!) Our darling Woodstock will return to Rincon Ridge Park - thanks to the donations of several generous homeowners - by the end of September.

The wonderful depiction of Woodstock as a bald eagle



was created by one of our talented homeowners, Wade Eakle. To celebrate Woodstock's permanent return to the park and to thank Wade for his talent and generosity, we're planning a Woodstock Wingding! Plan on packing a picnic and joining the party on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 2:00. We'll supply the cake and you can help crank the ice cream!

The tile walls should be completed by then – at long last – so come see the glorious handiwork we've created! It'll be fun for the whole family, so don't miss it!

## Firebreak Work is Complete; Sensitive Plants Protected

By Kim Nielsen-Glynn, OSMA Board Member

Another fire season is upon us. Fortunately, our new firebreak maintenance contractor, Marizco Landscape Management, has completed two passes of weed trimming throughout our open space firebreaks, and has treated one large area within the firebreak for re-growth (cutting out small trees and shrubs and limbing up taller trees). This year the task was especially difficult because of the late and heavy rains which created monster-sized and rampant growth of non-native grasses.

Also this year, the OSMA took a more active role in protecting our native endangered plants (low growing, evergreen shrubs like Rincon Ridge Ceanothus and Rincon Manzanita) within the firebreak areas. You may not be aware that the OSMA is responsible for protecting these native species according to our Open Space Use Permit. Volunteers from the California Native Plant Society, along with some concerned homeowners, spent several

hours hiking through the firebreaks flagging native plants so that the Marizco workforce could save those plants while cutting the fire-hazardous dried grasses surrounding them.

We wish to thank the homeowners who left the brightly colored flags throughout the summer so that the native plants could be saved through both passes of weed cutting. Your patience not only improves the chances for continued success of the endangered plants, but also improves the firebreak area by encouraging small plants that will help prevent erosion and suppress the spread of the tall, non-native grasses we fear during the dry fire season. Most of the flags have now been removed; however, if you see some that were missed, please contact Focus Real Estate and a volunteer will remove them promptly.

## Spring Planting Program Completed

Each year two major landscape planting programs are undertaken in the landscaped areas of Fountaingrove II. (Note: If you are a new resident, please see previous issues of the newsletter found at [www.fountaingrove2.org](http://www.fountaingrove2.org) for more information). This spring the planting area was along the south side of the Parkway from Rocky Point to the boundary of The Summit.

The spring planting was completed just before the heat wave came over not only California but virtually the entire continental U.S. The spring planting area sustained some plant loss. The contract with the contractor,

Atlas, specifies that dead plants must be replaced during the first year after planting. Some plants have already been replaced. Additional plants will be replaced this fall and into the winter months as determined by when they will probably be most successful.

As part of all planting projects new irrigation is installed or, if there is existing irrigation (installed in most cases by the developer), it must be inspected and fixed if there is a problem. There were irrigation problems discovered in the spring planting areas, and these problems have now been corrected.

## Fall Planting Program Planned

By Loretta Mulert, Landscape Committee

The Landscape Committee has been working this summer on the fall planting projects. The plan is to finish plantings from Daybreak Court down the Parkway to the open space boundary, filling in plants where needed and mulching the area.

Next, the first two cul-de-sacs in Siena (Darlington Court and Giorno Court) will be addressed. The Committee would like to try some different plantings for these cul-de-sacs, and so a landscape architect will be

hired to create a design.

After the design is approved by the Board, it will go out to bid. We hope to have the projects completed before the winter rains.

Depending on the amount of money available, the next cul-de-sacs to be planted will be Palazzo Court, Bellagio Court and Incantare Court. This phase will take place in the Spring 2007 planting project.

## Rincon Ridge Traffic Signal to be Installed

Some residents living near Rincon Ridge Park may have received a notice from the City regarding the upcoming installation of a traffic signal. For the benefit of all, here is what the City has told us:

The City has contracted with Richard A. Heaps Electrical Contractor, Inc., for the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Fountaingrove Parkway and Rincon Ridge Drive.

This project will provide safe pedestrian access across Fountaingrove Parkway to Rincon Ridge Park.

The traffic signal installation will require redirecting pedestrian traffic to use other marked routes when pedestrian ramps and sidewalk repairs are under construction. No night work is anticipated.

We will restrict the hours of lane closures to minimize public inconvenience. Additionally, the contractor will be required to submit a traffic control plan for approval by the City.

Work is scheduled to begin the end of November 2006, and should be completed by January 2007, weather permitting.

Please feel free to contact Lori Urbanek (Assistant Engineer) at 543-3854 or Eric Frye (City Inspector) at 543-3858 if you have any questions or concerns.

## The Problem with Scotch Broom & Other Non-Natives in Fountaingrove II: Part 2

By Kim Nielsen-Glynn

As stewards of over 100 acres of some of Sonoma County's most beautiful open space, the OSMA is charged with encouraging the growth of our native shrubs, some of which are rare and endangered. Unfortunately, our success in this endeavor is hampered by the ongoing battle with non-native invasive plants.

