His Legacy... Richard English Harvey, local artist, and avid gardener, passed away suddenly on August 4th from a brain aneurism. He was born in 1955, and grew up in Pacific Grove where he loved to surf and camp out in Big Sur. He obtained his Cosmetology license and practiced for a time in Monterey, before moving to Marin. Once there, he became a full-time caregiver for a quadriplegic man for several years. A friend showed him Oroville, and he decided to move here because of the weather and close fishing areas. He was introduced to his wife, Shirley and they went on many bike rides in the area. His love of beauty and plants and the desire to be artistic was carried with him always. He was a long time member of the Lake Oroville Area Garden Club. Richard also gathered drift wood and began making wood sculpture, which he found therapeutic. Richard was a founding member of the Artists of River Town, where he showed his pottery, and helped kids use the pottery wheel on fun days for kids. He rode his bicycle everywhere and fell in love with the Nature Center area, and when asked to join in on a cleanup of the park, he dove into that project with gusto. You can see his handiwork, in the entrance sign, the BBQ, and the benches that face the river. He helped clear away and build up several paths down to the river. He thought the bike path should continue under the bridge, and started making that happen...clearing away brush, and bringing in rock and sand by wheelbarrow so at least a person could walk through easier. He helped with every Salmon Festival dinner since they started having them. Joining Rotary was also a motivating experience for him, here was a group of people who cared about the community. He coordinated many projects between the city and Rotary. In 2005 he went on a trip to South Korea and Uzbekistan where he met some ceramic masters, which was his latest artistic endeavor. He had built his own studio and kiln in 2001, and invited artists to come and participate in the “Love Tunnel’s maiden firing. Influenced by architecture he saw while in Uzbekistan, Richard got approval to build the fountain in front of the Municipal Auditorium. He obtained left-over granite from all the dealers in the area. He spent months on the project, cutting and piecing it together. In 2009, he brought his mother, who had Alzheimer’s, home and they took care of her in their home for the two years that she lived. He began devoting even more time to gardening, since he had to stay home to watch her. After having raised planting beds built at home, he started thinking about the empty spot on the grounds at the Southside Community Center, which was supposed to become a community garden. He was beginning to coordinate that project when he passed.

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