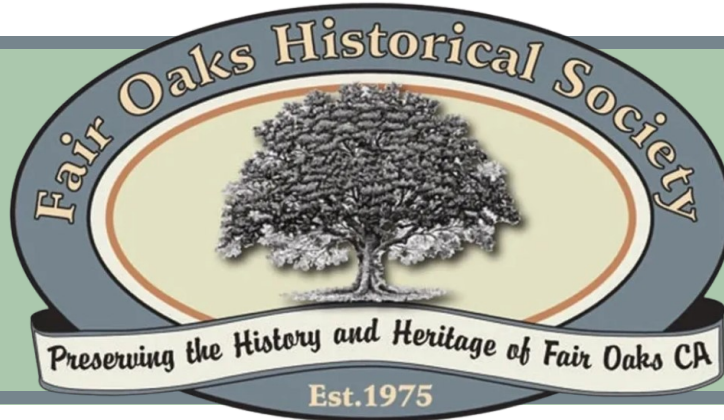


Something to Crow About



Fall 2024

Issue 150

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

When: Wednesday, October 23rd 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 **Jim Racy**, owner of the Racy Feed & Pet Supply store which was located on the property that is now the Fair Oaks Water District Building

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

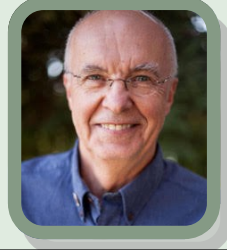
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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

By Claudia Thorn, President & Pete Schroeder, Vice President



Greetings
Autumn!
We sure
hope so.



HOLD THIS DATE

SOUP Night - Saturday, February 8, 2025

At Faith Lutheran, Fair Oaks

In 2025, the FOHS Executive Board is looking forward to a greatly increased presence in the community. We will have a golden opportunity to showcase our contribution as a local partner for the good of our residents and visitors. As such, there will be many ways you can take pride in our Society; we hope you might be inclined to actively engage others as well to join and learn more about our historic community.

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.

Our 50th Anniversary is coming up next September. Pete Schroeder and Chris Highsmith are hosting monthly planning meetings. Our next planning meeting is

Tuesday, October 22nd, at 10:00 a.m. at the History Center. Please join us as we would love your input for this community celebration.



Lastly, for those of us who attended our Ice Cream Social in July, it was wonderful to see everyone. Many thanks to the Oregon Ice Cream Company for donating their delicious fudge bars. We all had a great time!



About Alden's Organic:

Alden's Organic is America's best-selling organic ice cream*. The brand was launched in 2004 in

Eugene, Oregon where they still make every batch. Alden's offers a full range of family and personal indulgence size ice cream, frozen novelties, and dairy-free frozen desserts. Alden's products are certified organic, non-GMO, and are available at over 10,000 natural, specialty and traditional stores across the U.S. For more information visit:

<https://www.aldensicecream.com>



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

THE WOMAN'S THURSDAY CLUB DISPLAY

At the History Center in November

The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks

A Large Cabinet Display

Fair Oaks History Center

November 2024

Tues., Thurs., Sat. 10-2

Free Admission

10340 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks, CA 95628

www.fairoakshistory.org

www.fairoakshistory.org/wtcf/



In November, the History Center will feature a display about **The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks**. The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks was organized in the summer of 1902. Fifteen charter members met in the Fair Oaks Hotel and later in the San Juan Hall (above the Fair Oaks Hardware and Variety Store) until a clubhouse was built in 1914. The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks is still vibrant in 2024. It maintains an archive documenting its activities throughout its nearly 120 year history.



Photo: Fair Oaks Pioneers Honored by Woman's Thursday Club in 1953



THE DOCENT CORNER

By Bob Sours, Retired Docent

My friends of the Society: Bar none, this has been a "WILD AND WOOLEY" Year. Not only for our nation with disasters and elections, but for our Village as well.

Construction moves on in spite of unseen delays, but "Tea leaves" read an end coming in 2025. Kudos go to ALL for the patience given, of course, but in the final days the **CALL WILL BE FOR ONE HUGE CELEBRATION . WE HOPE**

Other WINDS seem to be blowing around the Village...of discontent. As a semi retired docent, I hear only bits and pieces from advocates and group leaders. But, it is very disappointing to me as it has a definite impact on the Village as a whole..

No details, but it is breezy out and around the Village with writings and scuttlebutt by many. Breezy is not BAD, just maybe stirring the pot. However, I see thunder coming along behind if we don't all play ball together and compromise where needed; it would be sad. **IF EVERYONE CANNOT GIVE AND TAKE, IT MAY TAKE AWAY FROM THAT BEAUTIFUL CELEBRATION MENTIONED ABOVE.**

After all folks, we need to keep happy campers among the Docent Staff so they smile and tell OUR STORY to visitors about Fair Oaks Village that WE all shout about.

