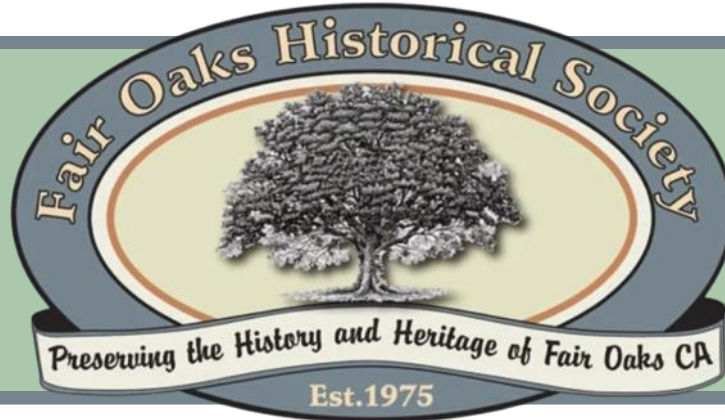


Something to Crow About



Winter 2025

Issue 151

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

When: Wednesday, January 29th Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Where: Faith Lutheran Church - 4000 San Juan Blvd, Fair Oaks

Bring a salad, main dish or dessert to share

**We will See
You there!**

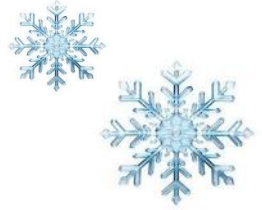
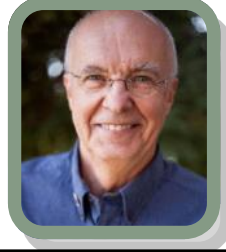
Our guest speaker will be **Tom Gray**, General Manager of the Fair Oaks Water District who will talk about plans for their property across the street from the Water District Headquarters.

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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

By Claudia Thorn, President & Pete Schroeder, Vice President



Raffle Donations Needed ASAP!

SOUP Night - Saturday, February 8, 2025

At Faith Lutheran, Fair Oaks

The "New Look" of the History Center and Museum for 2025

There's a new look coming to the Fair Oaks History Center & Museum in 2025! Fresh paint! Cleaned carpets! New exhibits, storyboards and displays!

The Board of the F.O. Historical Society has agreed that the time has come to empty the museum, give the entire space a thorough cleaning and update the area, combining previous items with newly acquired artifacts.

As this is a much-loved work-in-progress, the final layout has yet to be determined. Of course, there are quite a few options to consider, given the limited area available.

The priorities are to have a History Center & Museum as attractive, interesting and user-friendly as possible. The wonderful opportunity we have is to take advantage of its easy-access location and elevate it into a bright and popular highlight of the Village area.

Those who are aware of its presence will appreciate the changes for sure. And those who learn about it for the first time, will perhaps be inclined to visit and even become a member.

With such an interesting history, Fair Oaks deserves a History Center & Museum that appeals to residents and visitors alike.

We'll keep you posted with updates as the transformation occurs. But in the meantime, please stop by and see the progress for yourself.

Hours open to the public remain:

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10:00am to 2:00pm.

For more information, please contact the FOHS at **916-844-7103** or **fohistory1@gmail.com**

Soup Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2025, at Faith Lutheran Church.

Larry Goodwin (972-839-6760) and Lisa Rigby (214-674-8634) have volunteered to coordinate the raffle and silent auction. Please start collecting your donations and bring them to the History Center and complete a Donation Slip so that we can acknowledge you in our program. ***If you're willing to assist on ANY committee, please contact Claudia Thorn (916-747-1535).*** I am hoping to breakdown the tasks to keep everyone's workload to a minimum.

Soup Night Tickets are still available. Contact Claudia to purchase.
Price has not increased: \$35

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration is coming up this September.

Pete Schroeder and Chris Highsmith are hosting monthly planning meetings. **Our next planning meeting is Tuesday, January 28th, at 10:00 a.m.** at the History Center. Please join us as we would love your input for this celebration.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our History Center and at our upcoming events!!!

All the Best, Claudia J Thorn, President
Pete Schroeder, Vice-President



WOMAN'S THURSDAY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS

Sandra Navarro, President



Our History

During the month of November 2025, FOHS and The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks collaborated in the telling of the 120-year-long story of the history of The Woman's Thursday Club. The WTC display included a vintage mannequin displaying the message of "Equal Suffrage." Here are some highlights of that history.

