

Fair Oaks Historical Society

Newsletter – April 2020

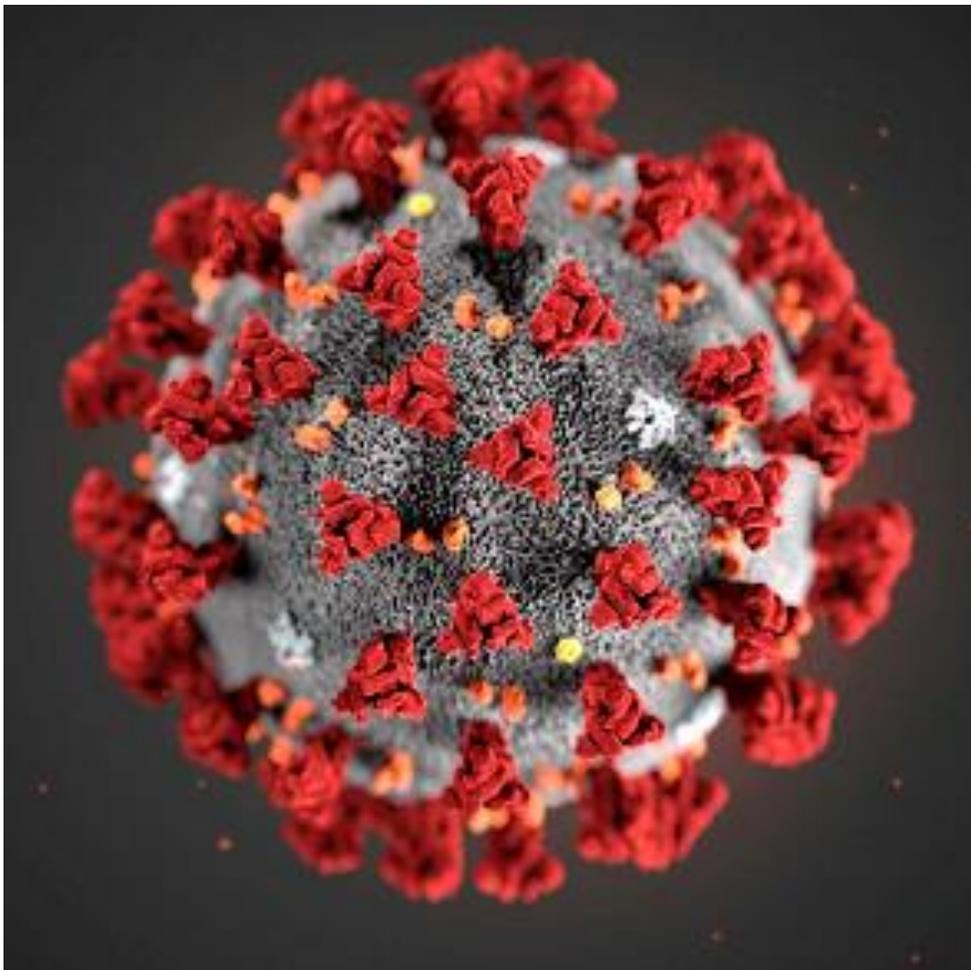
Issue Number 133

Ralph Carhart, Editor



www.fairoakshistory.org

APRIL POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING CANCELLED



President's Message

Bob Sours

What a year! Our Board of Directors— six old timers and two newbies, had high hopes of sustaining the momentum and success of the last couple years, only to be clobbered by the COVID-19 Virus. We may be down, but we're not out.

I hope that all of our members are faring well during this time. I'm looking forward to visiting the History Center again, and hope that our next Potluck and General Meeting will not be too far off. Planning for the November Soup Night continues and Claudia Thorn will be contacting committee members soon. We are seeking an alternate venue as the Clubhouse will be under renovation.

To keep in touch, we still have this newsletter. And, it gives me an opportunity to reach out to our members and urge you to take an active role in advancing the mission of the Society— collecting, researching, learning, and sharing the stories and artifacts that enrich our appreciation of this special town.

While serving as the History Center Docent I discovered how interesting and enjoyable it is to read what has been gathered about our local history and the people and events that have led up to today. I enjoy sharing what I've discovered and only wish more people were aware of the wealth we have in our History Center and on our Website.