In closing, I'm going to mention something about our nation's democracy, freedoms and the way we follow the rule of law. When our settlers came to Fair Oaks they brought with them a constitution that we all follow and the Flag that we fly. We now carry the banner for all of our forefathers, some of who lay at rest in our Fair Oaks Cemetery. I'd say a REAL RESPONSIBILITY, rests with all of us to pay attention.

My story today is not new and maybe a stretch from a docent's message. We (Americans) are now faced once again with protecting our way of life, culture and our people. Some people and other nations try to spoil our elections to destroy our progress. **WE MUST LISTEN, AND VOTE TO PROTECT OUR VALUES.**



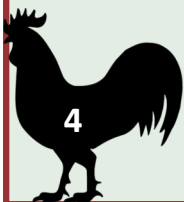
According to the nursery, this particular bonsai olive tree is an ancient species with unique characteristics and considered one of the wild olive trees. True or not, it is part of my patriotic olive tree orchard (all bonsai)

By the way: Docents are guides, so I'm trying.



Bob, American

Post Note: I've said before, but worth saying again: **we now have some new docents that are doing a wonderful job. Please stop and say hello to them.** You can learn about Fair Oaks and our docents can learn from your questions.



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



YEAR 2025

50 years since
Fair Oaks
Historical Society
was started.



130 years since
Fair Oaks Colony
was established.



ON SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2025

During the day

The community will celebrate Fair Oaks 130 years at both the Plaza Park and the Village Park.

In the evening

There will be a catered ticketed dinner event highlighting the Fair Oaks Historical Society being in the community.

To help plan the events or just for more information:

Call the History Center at (916) 844-7103

Or visit the center on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays between 10am - 2:00pm

Or send an email to fair oakshistorycenter@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome New Members

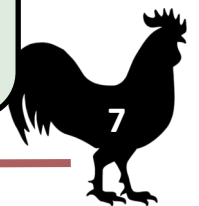
Ken Friedman
Bruce Vincent
Daniel Snyder
Birk Ellis
Alan Friedman
Karen Miles (Supporting)

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)

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

Bob's Cycle Center
Max Jones
Ronnie & Sheila Mitchell
John & Beth O'Farrell
Howard Papworth
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 second part of a three-part series on the Works Progress Administration projects in Fair Oaks. This article is on Fair Oaks needing a Community Center.

The Background

The old Fair Oaks schoolhouse's building was a distinctive landmark in early Fair Oaks. It was erected in 1902 by Joseph Broadley and in 1935 it was still well preserved. From 1902 'till 1928, the building was used as a school. From 1913



to 1914, it housed the students and three faculty members of San Juan High School until the new High School was done. During its time of idleness between 1928 to 1936, it was used as rendezvous for various organizations, plus the headquarters for the State Emergency Relief Administration (SERA) commissariat. The people of Fair Oaks had traveled to Orangevale or Citrus Heights to hold large gatherings since there was no large community space in Fair Oaks.

The Idea

In late October of 1935, the Chesson-Evan Post 396 American Legion wanted to undertake a project for a needed community meeting hall and municipal swimming pool for Fair

Oaks with financing by a WPA grant (note: the pool was never built). The matter was brought to the attention of the membership by Principal Edward P. Buchanan of the Fair Oaks school, who recently became a member of the local post by transfer. A committee headed by John B. Stark of Carmichael was appointed by Post Commander Archibald G. Donald.

The plan was that the building and pool would be built on school property. Believing it could be worked out so no donations or taxation would be needed. The plans and specifications were being prepared by Legionnaire Earl Williams of Carmichael, a former schoolteacher in Tacoma, Washington, and one of the original Legion committee members. The proposal by Williams was to raze the present school structure to the first-floor ceiling level, then use the material to remodel the structure providing adequate facilities for all community uses. The WPA funds would pay for labor.

Finalizing The Plan

On Tuesday, November 12th, a mass meeting with the board of trustees of the Fair Oaks Elementary school district where Dr. Buffum presided over the meeting in the Fair Oaks school where things progressed swimmingly and the board gave their heartiest support in the matter of revamping the old building, until the matter of who was to pay what, if certain money was needed. Sim Green, clerk of the board, stated his unwillingness to sign anything accepting any responsibility for the school board. It was also stated that the board wondered whether the building would be self-supporting. Since an American Legion committee started the matter, members of the Legion offered to lease the building from the board to guarantee the



building's support, but this idea did not seem to gain much interest.