1900s The Woman's Thursday Club was organized in 1902. Dues were \$1.10 with 10 cents for the State Federation of Women's Clubs. In 1905, the Club supported the Women's Improvement for Legislative Action on protecting land from dredgers.

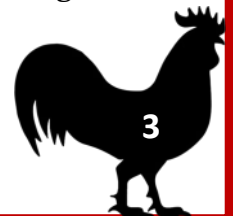
1910s The Club built its first clubhouse. In 1911, the Club contributed to the University Loan Fund for Girls. In 1912, the Club endorsed a resolution to provide free textbooks for children in public schools. The Spanish Flu forced the Club to suspend meetings in 1918.

1930s The Club was active in aiding Native Americans through donations to the Indian Welfare Fund and in aiding needy veterans of the First World War. Scholarships were provided to students at San Juan Union High School. Musicals, book reviews and luncheons were Club activities during the years of the Great Depression.

1950s The Club's membership increased after the Second World War. In 1953, a "pioneer tea" was held to celebrate the Club's 50th anniversary with 31 Fair Oaks "pioneers" attending. The first clubhouse was sold in 1954. The first meeting in the second clubhouse was held on March 10, 1955. Donations were made to "Save the Giant Redwoods," De Witt State Hospital (Auburn) and endorsements were made to insure adequate planning at Folsom Dam.

1960s The Sixties were known for Club coffees, brunches, luncheons, teas, bridge tournaments and fashion shows. Bridge, Craft, Art, Garden, and Book Sections were active. Donations were made to the American Field Services student exchange program, to De Witt State Hospital and the USO. The Club was active in Women's Federation District and State meetings.

1970s Membership decreased during this decade. Scholarships became the Club's main philanthropy though donations were made to the Children's Receiving Home and the Psychiatric Ward at American River Hospital. The Club endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment. During the US Bicentennial Year, the Club published *Fair Oaks, The Way It Was, 1895-1976*.



THE DOCENT CORNER

By Bob Sours, Retired Docent

Sailing into the year end and reaching out to catch the 2025 train forward, I am somewhat okay on leaving 2024 as a Memory. At the same time, I am a little on edge in anticipation of what the New Year will bring us after the challenges and disappointments of world events of "24".

NOT TO WORRY, I SAY. As we are all blessed with a free will and live in a democracy that encourages prosperity and happiness, A CATCH THOUGH is for us to carry our share of responsibility and security for ourselves and our neighbors.

TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE, we live by a constitution and rules of law; a Government established to operate and maintain our system.

THAT ALL SAID, Let's get back to Fair Oaks, Our Historical Society, and our Mission. About 1895, the first settlers arrived in Fair Oaks. With them was their culture and way of life plus the rules they had to abide by in the USA. Establishing a new town was no doubt a challenge for years to come which included Communications, Schools, Fire Department, Police Department, etc. etc. High Tech was not an issue nor a part of life; things moved slowly.

We, at the Society, want to know all we can about those early settlers: how they lived, the culture, hardships, achievements and how their hard work laid the foundation that we appreciate today. Our Society does Research and Preservation in order to share the heritage, history and lives of our early settlers..

Many of those early settlers have passed on, making information of the past more difficult. Transportation and communication methods



have changed. Business and Marketing has followed the trendy high tech way of life.

One would think that our Society would soon be like a "Ghost Town" or "Pony Express Operation". BUT NO, we still seem to be as viable as ever. New people moving to FO want information about the past. Realtors look for information about our older homes. We manage a small museum and have docents available with village information, current projects and new businesses.

Tour guides are available for short trips around Fair Oaks.

In addition to the above, we have an Executive Board and staff that maintain events, meetings, History Center activities and secures funding for our continued operation.

SURE, we have had renovation, building additions and Park adjustments going on for three plus years now, The disruptions have caused stress and hardships for not only businesses, but volunteers and residents. BUT, we are soon to be celebrating the end to construction and a normal way of enjoying our wonderful Village.

THAT'S JUST SOME OF MY THOUGHTS -

OUR HISTORY CENTER NEEDS DOCENTS -



SO PLEASE MEMBERS, CONSIDER THIS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY. BELIEVE ME, IT IS SO REWARDING AND EDUCATIONAL:
YOU WILL NEVER REGRET IT.

KEEP SAFE AND BE WELL.