It takes many volunteers, as well as funding, to have a successful History Center. We need members who are willing to step forward, and help with its operation and enhancement. Help includes hosting, computer work, grant writing, maintenance, or being a docent. Likewise, to be a successful Society, it requires committee members for the potluck meetings, Soup Night, fundraising, publicity, newsletter articles and much more. And, we need those people willing to assume future service as officers of the Society.

So, despite the setback, that's my goal this year. Stay in touch with me, study the wealth of interesting information on our Website, and keep safe and well!

Memorial Day Celebration

Saturday, May 23

The traditional Memorial Day Celebration at the Fair Oaks Cemetery has been modified due to the COVID-19 mitigation measures. Instead of the usual gathering, speeches and refreshments, the Cemetery District will permit people in cars to drive through the Avenue of Flags to pay honor to the men and women who lost their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Religious symbols will be placed at each appropriate grave. Music will be played and Cemetery Board members and staff will be there to observe, but there will be no formal ceremony or program.

Pictures from the January General Meeting



Installation of 2020 Officers

Being sworn in by Pat Vogel—

President — Bob Sours

Vice-President — Terrie O'Donnell

Treasurer — Bob Vogel

Secretary — Carolyn Spotts (absent)



Whats's New at the History Center...

Jim Pearce

I really miss my Saturday morning visits to the History Center. It was a sudden happening and left us in the midst of a number of projects.

We had planned to do some redecorating of the Rotary Theater, and had copied and enlarged the photo of the old movie-screen-frame with business ads donated by Warren and Janet McWilliams. Warren Blomquist built a new frame for it to hang in the area of the big screen, but before we could drive a nail, we were forced to close.

One of the exciting things about hanging out at the History Center is that you never know who is going to drop by and what they'll bring. In the weeks before we closed we had several visits from the daughters of late member and longtime resident Barbara Gilmore. Karen, Glenda and Lisa told us they were cleaning Barbara's belongings at her house on Ridge Street and wondered if we would be interested in any historic materials they might find. Of course we said "yes!" and they brought by some items. Most we already had, but their findings included an old loosely bound twelve-page hand-written autobiography of Charles and Sara Slocum, written for their daughter Ruth Slocum Gilmore in 1922. We've scanned it for our archives. I'll be interested in what else they find.

Also, a few weeks ago, we had a visit from Howard Fox, a relative of the late Sarah Goller, author of "Up Sunset Avenue", a 200-page historical account of growing up in Fair Oaks. He was concerned about the dwindling number of copies of the book and wondered if we'd be interested in partnering to preserve the book. We agreed to scan the book (which we just finished doing) and look into different means of reproduction. James McGuire of Placerville, a previously unknown descendent of the Buffum family, dropped by to see what we had on the Buffums. He is working on the Buffum family history and photographed many of the items we have.

Lastly, Nathan Taylor stopped in with some historic artwork he had done. You'll remember Nathan from the door mural he did for the Brew Pub. Nathan and Bob had a discussion of future relationships we might forge, and he left us with a painting he'd done of one of our classic photos.



Treasurer's Report

Bob Vogel

Account balances as of March 31 are: Checking - \$9,837.70, Savings - \$5,423.15, CDs - \$34,658.57, Total - \$49,919.42.

Membership and Dues

Since we won't be having the April General Meeting, members who haven't renewed won't have that opportunity. Fortunately there are other options – send a check to our PO Box (see form on the back of this newsletter), or you can renew online from the home page of our website. We take all major credit cards.

If you're not sure whether you've renewed, we have a "check your membership" status program on the website. To keep the information relatively private, you're listed by the last four digits of your phone number and the first four digits of your address.

Any questions— call or message Jim Pearce or leave a note at the webhost address.

Current membership stats are below. Please continue to support the Society.

MEMBERSHIPS

TYPE	PAID MEMBERS	TOTAL MEMBERS
Individual	46	46
Family	66	132
Life Individual	21	21
Life Family	45	90
Honorary	1	1
Sponsor	5	5
Total	184	295

Paid to:

2020	43
2019	36
2018	9



The Straith house on the bluffs at Edgevale Court has sold for \$1,365,000.

