

Fountaingrove II Gazette



A Publication of the Fountaingrove II Open Space Maintenance Association

Volume IV, Issue I

Winter 2007

OSMA Board Members

- Sy Rothbard, President
- Jeff Schween, Vice President
- Keith Kerr, Treasurer
- Dan Cummins, Secretary
- Kim Nielsen-Glynn

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
Kim Nielsen-Glynn, newsletter editor

See a problem?

A dead tree in open space?
A broken irrigation pipe?
Contact Focus Real Estate & Investments, Inc. to report your concerns at 544-9443.

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Goodbye, Gary & Sue Specker—We'll Miss You!

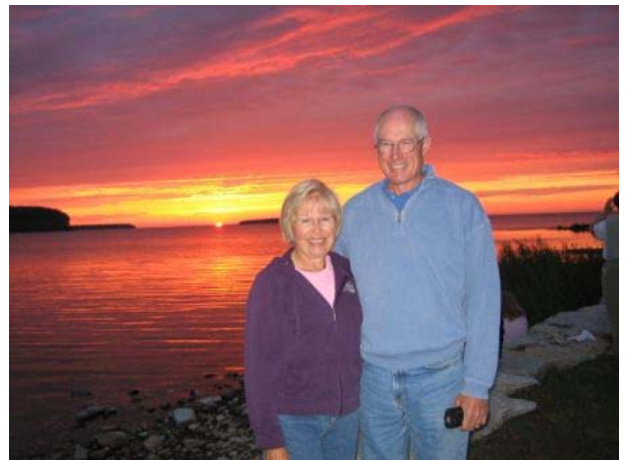
Fountaingrove II will greatly miss Gary and Sue Specker, as they leave their home in Santa Rosa for a new adventure in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Over the past several years, the Open Space Maintenance Association (OSMA) could hardly have functioned without these two dedicated and caring volunteers in our community.

Gary served on the OSMA Board for several years, most recently as President. He walked the acres and acres of rugged fire-break in our open space many times, worked successfully with our vendors, helping establish planted areas that complement our native flora and use less water, tended to many homeowners concerns, conferred with attorneys on various legal issues, and worked tirelessly on many other concerns important to our neighborhood.

Gary's wife, Sue, wore many hats throughout the years, and wore most at the same time. Sue designed and built the OSMA

Web site (www.fountaingrove2.org), updating it regularly with valuable information. She also established this newsletter, teaching herself about the publishing software, learning about bulk mail, and even labeling the approximately 600 newsletters that are mailed to every household herself. Sue was also invaluable to the Parks Committee as she and Kim Nielsen-Glynn gathered signatures, spoke with City representatives, conducted fund-raisers and helped create the beautiful tile walls for Rincon Ridge Park.

Relatively few homeowners will ever know how many hours this couple spent volunteering their time for the benefit of all who live here. Fountaingrove II has lost two true gems, and we wish them well in Minneapolis!



Annual Meeting Highlights

The Open Space Maintenance Association held its Annual Meeting at the Fountaingrove Club on October 25th. Among the agenda items was the election of two of the five Board members. Jeff Schween was elected to a two-year term, having been appointed last year to a Board position that had been vacated by a resignation. Dan Cummins, previously a member of the Fountaingrove II East Architectural Review Committee, was also elected to a two-year term. Sy Rothbard, Keith Kerr and Kim Nielsen-Glynn have just completed the first year of their two-year terms.

With nearly 600 homes within the Fountaingrove II borders, it is always distressing to see just twenty to thirty homeowners attend the Annual Meeting each year. Hardly a handful of homeowners attend the monthly Board meetings throughout the year. Remember, the OSMA cannot work effectively and properly without your input and concern. The time to be concerned is not after you feel there is a problem, but before any problems arise.

Be a part of your community—get involved!

You Can Help Fix What the Developers Broke

By Bill Mulert

When the developers created the Fountaingrove II development, they fragmented the homeowners association so that it would meet the minimum requirements of the city, but not be an impediment to their new home sales. They couldn't have cared less about what happened to the homeowners after the development was sold out. As a result, rather than one organization representing the homeowners, we were left with four: the Open Space Maintenance Association (OSMA), which has responsibility for maintaining the open space; and three Architectural Review Committees (ARCs) for the East, West and the Summit portions of Fountaingrove II, which are charged with approving new building and landscape plans and enforcing the CC&Rs. The OSMA is taking the lead in unifying the three ARCs into one committee as part of the OSMA. This unification will have many benefits for the homeowners including:

- It expands the ARC from three to 5-7 members, thus providing for a broader representation, and prevents just a couple of people from controlling things.
- It provides for an appeal process in the event a homeowner is dissatisfied with the decision of the ARC. No appeal process exists in the current structure.
- It provides the ARCs the resources necessary to effectively enforce the CC&Rs, which we all agreed to abide by when we purchased our homes. This includes the ability to establish enforcement procedures for violations and impose fines, if necessary, or take legal action to ensure that the CC&Rs are complied with.
- It provides indemnity for members of the ARC making it more attractive for homeowners to volunteer to serve on the ARC.
- It will not increase the monthly dues.

Stay informed and prepare to vote to approve this important change. Don't count on your neighbor's vote to take care of it—we need a majority of homeowners' approval for this effort to pass.

The Latest Landscaping News

By Felis Domingues

The Landscape Committee of the OSMA has been hard at work developing a fall and winter planting plan for open spaces within the Siena at Tuscany development of Fountaingrove II, as well as areas along Fountaingrove Parkway and the areas around the monuments at each development entrance (except for the Tuscany and Hanover Place monuments, which are not OSMA property).

Because building in the Siena at Tuscany development wasn't completed until the summer of 2006, landscaping of the homeowner's association open spaces was deferred until December of 2006. At the time of construction, the developer, Christopherson Homes, had installed a few trees and bushes within the open space areas of this development, but the overall look remained quite sparse.

Homeowners requested additional plantings in the five cul-de-sacs in this area. Those streets are Darlington, Giorno, Palazzo, Bellagio and Incantare. Working with Manzanita Landscape and Construction, the planting plan in Darlington Court was completed by the middle of December, 2006.

Our plan is to complete the planting plan for the remaining four courts in the Siena at Tuscany development and the areas around the monuments by spring of 2007.

(Many thanks go to Felis Domingues, Leslie Traverso and Loretta Mulert as our homeowner volunteers on this project.)

Neighborhood Watch Update

Yes, crimes do take place in our neighborhood. Usually, and thankfully, the crimes involve nothing more than troublesome and costly vandalism, but without diligent monitoring and reporting by our neighbors, those crimes could escalate into something more serious.

That's why John Torres, a concerned homeowner, decided to spearhead the Neighborhood Watch program in our area. He reports that things are off to a very successful start for Phase I of the project. Several families in the Shelter Glen/Rincon Ridge/Heathfield/Chanterelle area of Fountaingrove II convened recently, some of them meeting each other for the very first time. The fact that these neighbors were coming together for a common cause was an important step in a positive direction. Not only was it a chance for neighbors to develop their own neighborhood address and phone list to be used for Neighborhood Watch purposes, as well as for cases of emergency and/or a disaster, but it was also an opportunity to meet each other and to create a better sense of community.

If you are interested in starting your own Neighborhood Watch group in your area, John Torres is willing to help. Contact Focus Real Estate and Investments, Inc. at 544-9443 and leave a message about your interest.



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Great Sadness Comes to the Fountaingrove II Community



It is with great sadness that we tell the Fountaingrove II community of the passing of Bill and Karen Andrews. Sometime around October 8th, Karen and Bill took their own lives in their home in our community. It has come as a terrible shock to their families, to the people involved in the organizations that they were a part of and cared about, and to their many personal friends who are struggling to cope with this loss.

Both Bill and Karen were active in the Open Space Maintenance Association. Bill served as Vice President of the Board and Chairman of the Fire Safety Committee. He spearheaded the lengthy process to research and define the requirements for mitigating the danger of wildfire in our area. After the requirements were defined, he spent countless hours working on the implementation plans for extending the fire break areas where the open spaces touch our private properties within the community. This was all brought to a successful conclusion about a year ago, and now it is a matter of maintenance to keep our area more safe. He also served on the Safety Committee and attended many meetings to try to find ways to persuade the City to review the safety of Fountaingrove Parkway and to make needed changes and improvements.

Karen was, first, Project Manager for the Landscape Committee, and then the Committee Chairman. She was instrumental in developing the methodologies for doing the landscaping along the Parkway and along certain interior streets within Fountaingrove II. This was all "breaking new ground," and the Board and the Committee had to create the ways that this very large undertaking would be accomplished. She had a love for gardening and plants, carefully researched what would grow best in our somewhat hostile environment, tried to incorporate as many native plants as possible, created plant lists and cross-reference charts, and maintained contact with the Area Representatives who assisted with the plant monitoring.

Bill and Karen were both active in other ways in our city. Bill was the Program Director of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association and an avid woodworker himself. He created small pieces of furniture, lovely trays, lecterns and other decorative items.

Karen was Executive Director of the Pediatric Dental Initiative (PDI) of the North Coast until her health forced her to resign earlier this year. This non-profit organization is currently funding and building a dental surgery center in Sonoma County to provide needed dental surgery services to children who cannot otherwise receive treatment. In honor of Bill and Karen Andrews, the Pediatric Dental Initiative (PDI) has established a fund called the Andrews Memorial Fund. To make a donation to PDI, please e-mail the current Executive Director, Viveka Rydell, at vrydell@pedidental.org.

In memory of Karen and Bill a bench and tree have been installed at Rincon Ridge Park.

Why Can't We Plant Whatever We Want??

For the most part, we can plant whatever we want. However, there are several plants that are prohibited within Fountaingrove II, and for several good reasons. There are many plants that are easily spread either by birds eating and dropping their seeds or just by a nice strong breeze. Your neighbor may enjoy how those lovely plants are spread throughout his/her own yard, but are you prepared to pay for his mistakes when they spread into the OSMA open space? Your neighbor is effectively adding to your burden when he or she decides the rules don't apply to him/her. Each year the OSMA must deal with invasive plants that are consistently popping up in our beautiful and valuable open space. It's expensive and many of these non-native plants are extreme fire hazards. Let's try to keep this problem to a minimum. Become informed—and admit that there are landscaping guidelines for a reason.

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

Our Web site is now in its fourth 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 and 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

Previous issues of newsletters can be found on our Web site. Here is the URL: <http://www.fountaingrove2.org/Newsletters/newsletters.html>

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

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The Fountaingrove II Gazette

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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
Kim Nielsen-Glynn, Newsletter Editor
editor@fountaingrove2.org

Read It!!

Keeping our open spaces beautiful

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

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.