

Mayor to be Guest Speaker

By Ray Fox, Communications Director



Polish up the good silver and break out the fine linens -- Dave Roberts, the Mayor of California's newest city, is about to pay Sunriver a visit.

A longtime Rancho Cordova resident, Mr. Roberts holds the distinguished honor of being the first person to occupy the Mayor's seat in our newly incorporated city.

Roberts moved to Rancho Cordova in 1968, where there were more people in Cordova High's senior class than in his entire hometown of La Belle, Missouri.

A graduate of CSUS, Roberts achieved a degree in both Government and Criminal Justice. His 27 years in law enforcement have made him one of the Sheriff's Department's most highly decorated officers.

His service to our community has included stints as Director of the Cordova Community Council, member of the Sacramento County Taxpayers League, Board Member of the Cordova Recreation & Park District, and serving on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and City Council. Oh, yeah, and then there's that Mayor thing.

At the upcoming SNA Neighborhood Meeting, Roberts will be fielding questions and focusing on issues Sunriver residents are currently facing. Roberts speculates that most residents don't realize "what positive changes are coming to the 'existing' Rancho Cordova over the next ten years. We are on a true upswing."

Plan on joining us Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m., Sun River Church, corner of Klamath and Trinity River. The meeting will be held in Room G25, on the second floor, south side of the gym. And bring your neighbors! ☀



Part of the SNA Clean Team: Jacques Graber, Alisha Piñon, Troy Konarski, Gabor Morocz, Jessica Ocenosak, Jean Fox, Craig Osborn and sons.

Sunriver's Clean Team

By Craig Osborn, Neighborhood Enhancement Director

In the pre-dawn hours of Saturday, November 8, residents from all over Sunriver rolled out of bed early to brave the morning air and perform a much-needed clean-up of neighborhood trouble spots. Despite forecasts of rain, more than a dozen volunteers showed up to lend a hand.

The first of the volunteers arriving at Sunriver Park found it in better than anticipated condition. Cleaning the park served as a warm-up for a more daunting task -- tackling the empty lot next to Ralph's. The group concentrated on the edges of the lot, which are more visible from the road than the center, and worked their way inward. Two hours later, a set of orange industrial-strength bags were filled with litter from the two sites. Afterwards, many workers headed off to IHOP for a post-game victory breakfast.

In light of recent reports of unsavory after-dark activities, a nightly neighbor patrol of the park was discussed. One suggestion was to have volunteers pass through the park to check for problems, once during the late evening and

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**Join us at the next
Neighborhood Meeting**
Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.
at Sun River Church, Room G-25.

Seeing Green in Sunriver

By Jean Fox

No, we're not talking about jealousy. We're talking landscaping. A huge part of the appeal of Sunriver is based on the foundation of the neighborhood design -- specifically, Sunriver's park-like atmosphere.

Without rigid CC&R constraints, Sunriver residents are free to make individual choices regarding how they maintain their property. However, in some instances this freedom of choice undermines the beauty and unity of the neighborhood in the form of neglected lawns, side yards and fences.

When it comes to expressing the value of a well-maintained yard, landscape designer Michael Glassman explains, "Landscaping is an investment, not an annuity." Landscaping increases curb appeal that in turn increases the kind of

green we can all relate to -- higher home values. The perceived value of the community as a whole can dramatically increase individual home values. Take Land Park, for example.

A green landscape doesn't have to mean high maintenance or expense. A curtain of flowering vines are a beautiful solution for enhancing fences. Try creeping fig, potato vine, jasmine, climbing roses or morning glories. Rock beds and rock gardens spring to life when punctuated with ornamental grasses or perennials such as agapanthus, geraniums, and lantana. Or try adding some carefree color with a smattering of shrubs like ceanothus, coreopsis, butterfly bush, lilacs or camellia. Ground covers like creeping thyme, vinca, or blue star creeper offer an alternative to lawns without the upkeep.

Even if you don't have a green thumb, there are plenty of resources available to help you find fabulous foliage solutions. Submit an inquiry to the Sunriver



e-Group to get ideas from avid gardeners in the neighborhood who would be more than willing to offer sage advice. Or visit www.sacramentogardening.com, a gold mine of information for local gardeners. The UC Davis Cooperative Extension has Master Gardeners waiting to answer your every gardening question. Give them a call at (916) 875-6913. Or take advantage of the experts at your local nursery, such as Capital Nursery on Sunrise Boulevard.

There are dozens of inexpensive, maintenance-free methods of sprucing up your landscape. With just a little effort, you'll enjoy a more beautiful and valuable home and we'll all be seeing green. ☀

Beautification Project Update

By Craig Osborn

Obvious to anyone on Sunrise Boulevard the last several weeks, the Sunrise improvement project is well under way. Meanwhile, on the other side of Sunriver, the Coloma Road landscaping improvement project is slated to begin next spring.

Over the past two years, there have been several

neighborhood meetings where Sunriver residents were given the chance to offer input and suggestions for the project. The County proved to be very responsive to community requests, implementing into the design nearly all the suggestions they received. This past summer the project gained the approval of the Rancho Cordova City Council,

important since the land currently owned by the County will transfer to the City next July. The Council required a few modifications to the design, primarily to save specific trees from being removed. One of the trees spared is an age-old almond tree -- a lone reminder of the orchards that once flourished on the land where Sunriver now stands.

Although the necessary approvals have all been granted, no bids were received by the County for the construction contract by the August deadline. The County plans to re-bid the project soon, with construction to begin in Spring 2004. Stay tuned for details as they develop. ☀

The Sunriver Sentinel is a publication of the Sunriver Neighborhood Association

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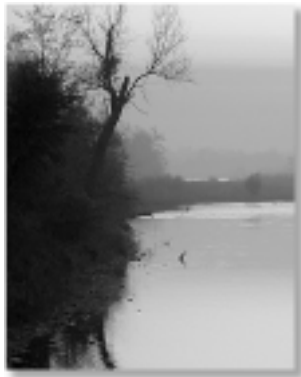
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Sunriver Nature Walk

By Ray Fox, Communications Director



One of the greatest aspects of living in Sunriver is our close proximity to the American River. As it makes its way from the Sierra Nevadas to its rendezvous with the Sacramento River, it attracts an amazing variety of wildlife to our area. Countless birds are drawn to its banks, filling the air with song. Deer meander through the neighboring cottonwoods in the evening twilight. Coyotes can often be heard in the distance, howling beneath the stars. Foxes, possums and raccoons make their homes scant feet from our own. It is a wonderful place to live and witness a menagerie of wildlife.

To help open our eyes to some of the wonders under our very noses, the SNA has invited naturalist Ed Pandolfino to guide us on a tour of the parkway along the American River. Since retiring from a career as a health care executive, Ed has pursued his obsession with wildlife, focusing much of his attention on birds. He's on the board of the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society and the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club. Ed often leads field trips for Audubon and works on wildlife conservation issues in the local area. Ed's commitment to wilderness area preservation even landed him on the cover of the March 2003 issue of Audubon magazine.

The nature walk is scheduled for 7:30 a.m., Saturday, December 6 -- a bit of an early morning for some of us, but Ed assures there's "lots more to see and hear before the human traffic gets heavy along the river." This time of year Ed predicts a good showing of birds along the trek. "In our area, with the exception of the very peak of spring migration, winter is when we have the most bird diversity with lots of species that come here just for the winter."

Participants should dress warmly in layers, with light rain gear if it looks threatening. (The event will be canceled if it starts to pour.) Bring binoculars if ya got 'em.

The walk isn't appropriate for the very young as it's important to be quiet during the walk to prevent scaring off the wildlife before it's even spotted.

If you'd like to attend the nature walk, please send an e-mail to rfox@sunriveronline or drop a line to:

Ray Fox
c/o Sunriver Neighborhood Association
11230 Gold Express Dr. #310-292
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Include your phone number and how many people in your party. Please respond no later than December 3.

So drag yourself out of bed and take advantage of this opportunity to explore our natural surroundings with a world-class guide. It promises to be an unforgettable experience. ☺

Bluffs Gallery Gala

With the deadline fast approaching and the organization still \$190,000 short of its goal, the Citizens to Save the Bluffs are hosting a special Holiday Gallery Gala with



Giovanna to raise funds. The event will be held Sunday, December 14, from 4 to 7 p.m. at American Visions Art Gallery, 718 Sutter Street in Folsom and will feature fine art, live holiday music, wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, elegant desserts, and a gourmet coffee bar. Tickets purchased before December 8 are \$30 per person, \$55 per couple. After December 8, tickets are \$35 and \$60.

Please make your check payable to Citizens to Save the Bluffs and mail it to 4104 Earnscliff Ave., Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

For more information, please contact Betsy Weiland at (916) 488-3894 or Marilyn Pearce at (916) 801-7935 or visit the organization's website at www.savethebluffs.org ☺

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Holiday Happenings

The holidays are upon us and the SNA's new Social Events Director, Jessica Ocenosak, has organized several events to help us get into the spirit of the season.

Holiday Lighting Contest

Some folks just have a knack for creating incredible holiday lighting displays, transforming tangled strands of light bulbs into twinkling masterpieces of yuletide color. If you're one of those gifted folks, enter your display in the first annual Sunriver Holiday Lighting Contest and compete for some cool prizes. As soon as you've finished decking the halls, swing by the Sunriver Online website and register to win -- or register by mail. Starting December 7, photos of entrants' displays will be featured on the Sunriver Online website where Sunriver residents will vote for their favorite. Visit the Sunriver Online website at www.sunriveronline.org for official contest rules.

Santa's Coming! Santa's Coming!

Lucky for us, Santa has found time in his busy schedule at the North Pole to visit the good boys and girls of Sunriver. On Saturday, December 13 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Santa will be making an appearance at Sunriver Park. So bring the wee ones by for punch and cookies and a turn on Santa's lap. But only if they've been good.

Neighborhood Caroling

There's nothing like caroling on a crisp winter's night to help recapture that elusive Christmas spirit. Join your neighbors for an evening of caroling through Sunriver on Monday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m. We'll start off at Sunriver Park, make our way to the Holiday Lighting Contest winner's display to award the grand prize, then head back to the park for coffee, hot cocoa and some tasty Christmas cookies.

If you'd like more information or would like to help out with the preparation of these events, contact Jessica Ocenosak at jocenosak@sunriveronline.org.



Whether it's illuminating the house with enough lights to be seen from space, handing your nine-page alphabetized wish list to St. Nick, or fumbling your way through the lyrics of a Christmas classic, we hope you'll join your neighbors and the Sunriver Neighborhood Association for some real holiday cheer this season. ☺

SNA Welcomes Ocenosak



One of Sunriver's newest residents is also the SNA's newest steering committee member.

Jessica Ocenosak moved to Sunriver in March of this year and is already making a noticeable impact on our community. Not only is she filling the Social Director vacancy left by the late Carl Steiner, but she also serves as a den mother to neighborhood Cub

Scouts, runs her own Tastefully Simple gourmet food business, and volunteers her time at Peter J. Shields Elementary.

After waiting six months for a house in Sunriver to become available, Jessica and her husband Dave and son Derek moved from Citrus Heights to their new Tiber River home. Once she heard about the SNA, she immediately wanted to get involved. "I have a passion for party and event planning," Jessica explains, which is evident in the long list of holiday events in store for Sunriver. "I'm looking forward to good times with great neighbors!" ☺

Clean Team (Continued from page 1)

again in the early morning, reporting any illicit activity immediately. According to Kathy, the Cordova Recreation and Parks District official for Sunriver Park, the situation seems to be improving lately. Patrol plans may not need to be implemented now, but groundwork for such a plan may prove to be a good idea.

A big "thank you" goes out to the following Sunriver neighbors who participated in the clean-up: Jean Fox, Jessica Ocenosak, Troy Konarski, Staci Rampey, Ray Fox, Alisha Piñon, Virginia Hazard, Jacques Graber, Gabor Morocz, and Craig Osborn and sons. Thanks also to Kevin (Doc) Grant for providing a Krispy Kreme donuts discount coupon. See you at the next clean-up. ☺

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