

COACHELLA VALLEY PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICT

Quarterly Newsletter

Q1 • January – March 2023

WHAT'S NEW

NEW SECTION OPENING

The District opens a new section for interments

MEET THE BOARD

Our new series introduces our Board of Trustees

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2022 Comprehensive Financial Report is published

AND MORE...

New Section Will Serve Community's Needs

THE COACHELLA VALLEY PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICT IS OPENING A NEW AREA - SECTION 26 – FOR AT-NEED AND PRE-NEED INTERMENTS BEGINNING MAY 1.

To discuss arrangements or property transactions with staff, the public is asked to use the District's online system at coachellacemetery.org/schedule-an-appointment. We kindly ask the public to utilize the appointment system as we are generally unable to accommodate walk-in customers.

Property transactions for Section 26 are available at the District office located at 82925 Avenue 52 in Coachella. Additional inventory is still available in other sections within the cemetery and may be purchased at any time. Please speak with staff for availability and more information.



Meet The Board

CVPCD's Meet the Board series introduces each of the five Trustees who establish policy, budget, and strategic direction for the Cemetery District.

BOARD CHAIR ERNESTO ROSALES

A lifelong resident of the Coachella Valley, Ernesto Rosales enjoys serving the community that has given him so much. He has extensive experience in the funeral home, advanced planning, and cemetery operations and has served most of his career helping families through their most difficult times.

Ernesto is passionate about giving back to his community through involvement in organizations ranging from youth sports to the arts. Two organizations close to his heart are Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Desert, where he serves as a Trustee and Mentor, and Ronald McDonald House, where he devotes his time as Board Chair. His community service has also included the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce, City of Coachella Economic Development Committee, First Tee, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Sunrise Rotary, The Unforgettables Foundation and the Dr. Carreon Foundation.



The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District Board of Trustees meets on the first Friday of each month at 8 a.m. The public is welcome to attend and encouraged to submit ideas and suggestions at the meetings, which are held at 82-847 Avenue 52 in Coachella. For information, visit coachellacemetery.org/governance/board.

What Time Does the Cemetery Close?

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY THE CEMETERY CLOSES AT SUNDOWN INSTEAD OF A SET TIME?

The cemetery does not have lights, so it becomes a safety hazard to walk around the uneven ground and roads in the dark. To allow visitors as much time as possible before the end of the day, the Board established a sundown closing time, which allows us to keep the cemetery open as late as 8 p.m. in summer.

If the cemetery closed at 5 p.m., for instance, the public would lose out on valuable visiting hours in the evening when extended light allows for it. Exact times by month are posted on signs at both entrance gates and on our website, coachellacemetery.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Closing-Times.pdf.

Audit Gives District's Financial Performance High Marks

The District's commitment to open government and sound financial management was confirmed by an independent audit of its financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

The audit determined that the District's financial statements followed generally accepted accounting principles. The annual review was conducted as required for special districts under state law.

CPA David Farnsworth evaluated the District's 2022 Comprehensive Financial Report, which includes details about the District's long-range financial planning, major initiatives and overall financial analysis.



To increase revenue, the District moved investments to higher-yield funds and studied fees to ensure they support future operations. The District also had 15 capital improvement projects with expenditures in FY 2022, most addressing aging infrastructure or designed to increase operational efficiencies.

The 2022 Comprehensive Financial Report was completed in January of this year and issued for public viewing on the Transparency section of our website at coachellacemetery.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Year-End-6-30-22.pdf.

COACHELLA VALLEY PUBLIC CEMETERY 2023

District Maintenance & Holiday Schedule

Notice Dates for the Cemetery are every Tuesday and Thursday. Construction closing is every Tuesday.

Cemetery Closing

The cemetery closes at "Sunset" daily. To assist the public, we have provided specific closing times for the year below:

Jan. 31 – Aug. 31 5:30 p.m.	Aug. 31 – Sep. 30 6:00 p.m.	Sept. 30 – Oct. 31 6:30 p.m.	Oct. 31 – Nov. 30 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 30 – Dec. 31 8:00 p.m.
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The 2023 District Calendar is available online in English and Spanish.

The calendar contains valuable information for the public, including major events, dates when vehicle access to the cemetery will be restricted, scheduled changes to the District's mowing schedule, and more. The calendar can be viewed or downloaded coachellacemetery.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-District-Calendar.pdf



Did You Know?

The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District has developed only 29 of its 60-acre property.

The property is expected to meet the interment needs of the public through 2070.



COACHELLA VALLEY PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICT

Quarterly Newsletter

Q2 • April – June 2023

What's New

Memorial Day Ceremony
Digital Memorial Site
Summer Interment Hours
New Section of Cemetery
Landscape Enhancements
Advocacy Conference
and more...

Memorial Day Ceremony Honors Veterans

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY THIS YEAR!

The event was well attended and continues to be an outstanding display of patriotism and appreciation by our community toward all those who fought on behalf of our country defending freedom. It is of extra significance to the friends and family of the more than 1,000 Veterans interred at the Coachella Valley Public Cemetery.



A special thank you to the American Legion Auxiliary Indio Post 739 for helping arrange the event, the Palm Springs Air Museum for a great flyover, and to all the organizations that participated, including the Scouts BSA 1701 and 451 and the Coachella Valley High School Choir.



More Tributes to Our Veterans

The District has added special recognition to the digital memorial site of all Veterans interred at our cemetery. Each decedent in the cemetery has a digital memorial page, which can be found by visiting the "Find A Loved One" section of our website. Once there, it will offer you details of those interred, including name, birth date, date of death, and location of their resting place within the cemetery.

For Veterans, we have now added designation as a "Veteran," their period/theater of service, as well as branch of the military in which they served. We can also add a service photo if one is supplied by the family.

To contact the cemetery regarding adding information or a photo for an interred Veteran at our cemetery, please contact staff at (760) 398-3221 or email their photo and full name to info@CVPCD.org. Please be sure to include "Veteran Information" in the email subject line or text body.



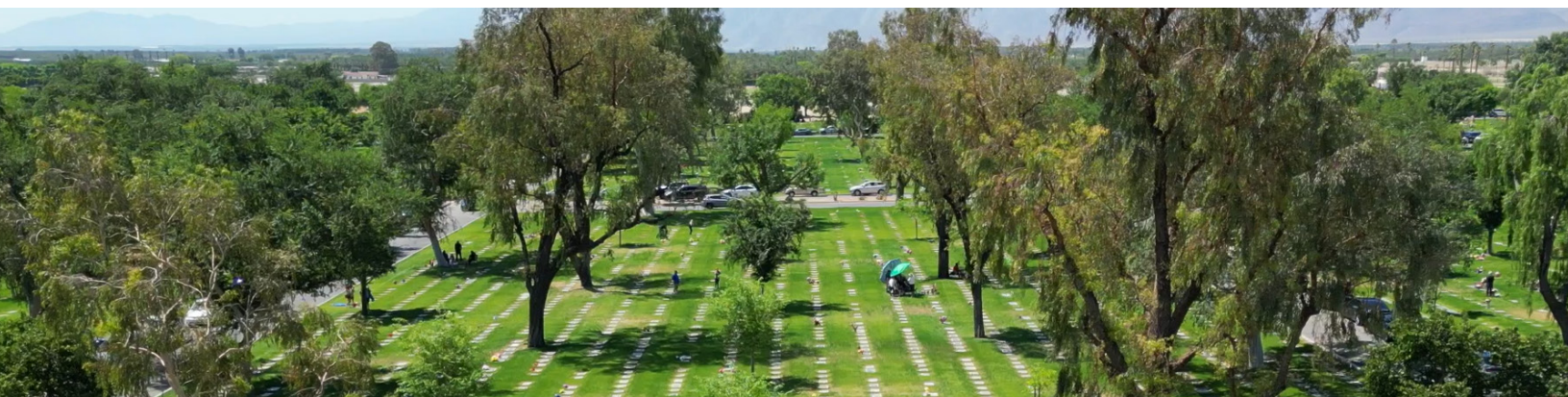
Cemetery Introduces Summer Interment Hours

As temperatures rise and we enter summer months, changes are being made to the Coachella Valley Public Cemetery's service times to ensure the best possible climate. Beginning the week of May 14, 2023, a new summer graveside schedule was implemented.