Bob



Volunteers Needed!

The **History Center** is looking for volunteers for the following positions:

Videographer

What: Document Fair Oaks history as it happens by recording events and possibly other projects

When: as needed

Collection Cataloger

What: Immerse yourself in Fair Oaks history by providing assistance with cataloging our collection of historical documents and artifacts.

When: Tuesdays or Thursdays
10 .a.m. - 2 p.m.
for a couple of hours

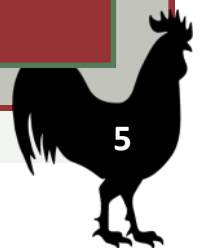
Museum Docents

What: Greet visitors and converse about Fair Oaks history

When: Saturdays
Noon – 2:00pm

For more information, call Chris Highsmith at the History Center at **(916) 844-7103** on **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 10am - 2:00pm**, or send him an email at:

Fairoakshistorycenter@gmail.com





Fair Oaks
Historical Society's
50th Anniversary



130th Anniversary of
Fair Oaks Colony

Mark Your Calendars & Save the Date!

SEPTEMBER 27TH 2025

- ❖ **AFTERNOON EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT**
Plaza Park & Village Park, Noon to 4. Free activities for the whole family celebrating Fair Oaks then and now!
- ❖ **SPECIAL COMEMORATIVE BANQUET**
Community Clubhouse catered dinner and musical program that promises to be an evening to remember! Limited seating. Tickets on sale July 2025.

Would you like to be a part of this event? For more information or to join our team of volunteers, email fairoakshistorycenter@gmail.com or call the Fair Oaks History Center at 916-844-7103.





**MEMBERSHIP
NEWS**



Welcome New Members

Erik & Lesa Johnson
Kim & Misha Sarkovich
Chuck Friedrich
Sherrill Reed



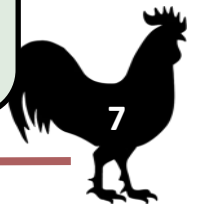
2024 Renewals at the Patron Level (\$100 - \$149)

Terry & Sherry Clifton
Denis & Joanrae Deluchi
Wayne & Laurie Donaldson
Sandra & David Navarro
Karen Smith
Jonathon Brown (2025)
Karen Miles (2025)
Bobbie Mitchell (2025)



2024 Renewals at the Supporting Level (\$50 - \$99)

Bob's Cycle Center
Max Jones
Ronnie & Sheila Mitchell
John & Beth O'Farrell
Howard Papworth
Barbara & Jerry Roper (2025)
Jane & Anne Taylor
Richard & Claudia Thorn
Village Ventures, LLC
Woman's Thursday Club



FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Chris Highsmith, History Center Operation Manager

This is the third and final part of a three-part series on the Works Progress Administration projects in Fair Oaks. This article is on the 1940 remodel of the newly built Clubhouse.

In the last article that was in the Fall newsletter, the construction had been started on the new clubhouse. In May of 1936, Fair Oaks residents voted to give approval to help pay for the work, knowing that there would be a need for funds to cover all the costs. In August, 1936, a party was sponsored by the Community Club to raise funds to help with the construction of the new clubhouse and to lessen the burden on the Fair Oaks taxpayers.

The event was held at the Fair Oaks Elementary School site at the corner of Fair Oaks Blvd. and Winding Way on the tennis courts that were done earlier by the WPA. There were card games like whist and bridge where a person could win prizes. George Woodward, president of the Community Club, oversaw the arrangements.

In May, 1937, Slim Green, clerk of the Fair Oaks school board, called a meeting in the new clubhouse for the purpose of discussing the possibility of holding a dance there the last of May. The affair would be in the nature of a housewarming and proceeds would go to pay off some outstanding construction costs and to start equipping the building.

Two years later in 1939, Dr. Eugene H. Buffum, Eric E. Fulton, Richard D. Borne, Bill Gregory, Justice of the Peace Toll G. Narramore and John E. Holst had an interest in the development of a recreational center in the vicinity of the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse. They spent a good deal of time inquiring into the ways and means of utilizing much of the publicly owned acreage around the clubhouse which was serving no useful purpose.

They considered

two methods that could be used to get the work done. One would be to do a purely county-directed project or the other would be through the establishment of a local WPA project, which would have to be presented through the same channels as the earlier work of tearing down the old school and building the clubhouse.



