

FAIR OAKS AMERICAN RIVER GATEWAY  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC @ SACRAMENTO BAR PARK

*Smokey Oaks*  
**TAVERN**



## JOIN US FOR

FOOD | DRINKS | RAFFLE | MORE

# OCT. 14TH 11AM

MORE INFO: [FO-GATEWAY.ORG](http://FO-GATEWAY.ORG)

# FAIR OAKS AMERICAN RIVER GATEWAY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Fair Oaks, California

September 2023

## ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC @ SACRAMENTO BAR PARK!

Saturday October 14TH  
11 A.M.

The Fair Oaks American River Gateway Neighborhood Association will hold its election of next year's directors and welcome all neighborhood residents for food, drinks, raffle prizes and more.

## GET UP TO DATE NEWS!

Don't wait for the Annual Newsletter to find out what's going on in our beautiful community! There are several ways to stay informed and get involved.

Receive or share critical news:

<https://fo-gateway.org/contact/>

Let us know what's important to you:

<https://fo-gateway.org/survey/>

Pay annual voluntary dues or donate:

<https://fo-gateway.org/membership/>

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of August 31, 2023, FOARGNA had \$7,218 in its account.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF FOARGNA?

The purpose of this group is to protect the political, environmental, social, recreational, safety and quality of life interests of the residents of the neighborhood. We are organized:

- a. To enhance the livability of the area by establishing and maintaining an open line of communication and liaison between the neighborhood, government agencies and other neighborhoods.
- b. To provide an open process by which all residents of the neighborhood may involve themselves in the affairs of the neighborhood.
- c. To perform all of the activities related to said purposes, to have and enjoy all of the powers granted and engage in any lawful activity for which corporations may be organized under California non-profit corporation law.
- d. To be organized exclusively for social welfare purposes. Notwithstanding any statement of purpose or powers aforesaid, this association shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of its specific and primary purpose.

## MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

**Time:** 6:30 to 7:30 P.M. \*

**Date:** 2nd Tuesday of every month \*

Contact us at [F.O.Gateway@gmail.com](mailto:F.O.Gateway@gmail.com)  
if you would like to participate.

During meetings the board discusses old business, new business, current events, listens to public comments and decides which actions to take for the betterment of our community.

\* Subject to change

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Justin Roberts \*

**Vice President:** Jon Bennett \*

**Secretary:** Roger Smith \*

**Treasurer:** Michael Faber \*

**Director:** Brenda Boston \*

**Director:** Maryse Normand \*

**Director:** Roslyn Eliaser

**Director:** William Kavrik

**Director:** David Ginsburg

**Director:** Max Boyko

**Director:** Vikki Walker

\* End of current two-year term

## NEXTDOOR WEBSITE & APP

Did you know that FOARGNA is on the NextDoor App? We are part of the “Magnolia” and “Glenview” groups, which overlay most of the association’s territory, which is bounded by Fair Oaks Blvd. to the North, Sunrise Blvd. to the East, Southcliff to the West and the American River to the South. The NextDoor app’s mission is to connect neighbors, cultivate trusted connections and exchange helpful information. For some, this app provides “real-time” safety information and for others, “genuine” neighborhood connections. We will be using the app to post events and more. To join us, go to “groups” and lookup “Fair Oaks American River Gateway Neighborhood Association.”

## SACRAMENTO BAR PARK

Sacramento Bar Park continues to look completely dead as the irrigation system has been broken for more than five years. Last year you may have noticed porta potties replaced the restrooms for many months. This allowed the Parks and Recreation Maintenance to repair a back flow prevention device and add a new water pressure regulator near the restrooms. The main water system was completely replaced. Later, Maintenance turned on the irrigation and found that the main irrigation pipe had been broken during the previous repairs. The main irrigation pipe was repaired, but no other work on the irrigation has been ...

## SACRAMENTO BAR PARK (cont.)

performed this year. I presented a photo tour of the dreadful state of our Sacramento Bar Park to the County Board of Supervisors and the County Park and Recreation Commission in August. As a result, Park Maintenance immediately, 1) repainted the restroom, 2) removed the sand hazard on the bike trail, 3) chipped most of the downed branches around the parking lot, and 4) weeded the parking lot islands and equestrian area. These all improved the park's appearance, but there is still more work to do. My presentation also requested that they, 1) remove dead branches from trees, 2) grind the tree stumps, 3) regrade the lawn area, and 4) remove the piles of tree chips.

We have a promise from the Director of the Department of Regional Parks that the irrigation will be repaired this fall and that the lawn will be reseeded and fertilized in the spring of 2024.

If you would like to advocate for a green park, please email Rich Desmond, our County Supervisor at:

[richdesmond@sacounty.gov](mailto:richdesmond@sacounty.gov)

*--Your neighbor, Wes Trunnell*

## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

**The Pointe** is a 1.36-acre parcel of undeveloped land located on the hilltop at the south-west corner of Fair Oaks Blvd and Sunrise Blvd. Since 2007, the owner, Michael P Allen, has been trying to develop the site. He has submitted project plans to the Fair Oaks Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC) for approval on at least four prior occasions. FOARGNA was formed to oppose the first proposal for a multi-office building and restaurant complex for the reasons of safety, traffic, and preservation of the rural atmosphere of our neighborhood. FOARGNA has been monitoring the development plans and opposing when we deemed proper.

The last development plan in July 2020, named The Pointe at Fair Oaks, called for a 39-unit three-story apartment complex requiring deviation from many zoning laws. FOARGNA vigorously opposed this. Ultimately Mr. Allen revised his plan to comply with zoning laws for a 26-unit two-story residential complex of two buildings at which time FOARGNA withdrew its opposition.

On September 2, 2020, CPAC approved the application and sent the development plan to County Planning. Finally on June 28, 2021, ...



## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (cont.)

the Sacramento County Planning Commission Project Review gave final approval to the development plan.

In August 2021, a For Sale sign went up on the property: 1.36 acres, entitled for 26 units Build-To-Suit, Flexible zoning--SPA, Asking Price: \$895,000. The asking price increased to \$1,295,000 and then reduced to \$1,095,000.

Recently, Colliers Properties, a new sales agent, has listed the property as approved for a 26-unit apartment complex consisting of five 2-story buildings with an asking price of \$895,000. This is a difficult property to develop and has been on the market for two years.

**Magnolia Hill**, located on the south side of Magnolia Ave. about 250 feet west of the intersection of Magnolia Ave and New York Ave., consists of two contiguous land parcels totaling 2.26 acres. A 2018 proposal, named Magnolia Hill, to divide the two parcels into 11 lots was vigorously opposed by FOARGNA and many neighbors due to the high density, small lots and inconsistency with the rest of the neighborhood; it was not approved by CPAC. The property was sold to a new developer in 2020 who proposed to ...

divide the property into four lots with a remainder property containing the existing fixer residence being used as a rental. This proposal was approved by CPAC in November 2020, and then by the Sacramento County Subdivision Review, and authorized for four estate-sized lots with a remainder fixer residence.

In 2022, Magnolia Hill was sold to another developer who recently sold the fixer residence to a Magnolia Ave neighbor. The neighbor is in the process of a complete remodel. The current owner of Magnolia Hill is amending his plan to combine two lots, so now Magnolia Hill consists of three lots approved for homes. There will be more to come on this development.

In February 2023, **Starbucks** proposed building a drive-thru coffee shop on the SE corner of Sunrise Blvd. and FOB. The existing Smog Shop would be demolished. The only entrance would be from just off of Sunrise at the corner. The only exit would be to turn right on to FOB and then turn into the village or to make a U-turn on FOB and back to Sunrise. Traffic would be an issue and could back up onto Sunrise Blvd. At their March 1, 2023 meeting, CPAC voted to recommend that Sacramento County Planning reject the proposal.

## **Fair Oaks: From Native Lands to Sunset Colony — A Journey Through Agriculture, Industry, and Community**

From its early days as the home of the Maidu Indians to its subdivision in 1895 as part of the 1844 Rancho San Juan Mexican land grant, Fair Oaks has blossomed into a vibrant community. Quickly settled by families from the Midwest and Eastern states, the land was partitioned into 5 to 20-acre plots for growing citrus, olives, and almonds. Infrastructure like roads and schools soon followed, along with other community improvements.

Notably, Fair Oaks pioneered agricultural practices that left an indelible mark. A 28-inch steel water line was installed between 1896 and 1897 to facilitate irrigation from the American River. By 1900, over 1,000 of the community's 2,200 acres were dedicated to orange groves. Harry and Harold Dewey, local farming pioneers, even helped establish what is now the Blue Diamond Almond Growers Exchange.

The area was also shaped by its industrial contributions. The Fair Oaks walking bridge, originally owned by Lone Star Industries, was essential for transferring gravel and sand from quarries along the American River. Additionally, the first bridge over the river, commonly known as the "Red Bridge," was built in 1901 to connect the community to the Southern Pacific Sacramento/Placerville Railroad, a vital link for both agriculture and transportation.

The name "Fair Oaks" is shrouded in historical speculation, with some believing it was inspired by Civil War General Charles Howard and named after the Battle of Fair Oaks in Virginia. Fair Oaks was called a "Sunset Colony," in advertisements to market the area to small farmers. Establishing an orange grove came with a price tag of approximately \$125 per acre (\$100 for trees & planting and \$25 for care & water).

However, Fair Oaks faced challenges, too. The community grappled with the Great Depression and a devastating freeze in 1932 that crippled its farmers and merchants. Despite these setbacks, the community has shown resilience over the years.

Today, those interested in Fair Oaks' storied past can visit the **Fair Oaks Historical Museum** located at **10340 Fair Oaks Blvd** to uncover even more.

Have something to share? Contact us @ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/foargna>

## AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP

FOARGNA membership includes all residences within the boundaries below:



All members have one vote each at any annual or special meeting.

## MEMBERSHIP CONFIRMATION

To become an active member please fill out and return the form below or complete our online form at: <http://fo-gateway.org/membership/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$20.00 annual membership dues and donations are optional**

**Mail to:** Attn: Justin Roberts (FOARGNA), 3949 Oranewood Dr., Fair Oaks, CA 95628