The only added expense seen as necessary was to purchase cement and materials for the construction of small additional foundations, roofing material and possibly some sort of supervisor to see that the work is carried out as per schedule. The cost estimate of \$12,000 was prepared by Leland Bolles, one of the original committee members. The bulk of the money would be for labor and would be financed by the Federal WPA.

Original, hastily set-up plans were returned for revision with changes. It contained a basement banquet hall, kitchen, upstairs auditorium and gymnasium. The structure would have a stucco finish. They were hoping that federal funds were still available. The project was regarded as one which will entirely merit federal approval since much of the work can be done in any sort of weather without public hindrance.

Green said that the whole matter could be done without incurring any heavy financial expense for the district. At the end of the meeting, the project had board indorsement. Refusal of the trustees to accept responsibility for any cash outlay was due to the fact that they believed the Riley-Stewart tax plan that was passed in 1933, would prevent the board from increasing its budget under certain conditions and required an election for approval. Also, the need for haste lay in the fact that Saturday, November 16th, 1935 was the deadline for such projects to be submitted to the WPA authorities for approval.

A. L Price was elected a temporary chairman of the community club with Mrs. R Harris as temporary secretary by the 40 odd persons who attended the meeting. Following the meeting, the committee was found to have multiplied rapidly and now included John P Jones, Rev John W Hoyt Jr, John E Holst, Dr E H Buffum, J H Gysbers, Guy I Camden, Sim

Green, Buchanan, Mrs. Harris, Stephen Ward, Mrs. Robert Broadley, Earl Williams, Leland Bolles, John B.Stark, and Lucas Wasgatt. A Federal grant of \$9,594 was approved by WPA which included WPA labor and a small amount of material and \$4,371 was to be provided by the Fair Oaks School District for a total allotment of \$13,965.

Work Begins

On April 6, 1936, a WPA crew of 10 men headed by Ernest Tarrant and supervised by John E. Holst, a retired Fair Oaks businessman and trustee of the school district, acted as the district foreman and started wrecking the old Fair Oaks Grammar School whose lumber would be used in the new structure.

The old school had thousands of feet of number one lumber in it. The joists that were used were 16 inch material and heavy timber was used throughout. All usable lumber would be put back into the clubhouse.

S. A. Ward constructed a blackboard four by eight feet on the northwest corner of the plaza for the community club where club notices would be posted. In early May, 1936, the residents of the Fair Oaks district unanimously voted their approval of the proposed new clubhouse.

By mid-June, the lumber salvaged from the Fair Oaks schoolhouse was going up in the form of a community clubhouse. The foundation and sub-floor were completed and the frame was being erected. By early August the clubhouse was about 40 per cent complete.

The next and last article will be on the finishing of the community clubhouse and another WPA work project involving the clubhouse . The sources that were used were the Sacramento Bee, Sacramento Union and San Juan Record.

(continued on page 10)



(Continued from Page 9)



The new Fair Oaks Community Hall (Clubhouse) shown above is nearing completion in December, 1936. The dedication would take place after the new year.

From Sacramento Bee December 12, 1936, page 15.

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

If you have something you would like to share, don't hesitate to contact the History Center.

Attn: Chris Highsmith
Fair Oaks History Center
P.O. Box 2044
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Email:
fairoashistoycenter@gmail.com
Phone: (916) 844-7103



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





Fair Oaks Historical Society Membership / Renewal / Volunteer Application

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 after October 1st shall be considered paid for the following year. 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.

By requesting membership, we encourage you to be an active participant to further the work of the Fair Oaks Historical Society. Please indicate your interest(s):

<input type="checkbox"/> History Center Docent <input type="checkbox"/> Research <input type="checkbox"/> Collection preservation <input type="checkbox"/> Inventory record management <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Tours <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Liaison Representative <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity \ Advertising <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media \ Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Tech \ Media <input type="checkbox"/> Other
--	---

Signature: X	Date:
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Send this application with your check to: Fair Oaks Historical Society
P.O. Box 2044
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

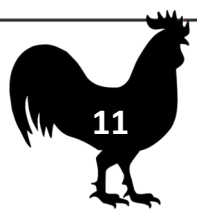


You may also use the PayPal system: <https://fairoakshistory.org/join/join.htm>

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:



2024 HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

Executive Board Meeting	October 15
50th Anniversary Planning Mtg	October 22
Quarterly General Meeting	October 23
Woman's Thursday Club Display	All November
Executive Board Meeting	November 19
50th Anniversary Planning Mtg	November 26
Executive Board Meeting	December 17
2025 Soup Night	February 8

History Center to be Closed during the month of December



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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To: