February 2026

CROSSWOODS REPORTER

ESTABLISHED 1973

Spring in bloom in Crosswoods

President's Letter

Social/Welcome Committee

I am pleased to announce the formation of a new Crosswoods committee—the Social/Welcome Committee—marking our first new committee since the establishment of the Website Committee over five years ago. This committee will address two key needs within the community:

Welcome Committee:

- Greets new residents within 10 days of their arrival
- Provides HOA and local information in a logoed canvas bags (see image), including a 4 x 6 magnet with essential phone numbers for police, FSR's 24-hour emergency line, and HOA office.
- Answers initial questions

Crosswoods' new residences will receive a canvas bag and a magnet with important info

Social Committee:

- Coordinates Board-directed events such as National Night Out and Meet the Candidates
- Develops activities, which *may* include:
  - Clubs (gardening, bridge, book clubs, bunko, etc)
  - Building a Small Little Library
  - Puzzle Exchange Program
  - Organize dog walkers for seniors who need assistance
- Plans seasonal events (partial list):
  - April: Easter Egg Hunt
  - May: Dog Walk-A-Thon for Charity
  - July: 4th of July Neighborhood Party with BBQ, bike decorating, and parade
  - October: Crosswoods Trick or Treat List of participating homes
  - December: "Meet Santa" event in the Meeting Room, transformed into Santa's Workshop with candy canes, hot chocolate, and photo opportunities with Santa

This new committee is co-chaired by Kathy Halpert and Marji Arjil and needs members. This is an opportunity to mold a new committee and help your community. To volunteer email Brandon Johnson at brandon.johnson2@fsresidential.com

G. Rudy Di Massa

STORAGE LOT ADDS MORE ITEMS TO STORE...INCREASES RATE

On April 1, the RV Lot will be known as the Storage Lot and the HOA will allow more types of items for storage, including:

- Storage containers (PODS)
- Automobiles
- Commercial vehicles (food trucks, utility trailers)

Storage Lot Rates will be as follows for each space rented:

SPACE SIZE	*RATE*
24 x 10	$50
32 x 12	$80

POOL\RV LOT FOB RESET

Due to an obsolete system, the HOA updated the entry system that allows homeowners into the RV lot and pool. In updating the FOBs, it became necessary to wipe clean all the data.

Before the summer heat hits, please check your FOB at the pool door; if it doesn't work, see Brandon in the HOA office to reactivate it.

Have you seen those PVC pipes sticking out of the ground by the path? Those mark the boundary of Crosswoods property.

THE FOUNDERS OF CROSSWOOD

JOHN CROSS

By Jim Pryor

With the unveiling of the Cross Family stone marker (see last page about unearthing history) we wondered about Crosswoods founders. This month we begin a series on its founders

John-Francis and Sarah Jane Cross, founders of "Crosswood," on their wedding night – March 16, 1854

John-Francis Cross was born near Belfast Maine on February 13, 1828. The youngest of twelve children, he grew up surrounded by 24 siblings and cousins who lived nearby. There was little opportunity for "book-learning" as school was in session for only a few weeks each year.

At John, 18, learned the carpentry trade and attended school for a few weeks to expand his general education. While constructing a building on Harvard's campus, a college professor saw great potential in John and asked him to study at the college. Enbrasssed by his lack of general education, John politely declined. Soon, he was looking to cash in on high wages paid in gold rich California.

So in 1852, John returned home to Maine to say goodbye and obtain a promise of marriage from his sweetheart, Sarah Jane. He sailed from New York to Panama, reaching the Isthmus of Panama. John and the other passengers spent a several days travelling up the Chagres River to cross the Isthmus. Once on the Pacific side, he traveled to San Francisco on the sidewheel steam ship, Winfield Scott. From San Francisco, John relocated repeatedly across Northern California, even spending time in Benicia, then the state capital. John had begun his journey to become the founder of Crosswoods and was compelled to bring his future wife to his side.

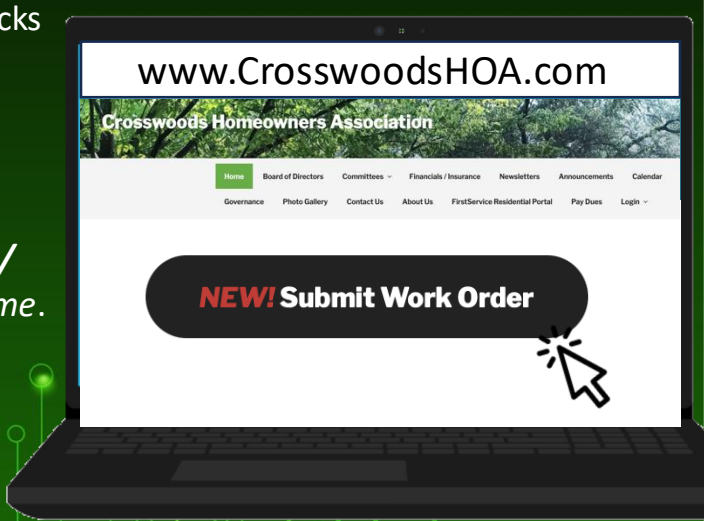
Next time: Meet sea sick Sarah-Jane, teacher and seamstress to men.

NEW ON CROSSWOODS WEBSITE

SUBMIT WORK ORDERS ON LINE

For your convenience, please submit work orders online via the Crosswoods HOA website instead of the FirstService Residential Portal. Located on the home page, its easier than ever to submit work orders for general repairs, such as:

- Minor repair work to exterior of home and decks
- Broken Sprinklers or irrigation pipes
- Painting or caulking
- Broken foundation vents
- Painting a new electrical panel box



***This is NOT a replacement for landscape changes/ additions or for architectural changes to your** home.*

TO USE:

1. Visit: www.crosswoodshoa.com
2. On the home page find the link: Submit Work Order.
3. This links you to a form for completion. You can upload up to 3 photos.
4. Click Send.

Unearthing History

On January 29, a monument honoring the Cross Family, founders of Crosswood Ranch, was uncovered on Crosswoods Parkway after being toppled by a truck five years earlier. The question was whether this was the rock and plaque damaged in the crash. Using levers and wooden blocks, the rock was carefully shifted in small increments until it was turned over, revealing two plaques that remained intact. Thanks to the efforts of Norm Hill, Kevin Jackson, Josh Moser, Scott Allison, and Paul Arjil, a piece of history was recovered.

Originally installed in 1961 by Ralph Herbert Cross to honor his father John Francis Cross, who settled the area in 1869, the monument currently lies on its side but will soon be moved to a safer location away from traffic.

While the monument was being turned, volunteers tidied up the island, trimming plants and raking pine needles to improve its appearance. Appreciation goes to BJ Miyashiro, Maria Sening, Marji Arjil, Julie Taylor, and Carlee Arjil for their help.