Recently, the OSMA contracted with two companies to remove the invasive plants in some of the most problematic areas in our open space. Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), pictured at the right, is our major problem, so we are having it removed along Fountaingrove Pkwy. below Daybreak Court, along an access road at the bot-



tom of Crown Hill Drive, and behind homes at the top of Parker Hill Road. Broom is beautiful in the spring, as bright yellow flowers cover the shrubs along the hillsides. It is, however, a plant with no wildlife benefits – it is toxic to animals - and also highly flammable. In time, it would overtake our native plants and create a terrible fire hazard throughout our open space.

Other invasive plants that are being removed are Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana* and *Cortaderia jubata*) and Euphorbia. Please make note of these plants – they are all sold in nearby nurseries and will continue to plague us, not only because people still use them in their landscapes, but also because

(Continued on page 3)

**Invasive plants (continued)**

their dropped seeds remain in the soil for years for future germination.

As reported in a previous newsletter, there are two techniques for removal of broom: 1) Pull it out by the roots, or use a Weed Wrench™, pictured below, to twist it out, and 2) carefully apply Roundup to plants (large, mature broom should be cut back before applying Roundup to avoid



damage to surrounding plants).

\*Note: The open space at the Summit has not yet been turned over to the OSMA. The developer will be asked to remove broom as part of the turnover process.

**Annual Meeting Set for October 25th**

The Annual Meeting of the Open Space Maintenance Association has been set for Wednesday, October 25, 2006, to be held at The Fountaingrove Golf Club, 1525 Fountaingrove Parkway, at 6:30 p.m.

This year there will be an election for two seats on the Board of Directors. The Board will conduct other business as necessary. Information will be posted on our Web site at [www.fountaingrove2.org](http://www.fountaingrove2.org), and a resident mailing will also be done.

Call Focus for more information if needed (544-9443).

**How to report dead trees and other Open Space problems**

Residents from time to time notice dead trees in the Open Space firebreaks adjacent to their properties.

If there is a problem in an area near you, especially with dead trees that pose a threat if they were to fall, please call the OSMA property management company, Focus Real Estate and Investments, Inc., at 544-9443. They will file a report and notify the Board for action as required. This pertains to all areas except The Summit, where open space has not been turned over to the OSMA as yet.

A call to Focus is the best way to report all Open Space problems. Please remember that the OSMA is responsible only for the open space areas in Fountaingrove II. Issues regarding 1) residents' private yards or 2) City property (medians, sidewalks and parking strips) are not the responsibility of OSMA but rather the Architectural Review Committees and the City respectively. OSMA has been actively advocating for Parkway safety and City maintenance of the Parkway strips, but has no authority over these spaces. OSMA also has no authority over private property.

**Is a Neighborhood Watch program of interest?**

**Security hinges upon all of us**

Some residents have expressed interest in forming a Neighborhood Watch program in Fountaingrove II.

The City of Santa Rosa has an excellent [Web page](#) describing this program which has been used throughout the city and the U.S. Go to <http://ci.santarosa.ca.us/default.aspx?PageId=500>.

The formation of a Neighborhood Watch program will be a topic for discussion at the upcoming Annual Meeting (see adjacent notice on the left).

As a basic course of action for all Fountaingrove residents, if you suspect that something is not right or if trouble has occurred, you should call the police. Residents who have done this recently report that the police have always been very responsive.

Security in Rincon Ridge Park is dependent primarily on the efforts of im-

mediate neighbors. They should call the police anytime there are people there after dark. **Posted park hours are 6:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. PDT and 6:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. PST.** There have been reports of night parties taking place and teenagers who are sleeping in the park the next morning with twelve-pack cans scattered around the park.

Here are the numbers you should know:

**Emergency: dial 9-1-1**

**Non-emergency or an emergency from a cell phone: dial 528-5222**



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

Our Web site is now in its fourth year, [www.fountaingrove2.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@fountaingrove2.org)

Letters to the Editor and contributions will be published as space permits. Next issue: Fall 2006. Deadline: October 26, 2006

**Previous Issues of Newsletters**

Welcome to all the new residents of our community!! Because we continue to have many new residents as homes are completed, we thought you might want to know that previous issues of newsletters can be found on our Web site. Here is the URL:

<http://www.fountaingrove2.org/Newsletters/newsletters.html>

These newsletters contain information which may be helpful as you orient to our community.

FOUNTAINGROVE II  
Open Space Maintenance Association  
c/o Focus Real Estate and Investments, Inc.  
3936 Mayette Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 108  
SANTA ROSA, CA

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 may be directed to the OSMA Board through its property management company:

Focus Real Estate and Investments, Inc.  
3936 Mayette Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Phone: 707-544-9443  
Fax: 707-544-5418  
E-mail: [focusre@sonic.net](mailto:focusre@sonic.net)

*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](http://www.fountaingrove2.org)**