This adjustment provides families with the opportunity to benefit from cooler morning temperatures, ensuring a more comfortable environment during services. Additionally, the maintenance crew will be able to navigate the grounds more effectively while complying with Cal/OSHA's Heat Illness Prevention Guidelines.



The revised schedule offers the following service times:
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.



New Section of Cemetery Now Available

On May 8, 2023, the District officially broke ground in Section 26 with our first scheduled interment. This section became available to the public on May 1 for pre-need and at-need purchases. The new section added approximately 700 lots to cemetery inventory.



To discuss arrangements or property transactions with staff, the public is asked to use the District's online system at coachellacemetery.org/schedule-an-appointment. We kindly ask the community to utilize the appointment system as we are generally unable to accommodate walk-in customers.

Landscape Enhancements Improve Cemetery Grounds

The District successfully accomplished another milestone in its ongoing 2022/2023 Capital Improvement Project, "Landscape Improvement." The first phase involved the restoration of the islands situated in the median divides at the center of the cemetery. The District also added nearly 100 new trees as part of a concurrent project.

The most recent phase of the project concentrated on enhancing the front portion of the cemetery, specifically the north entrance. The main objective was to address deterioration caused by sand drift over time, resulting in a dirt basin. To rectify this, new rock features and shrubbery were reintroduced in the small curb section directly in front of the cemetery.



Looking ahead, the District is preparing for the final phase of the project, which will involve refreshing the area located in front of the cemetery on the south side of the wall. This upcoming phase will encompass various improvements, including the addition of more rocks to the existing beds and the replacement of wood chips with matching rocks in certain shoulder areas.

With each completed phase, the District is making remarkable progress in its comprehensive Capital Improvement Project, ensuring that the cemetery's landscape is restored and maintained to a high standard. These efforts demonstrate the District's commitment to providing a visually appealing and well-maintained environment for visitors and honoring the memories of those laid to rest.

Meet The Board | Vice-Chair Judy Vossler

CVPCD's Meet the Board series introduces each of the five Trustees who establish policy, budget, and strategic direction for the District.

Judy Vossler is retired after a 40-year career in the Coachella Valley in hospitality, tourism and special events, including general manager of La Quinta Hotel, tournament director of The Skins Game, the Betty Ford Invitational Pro-Am, the Frank Sinatra Celebrity Invitational and the Giddings Cup. Vossler retired from the Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau after seven years in management.

In retirement, Vossler continues years of community volunteerism including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley, Desert Town Hall Lecture Series, La Quinta Historical Society, Modernism Week and Landmark Golf Company. We are proud to have her service as the Vice-Chair of the Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District.



District Represents the Community at Advocacy Conference

The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District (CVPCD) was proud to send a delegation to the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Legislative Conference on May 16 and 17, 2023, in Sacramento. District attendees included Board Trustee Bruce Underwood and General Manager Joshua Bonner.

The conference served as a valuable platform for the District to receive informative updates from CSDA staff and engage with prominent legislative leaders. Notably, the District had the privilege of meeting with local elected officials, including Assemblymembers Eduardo Garcia and Greg Wallis, and Senator Kelly Seyarto. These meetings presented an important opportunity for the District to share insights on how current and proposed legislation affects local Special Districts and the constituents they serve.

Joining the local CSDA delegation were representatives from Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Recreation District, Valley Sanitary, Palm Springs Cemetery, and the CV Conservation District. The collaboration and presence of various Special Districts strengthened the collective voice of the region. Expressing gratitude, the District extended its appreciation to all local elected leaders for their dedicated service to the community. Their commitment to addressing the needs and concerns of local Special Districts is crucial in ensuring effective governance and representation.

By actively engaging in events like the CSDA Legislative Conference, the District demonstrates its dedication to advocacy, fostering meaningful connections with legislative leaders, and safeguarding the interests of local Special Districts and their constituents.



The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District Board of Trustees meets on the second Friday of each month, at 8 a.m, unless otherwise changed to accommodate an observed holiday. The public is welcome to attend and encouraged to submit ideas and suggestions at the meetings, which are held at 82-847 Avenue 52 in Coachella. For information, visit coachellacemetery.org/governance/board.

COACHELLA VALLEY PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICT

Quarterly Newsletter

Q3 • July – September 2023

What's New

Recognized for Financial Transparency

Highlights Fleet Management

Updated Winter Hours

District Films 'What to Expect'

Upcoming Events

and more...

Cemetery District Recognized for Prioritizing Financial Transparency

The Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) has named Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District as one of only three such organizations in California receiving the "District of Distinction" for its sound fiscal management policies.

"SDLF provides an independent audit review of the last three years of the district's operations to ensure prudent fiscal practices," said SDLF Chief Executive Officer Neil McCormick. The committee members who review the audits are volunteers from the special district community, including district controllers, directors of finance and certified general managers.



In addition, the District's board of directors and executive staff must also show proof of educational training in public governance and compliance with ethics and harassment prevention training.

To receive the recognition, the District's website must meet transparency requirements, including election procedures and deadlines. Each District of Distinction is also required to post board meeting schedules and agendas, current district budgets, their most recent financial audits, and a list of board members and staff compensation or a link to the State Controller's webpage containing the data.

According to the California Special District Association website, only 41 special districts and three cemetery districts currently hold the "District of Distinction" designation. According to the Institute for Local Government, California has nearly 3,300 special districts.





DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

2023 – QUARTER 4



In This Edition

Día de los Muertos
The community comes together

Honoring Our Veterans
District hosts Veterans Day ceremony

10-Year Master Plan
Planning for the future

Water Stations
Cemetery welcomes new feature to grounds

Niche Flower Cups
District offers new way to honor loved ones



Families gather near the cemetery office on Nov. 1st for a free outdoor movie.

Día de los Muertos

The community came together once again for another successful Día de los Muertos celebration in November. The multi-day holiday involves family and friends gathering to pay respects and remember loved ones interred at the cemetery. The event attracted approximately 10,000 attendees over Nov. 1st and 2nd.

The District was proud to offer welcome bags, on-site parking, shuttles, and other free amenities to attendees. The event also featured free music and dance performances on our entertainment stage. This year's celebration introduced a new event—a showing of "Coco" on an outdoor movie screen in the evening.

The District would like to express gratitude to all our community partners who supported the event, including the Riverside County Sheriff's and Fire Departments, and the California Highway Patrol.

Meet the Board: Trustee Marcos Coronel, Jr.

CVPCD's Meet the Board series introduces each of the five Trustees who establish policy, budget, and strategic direction for the District.

Marcos Coronel, Jr. is a life-long resident of the Coachella Valley. Mr. Coronel is dedicated to making his community a better place. In addition to serving on the Cemetery District Board, he volunteers as a Board Member for the Desert Recreation Foundation. Professionally, Mr. Coronel works for the County of Riverside. Mr. Coronel earned his Master's Degree in Public Administration from California Baptist University.



Imagining the Future: 10 Year Master Plan

The District's Board has contracted with LEES+Associates, a respected landscape architect, designer, and planning firm specializing in cemetery planning. They will guide the District in developing a 10-year Master Plan, establishing a vision for future growth and the necessary development plans to support it.

Over the coming months, the Board of Trustees and District staff will collaborate with the contracted firm to analyze key projections. This includes area development, population growth, long-term cost projections, and other data essential for anticipating required cemetery expansion and growth. The process will also involve engaging the community, working collaboratively with key stakeholders and constituents to identify priorities, needs, and a clear vision for future District growth.

Interested in participating in the process? Stay connected through our email distribution list! If you have not already signed up to receive notifications and announcements, you may do so by clicking [HERE](#).

Cemetery Welcomes New Water Stations

One of the most frequent requests the District has received in recent years is the addition of flower water stations. We are pleased to announce that the cemetery has added two stations to the grounds, conveniently located at both entrances—east and west—next to the monument signs.

These new water stations will provide visitors with a means to add temporary water to flower cups or refresh arrangements before placing them at the interment site. Please note that the water stations are designed for flower use only and are clearly marked as non-potable. If you need drinking water while visiting District grounds, complimentary water is available at our front office during normal business hours.



Honoring Veterans

The District would like to express gratitude to everyone in the community who joined us on Veterans Day to honor all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The ceremony, held in partnership with American Legion Post 739 in Indio, featured a chorus, a traditional rifle volley, a pass and review, and other expressions of respect for our Veterans.

In addition to the successful Veterans Day event, the District is proud to have recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the American Legion. Post 739 acknowledged the District's efforts to honor our Veterans, including recent additions to our website's memorial pages, our activities on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, and our work to identify and catalog Veteran interment records.

Thank you to our Veterans!



Carmel Romero presents a certificate of recognition from American Legion Post 739 to the District Board of Trustees on Nov. 17, 2023.

Cemetery to Introduce Niche Flower Cup Holders

The District's Board of Trustees has approved the installation of flower cup holders on columbarium niches. These holders must be purchased and installed through the District; no outside units or installations are allowed. The District is currently in the process of securing the units and expects them to be available for purchase in January of 2024. If you are interested in acquiring a flower cup holder for your loved one's niche, please contact the office at (760) 398-3221.



COACHELLA VALLEY PUBLIC CEMETERY 2024

District Maintenance & Holiday Schedule

Please note, the schedule below is subject to change. All scheduled changes will be posted in advance on the District website homepage under "Announcements".

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	5									
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30														

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							1	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3								
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29								

Mowing Days for the Cemetery are every Tuesday and Thursday. Columbarium cleaning is every Tuesday. On scheduled mowing/cleaning days, all items must be removed the day prior. Items may not be returned until 3:00 p.m.

Other Significant Days

- District offices are closed for major holidays. These days are highlighted in **LIGHT BLUE**.
- The District will forgo mowing and columbarium cleaning for certain holidays, special occasions, and operational needs. The pre-scheduled no mow/cleaning days for 2024 are highlighted on the above calendar in **RED** numbers.
- The District will institute restrictions on vehicles parking in the cemetery during periods of high traffic that exceed our capacity. On these occasions highlighted in **YELLOW**, all parking will be directed to the back parking lot for the day (all day).

Cemetery Closing

The cemetery closes at "Sundown" daily. To assist the public, we have provided specific closing times for the year below:
 Jan. 1st – Feb. 13th: 5:30 p.m. Feb. 14th – Mar. 11th: 6:00 p.m. March 12th – Mar. 31st: 7:00 p.m. Apr. 1st – Apr. 30th: 7:30 p.m.
 May 1st – Aug. 31st: 8:00 p.m. Sep. 1st – Sep. 30th: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1st – Oct. 31st: 7:00 p.m. Nov. 5th – Dec. 31st: 5:30 p.m.

District Releases 2024 Calendar

The 2024 District Maintenance & Holiday Schedule is now accessible on the District website. The calendar includes essential dates for the year, such as District office closings, no-mowing dates, high traffic/restricted parking days, and front gate closing time adjustments throughout the year.

The calendars are available in both English and Spanish.

English: [HERE](#)

Spanish: [HERE](#)



The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District Board of Trustees meets on the second Friday of each month, at 8 a.m, unless otherwise changed to accommodate an observed holiday. The public is welcome to attend and encouraged to submit ideas and suggestions at the meetings, which are held at 82-847 Avenue 52 in Coachella. For information, visit coachellacemetery.org/governance/board.

10-Year Capital Improvement Plan Highlights

Fleet Management



The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery is one of the busiest public cemeteries in the State, performing over 1,300 interments in the last two years. The activity of the District requires a significant fleet of heavy operating equipment, maintenance and multiuse vehicles to support the work. The fleet is maintained by both outside contract support and internal routine maintenance.

The District has commenced a 10-year capital improvement plan to cycle in new fleet vehicles to replace our oldest equipment. This includes the purchase of a new backhoe, tractors, a dump truck and front loader equipment. The total investment in equipment to support District operations over two budget cycles is \$380,080. The new equipment plays a vital role in maintaining the quality and efficiency of service the families we work with have come to expect.



Updated Winter Hours

As a reminder, cemetery public access times change as winter approaches. Due to the reduced daylight hours, the cemetery will close earlier during the fall and winter months. These changes are made to protect the public, as the cemetery does not have lights and poses both driving and general visibility hazards once nighttime arrives.

Beginning November 5, the closing time will change to 5:30 p.m. and remain so through mid-February. Please follow the direction of security at closing so that all may exit the grounds safely and swiftly.



District Films ‘What to Expect’ Content to Guide Families Through Services



The District is proud to announce the impending release of a new video series designed to assist our families with their preparation for services. The two videos, “What to Expect – Burial,” and “What to Expect – Columbarium,” will help to better inform families in advance of their scheduled service of what they can expect upon arrival. The interment of a loved one is a solemn occasion that deserves the highest level of regard. The District is committed to providing all of our families with the support they need to conduct the services respectfully, and we trust this video series will help support that goal.

Principal filming was completed for the English and Spanish “What to Expect” videos in September; the District hopes to release the videos to the public in October 2023.

Cemetery Landscape Improvements Continue

The District is completing work on the Landscape Improvement Capital project authorized as part of the 2022-2023 budget. The multi-phase project has focused on the front entrance of the cemetery immediately off Avenue 52. Both the area surrounding the front office and the area directly in front of the office have been addressed. Areas previously featuring rocks have been refreshed, and areas that were previously comprised of woodchips have been removed and replaced with matching rocks.

In addition, the District has managed areas of the cemetery that were subject to significant elevation increases due to continual sand drift. Crews have leveled the dirt along curbs and some portions of cemetery headstones to restore “curb level” to these areas. Curbs that provide for vehicle and ADA access have also been lowered and smoothed for ease of access.

Once completed, the project will represent a \$30,000 investment in the beautification of the cemetery over the last 18 months. The investment, along with several other capital projects, reflects the Board of Trustees’ commitment to maintain high standards of care and upkeep for the cemetery for generations to come.



Dia de los Muertos Parking Restrictions

Please note the cemetery will have parking and traffic restrictions in place for Dia de los Muertos on November 1 and 2. All vehicles may continue to enter the cemetery using the main entrance off Avenue 52. However, for public safety, parking will not be allowed on the grounds during these days. All cars will be directed to the back lot located adjacent to the cemetery for parking.

Due to traffic restrictions in place, there will also be no parking or stopping allowed along Avenue 52 directly in front of the cemetery during these dates. The District thanks you in advance for your understanding.



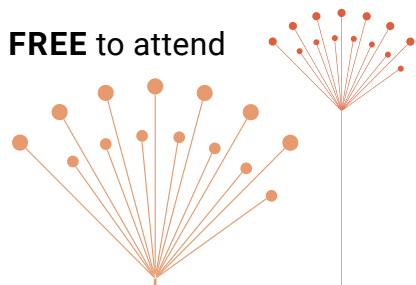
Upcoming Events

Outdoor Presentation of "Coco" the Movie

When:
Wednesday, November 1, 2023
5 p.m.

Where:
Front of Cemetery (Behind Office)

FREE to attend



Dia de los Muertos Celebration

When:
Thursday, November 2, 2023
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Where:
Coachella Valley Public Cemetery

FREE to attend

Event updates can be found on Facebook by clicking [**HERE**](#)

Veterans Day Ceremony

In partnership with the American Legion Post 739, Indio

When:
Saturday, November 11, 2023
11 a.m.

Where:
Veterans Memorial

FREE to attend

Event updates can be found on Facebook by clicking [**HERE**](#)

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