This is one of the many WPA 1940 markers on the rock retaining walls surrounding the Clubhouse.

At their August meeting of that same year, there was talk of the need for a public swimming pool and for the completion of the interior of the clubhouse. Also, some effort should be made toward developing a better location for the weekly band concerts which were drawing increasingly larger audiences every Wednesday evening at Fair Oaks plaza.

By the third week of October, 1939, the plans for the development of the area around the Fair Oaks clubhouse to provide a bandstand, a swimming pool and a softball diamond had been sketched for presentation to proper authorities to securing WPA (now called Work Projects Administration). Active in the preliminary work, were Judge Narramore, Borne, Norman Langness, Dr. Buffum, and others.

In November, Borne and Judge Narramore appeared at the Men's Brotherhood of the Fair Oaks Federated Church meeting and outlined the plans for developing the grounds adjacent to the clubhouse, which would



include a bandstand, a swimming pool and a softball diamond; most of the labor would be supplied by the WPA. The brotherhood indicated their approval.

On January 25, 1940, the project had already received assurances of donations of adequate materials from local residents and businesspeople to take care of the rest. With the aid of a \$300 appropriation by the Fair Oaks school district and a \$16,000 project for civic improvement, they would be under way.

Still needing \$450 to start a WPA project, a group of Fair Oaks businessmen met in the court of Justice Narramore and quickly underwrote that amount. Within half an hour after the group had decided to underwrite the project, the following names had been secured: Ralph Hinsey, William Codd, Leon N. Wheaton, Dewey Rice, Chester E. Hinshaw, S. E. Green, William Gregory, E. E. Fulton, R. D. Borne, Clarence A. Champlin, Robert. F. Broadley, T. G. Narramore, John E. Holst, Nat R. Smith, Dr. Norton A. Archer, Geo. W. Conkey, Carl F. Stark, Clayton E. Vaughan, Bert R. Hild and Norman Langness and maybe others were added later.

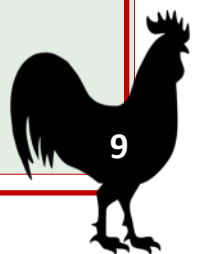
March, 1940, the official okay for the project to reroof and finish the inside of the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, grade and level adjacent ground to provide a softball field and parking space and to construct a bandstand had been received from WPA headquarters according to Justice Narramore. WPA was anxious to get started in order to complete it before the end of the fiscal year.

Holst was named project superintendent. On Monday morning of April 29th the work on the WPA project got under way. A general cleanup of the grounds was undertaken with another crew of men preparing the roof of the building for recovering.

Judge Narramore called a meeting of all people interested in the project for Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock at his office to discuss proposals for important changes in the landscaping work. The group visited the site to consider the proposals. They selected the color for the building exterior which was cream with red trim and ceiling inside was to be finished in aluminum paint to provide better lighting.



This photo was most likely taken some time between 1946 and 1948. The structure attached to the clubhouse could be the projection room installed when the clubhouse was used as a movie theater; more research is needed.



The hill approaching the building from the south would be excavated to provide parking space and the dirt would be moved to the side where it would be used to fill in low spots for the softball field. The present project did not include the construction of a swimming pool; that matter was being placed on file for future condition.

In one week the WPA crews were making rapid headway in reroofing the Fair Oaks Clubhouse, completing the interior finish of the building and excavating for parking lots and the bandstand outside.

Following the completion of the WPA part of the of project on August 13th, with the bandstand now ready for use, how to further

reported that the school board spent \$1,250 on the completed project. Local material and equipment contributions brought the community's cooperative effort up to \$2,150. The WPA expense was \$7,750.

Now 85 years later, Fair Oaks Recreation & Park is finishing up the latest remodel of the Community Clubhouse, Plaza Park and Amphitheater. The old building, that Toll Narramore owned where the meeting was held in his office in 1939, had to be removed for the amphitheater remodel. One of the last businesses that was in the building before it was torn down was a beauty salon.

The sources that were used were the Sacramento Bee, Sacramento Union and San Juan Record.