We don't know who the new owners are, but we'll miss our neighbors Tim Carmichael and Carmel Comstock who welcomed the Historical Society and other groups to tour the beautifully restored home.



Parks Report

Some big projects are afoot for the Village as a result of the Park Bond passed by Fair Oaks voters in November 2018. Concept plans have been approved by the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District Board of Directors for the various elements of the “Village Park Master Plan”

The Master Plan includes major improvements to Plaza Park and Village Park (\$7.4 million budgeted), the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater (\$5.9 million budgeted) and the Community Clubhouse (\$1.2 million budgeted). This represents the largest reinvestment in our park system in memory, and is part of a District strategy to rebrand Fair Oaks Village as a venue for visual and performing arts and special events.

In the upcoming months construction plans will be developed by architects and landscape architects for each of the project elements. Those plans will be presented for review by District staff, its Bond Oversight Committee, and the Board of Directors. After receiving approval by the County and the Board the work will be advertised for bids. Actual construction is currently planned to begin around October this year, and will extend through summer 2021. Coordination and phasing will be employed to minimize disruption for local businesses, facility users and the District’s own programs.

Elsewhere around Fair Oaks other park improvements have been made or are planned. Surfacing of play equipment areas has been completed throughout the system, a frisbee golf course has been installed at Miller Park and a new neighborhood park has been approved for development on Swallow Way, off of Hazel Avenue at Lake Nimbus Drive (\$882,000 budgeted). A bike pump track has also been approved for Phoenix Park (\$30,000 budgeted) and plans are underway for parking improvements at the same park. Alternate plans are being studied for two softball fields there or possibly on the grounds of the old John Holst School.

Swallow Way Park Plan



The Park District will celebrate its 75th anniversary on October 8. A week-long program of events and activities is planned throughout the park system for October 1 through 8. Stay tuned for details.

Meanwhile, many of the upcoming programs previously scheduled by the District have been cancelled or postponed. Facilities, including the District office, are closed, but staff, working remotely, are on hand answering calls and maintaining the parks. If you want the latest information on closures, etc., it is recommended that you check the Park District website: www.forpd.org as the situation is dynamic and things change along with the pandemic.

The Chamber of Commerce has also decided to postpone the Fiesta that was planned for May 3. With luck it may be rescheduled for mid-August.



One of our dearest and most senior members, **Dorothy Virginia Cabodi**, passed away at home on January 20 at age 103. Active in the community for more than 80 years, Dorothy was a member of the Orangevale Women's Club for the past 63 years. As a volunteer in the Mercy San Juan Hospital Guild she received a "Heroes of Human Services" award from the County Board of Supervisors in 2019. In the 1970s she served as a teacher's aid. And, she was a beloved member of our society for many years.

Dorothy and her husband Mick purchased 13 acres at the southeast corner of Kenneth and Bella Vista (Madison) Avenues in 1939, and built their first house there in 1944. That house burned to the ground in 1949, despite the best efforts of the Fair Oaks and Orangevale Fire Departments. The following year they rebuilt. After selling that house in the mid-50s, they built the house that Dorothy lived in until her death.

Due to the COVID-19 social distancing guidance, the memorial service for Dorothy has been postponed indefinitely. We look to Dorothy's close friends, Bob and Maria Brugger for word on its scheduling.

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 2044
FAIR OAKS CA 95628

TO:

Dues are for the Calendar Year, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Dues are payable on Jan. 1, and become delinquent Feb. 1.
New members joining after Oct. 1 shall be considered paid for the following year.

Please check one: NEW MEMBER APPLICATION DUES PAYMENT

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Membership level requested:

Individual \$20 Family (2 Persons) \$25 Supporting (Business) \$50

Single Life Member \$150 Family Life Member \$225

I am adding \$5 and request a printed newsletter by USPS \$ _____

I am including the following donation to support the History Center:

Contributor \$100 Supporter \$250 Patron \$500

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check number _____ Date of check ___/___/___

Please mail this form and check payable to:

“Fair Oaks Historical Society, Inc.” P.O. BOX 2044, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

For more information, please call Jim Pearce, 961-8415 (jpearce4104@gmail.com)