

# COACHELLA VALLEY PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICT

# Quarterly Newsletter

Q2 • April – June 2024

## What's New

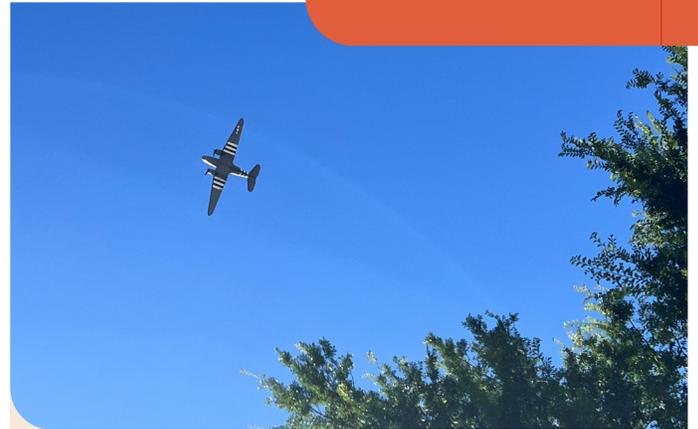
Memorial Day Event  
Help Manage Weeds  
CSDA Legislative Days  
Meet the Board  
Website Upgrade  
and more...

## Memorial Day Event Inspires Residents and Representatives

Drawing residents and Dignitaries from across the East Valley, CVPCD's Memorial Day event on the cemetery grounds was a resounding success. The day was a memorable and meaningful tribute to those who served our nation, organized in collaboration with the American Legion Post 739, Indio.



*Scouts of America Troop 1701 arrived early to place flags at the gravesites of United States Military veterans interred at the cemetery. These dedicated scouts later participated in the Folding of the Flag and the Reading of the Folds.*



*A flyover by a historic Douglas C-47 Skytrain military transport aircraft opened the ceremony, made possible by a partnership with the Palm Springs Air Museum and sponsorship by Ernesto Rosales Funeral Pre-Planning.*

The Coachella Valley High School Choir sang the National Anthem as the aircraft flew overhead, a moving sight.

The flyover was followed by a reflective invocation by Chaplain Raymond Cano, California Army National Guard, 40th Infantry Division. Attendees also watched a rifle volley conducted by the Post 739 Honor Guard, a presentation of wreaths, and a Pass and Review by the distinguished American Legion Riders.

In addition to the many residents who came out to pay their respects, the event featured representation from the offices of Congressmen Raul Ruiz and Ken Calvert, Assemblymember Greg Wallis, County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, and elected members from the cities of Coachella, Indio and La Quinta.

## Help Manage Weeds and Keep the Cemetery Grounds Healthy



*Items should not be placed outside the headstone surface area. Examples are identified by red X's in the photo.*

The District is cultivating its summer Bermuda turf, which includes aerating the grounds and applying fertilizer. Increased watering cycles help the turf sustain the warmer weather. One of the unique features of our summer turf is that it grows fast!

This means crabgrass and other types of invasive weeds grow alongside it. Please help us maintain the headstones properly and keep weed growth under control by **not putting items around your headstone.**

We cannot weed-eat the invasive plants if items are placed outside of the headstone surface area. While mowing takes place on Tuesday and Thursday, weed-eating occurs all week long. Thank you for following District policy on headstone decoration to aid us with preserving the grounds.



## CSDA Legislative Days Sheds Light on Local and State Policy

CVPCD was proud to join special district representatives from statewide as they gathered in Sacramento at the California Special District Association (CSDA) Legislative Days event in May. The interactive and informative two-day legislative conference helped special districts better understand how current proposed legislation and policy impact the vital services they provide.

CSDA Legislative Days provided a venue for special districts to influence shared public policy challenges as the State Legislature wrestles with a significant projected budget deficit, and the courts and voters contemplate major constitutional actions on funding for essential services and infrastructure. In addition to hearing from policy experts and legislative leaders, District representatives also attended private meetings with local elected leaders to discuss important Coachella Valley issues. Trustees Marcos Cornel, Jr. and Dr. Bruce Underwood represented CVPCD at the event.



*Trustee Marcos Coronel, Jr. joins other Coachella Valley special district delegates as they visit local elected leaders in the statehouse.*

### Upcoming Important Dates

#### Office Closures:

Thursday, July 4 (Independence Day)

Monday, September 2 (Labor Day)

## Meet The Board | Trustee John Rios

John Rios has served the Coachella Valley community for many years working professionally in local fire departments. Rios rose to the rank of CAL FIRE Battalion Chief before his retirement. In addition to serving on the Cemetery District Board, he acted as an elected member of the Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District, now known as the Desert Recreation District. His extensive experience in government and special district governance greatly contributes to the District Board.

Mr. Rios cares deeply about the cemetery and frequently visits the grounds. He is intimately familiar with cemetery operations and has aided with policy development around emergency access, ingress and egress, and other important safety-related procedures. His commitment and dedication to the Coachella Valley make him an asset to the CVPCD Board and the greater community.



## Website Upgrade Makes Family Burial Planning Accessible

CemSites, the software that powers the “Find a Loved One” section of CVPCD.org, has activated a new feature on our site. Families can now search “Find a Loved One” and select “Display Available Graves” when the “Burial Search” screen pops up. This will show available lots near their search. They can also type in a friend or family member in the search bar to see their location and what nearby lots are available.

When selecting a lot you may be interested in, it will display a link to “Contact Us About This Space.” Visitors can fill out an email form to express their interest in that property. The Cemetery Services Team will review the property to verify it is available and then contact the interested party to set an appointment to discuss the property and potential purchase.



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](http://coachellacemetery.org/governance/board).



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