Here is what the completed bandstand looked like in the forties.

improve the Fair Oaks Clubhouse site was discussed at a meeting held in the clubhouse on Tuesday, August 20, by R. D. Borne secretary/treasurer of the unofficial group of Fair Oaks businessmen and civic minded citizens who sponsored the job. During the meeting Holst, Gregory and Narramore were named to sand the floor and get it ready for use. Dr. Buffum was appointed to inquire into the possibility of a new lawn covering. Holst, Nat Smith, Lorin Booth and Lou Gerhardt were named to determine the building's requirements in electrical installation. Eric Fulton, F.U. Orr and Bud Fulton were named to see about getting pipe for guard rails and placing them. John E. Holst

We always enjoy receiving stories about and photos pertaining to the history of the Fair Oaks area.

Attn: **Chris Highsmith**
Fair Oaks History Center
10340 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

fairoakshistorycenter@gmail.com

Phone – **(916) 844-7103**





This is what the Community Clubhouse, currently being remodeled, looked like in December, 2024, nearing an early 2025 completion.

THE WOMAN'S THURSDAY CLUB DISPLAY AT THE HISTORY CENTER NOVEMBER, 2024



Bob Sours and Bob Vogel

Bob Sours and Bob Vogel
enjoying the display.



FOHS AT THE CHICKEN FESTIVAL

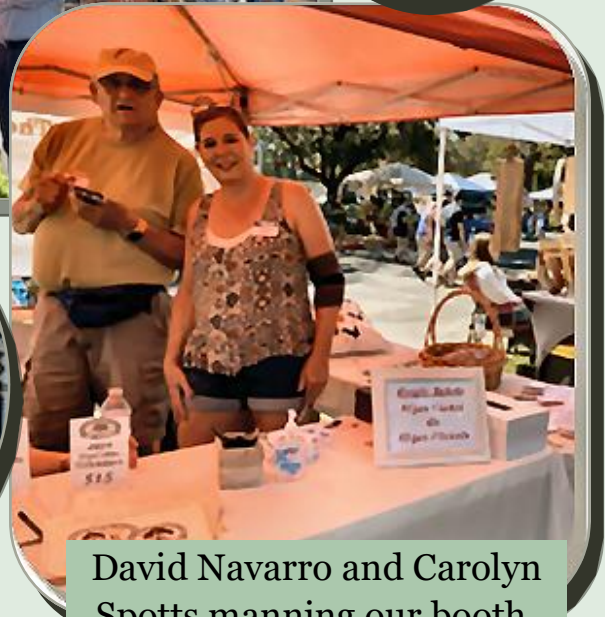
At Fair Oaks Park, September, 2024



Our bubble maker was a hit!



Bud Bebee talking with a Visitor (potentially a new member?)



David Navarro and Carolyn Spotts manning our booth.



THE HISTORY CENTER



In the Fair Oaks Village

10340 Fair Oaks Blvd
(next to the Sunflower Drive-in)

Regular Hours

Tuesdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Admission is FREE



2025 Membership Renewals are due NOW

We make it easy for you to renew.

Use the form below and mail with your check or Pay Online.

Or just bring a check or credit card to the History Center.

Or bring a check or credit card to the General Meeting this month.



Fair Oaks Historical Society 2025 Membership Renewal

Name:	Phone - Cell:
Address:	Phone - Home:
Email Address:	
Emergency Contact:	Phone – Home or Cell:

Dues are collected on an annual basis in January. New members joining at the 2024 Chicken Festival or after October 1st shall be considered paid for 2025. Membership dues are: (circle one)

Individual \$20, Family (2 persons) \$25, Supporting \$50,
Patron \$100, Benefactor \$150, Life Membership \$275
Add \$10 to receive a printed copy of our newsletter via Mail.

Signature: X	Date:
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Send this renewal form with your check to:

Fair Oaks Historical Society
P.O. Box 2044
Fair Oaks, CA 95628



You may also use the PayPal system:

<https://fairoakshistory.org/join/join.htm>

Thank you for your support!

Memberships at or above the Supporting level will be recognized in our quarterly Newsletter.

For questions, please contact Terry Clifton at (916) 501-4045 or FOHistory1@gmail.com.

Membership Coordinator use only:

Amount paid: \$
Check # or PayPal Date:
Date received:



2025 HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

Executive Board Meeting	January 21
50th Anniversary Planning Mtg	January 28
Quarterly General Meeting	January 29
Soup Night	February 8
Executive Board Meeting	February 18
50th Anniversary Planning Mtg	February 25
Executive Board Meeting	March 18
50th Anniversary Planning Mtg	March 25



Fair Oaks Historical Society
P.O. Box 2044
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To: