

Sunriver Park Improvements Underway

By Craig Osborn, Neighborhood Enhancement Director



The neighborhood's central meeting place, Sunriver Park, is in for some long-awaited improvements including an earlier closing time.

Along with our neighborhood's frontage to the American River Parkway, Sunriver Park is one of Sunriver's primary assets. In any neighborhood, the quality and "feel" of the neighborhood park is one of the best measures of the local sense of community. This was recently recognized by the City Council of Rancho Cordova, which set new and nearly unprecedented standards for parkland allocation within the new City. Similarly, we in Sunriver have been taking steps recently to improve Sunriver Park through several initiatives, both on our own and in partnership with local authorities.

The Sunriver Neighborhood Association (SNA) has set up a park task force, partly as a result of recent concerns about teen loitering, pot smoking, vandalism and related issues. The working group includes several residents in the vicinity of the park plus representatives from the Rancho Cordova Police Department (RCPD) and Cordova Recreation and Parks District (CRPD).

Along with other parks in the district, we have new signage on the way which will indicate, among other things, that the park closes at sunset. This is much earlier than the current 10 p.m. closing time. It also enables police to cite people who are loitering in the park past sunset rather than only after 10 p.m. The new signs are scheduled to be installed this month.

The CRPD is hiring a crew to walk the parks and pick up glass, etc. before the mowing crew arrives. This should help with the recent issues of broken glass being reported, especially in the children's playground area. Speaking of the playground, discussions are upcoming between the City and the Parks District on other possible future projects in our park, which could potentially include swing sets (they're on the list).

The RCPD is asking patrol officers to drive past Sunriver Park more frequently, both night and day, and to log their visits. The department will also recommend the park as a place for officers to park when filling out reports, which will help from a "presence" standpoint. It will also provide more opportunities for them to observe park usage patterns.

The RCPD also encourages neighbors to write down

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**Join us at the next
 Neighborhood Meeting
 and SNA Summer Event
 Friday, August 19 at
 6:30 pm in Sunriver Park**

Park Improvements

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license plates and call 911 if they observe a crime in progress, including minor offenses such as pot smoking in cars or in the park. They encourage us to report such activities, even if we're not sure whether a crime is being committed or not, since it helps in gathering statistics and patterns which in turn will help in both enforcement and prevention.

The RCPD pointed out that frequent legitimate use of the park by neighbors tends to send a message to potential vandals and loiterers, who then move on to somewhere else. Similarly, lack of neighbor usage leaves the park vulnerable and can lead to problems.

The SNA has organized several clean-up work parties around the neighborhood in the past few years, some of which have included cleaning up the park. We've noticed that the CRPD has stepped up its maintenance and clean-up efforts in the past couple of years too. The CRPD has expressed



Beer bottles, cigarette butts, broken glass and fast food remains are typical of the souvenirs left by the park's nocturnal visitors.

willingness to partner with other community organizations (such as Scouts, athletic leagues, etc.) for joint clean-up efforts. If you're involved in such a group, please consider teaming with the CRPD. For more information contact Craig Osborn at cosborn@sunriveronline.org.

Other security-enhancing ideas (such as new lighting, video cameras, and private security patrol) have been evaluated but may not be necessary at this point due to the efforts mentioned above. If necessary, we can revisit these ideas down the road, based on need. ☺

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Hot Tips to Keep Pets Cool

Visit www.asPCA.org for more pet care tips!



It's summertime, and the living isn't always easy for our animal companions. By taking these simple precautions, you can keep your pets happy and healthy in the hot weather.

- Exercise your dog in the cool of the early morning or evening—never when it's especially hot.

- Take care not to let your dog stand on hot asphalt, as his sensitive paw pads can easily burn.
- Provide plenty of shade and cool, clean water for pets kept outdoors and bring them in during the hottest part of the day to rest in a cool part of the house.
- Never leave your animal alone in a vehicle. Overheating can be fatal. Parking in the shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day. ☺

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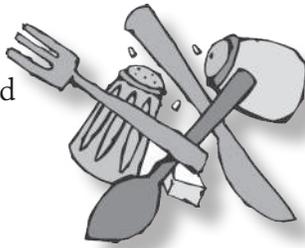
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Sunriver Recipe - Summer Garden Gazpacho

By Heidi Konarski

- 6 tomatoes, chopped
- 1 medium red onion, skin removed and chopped
- 1 medium green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 cucumber, peeled and chopped
- 2-3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 46 ounces tomato juice
- 1-2 cups fresh basil, stemmed
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- Juice of 2 limes
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- Pepper to taste



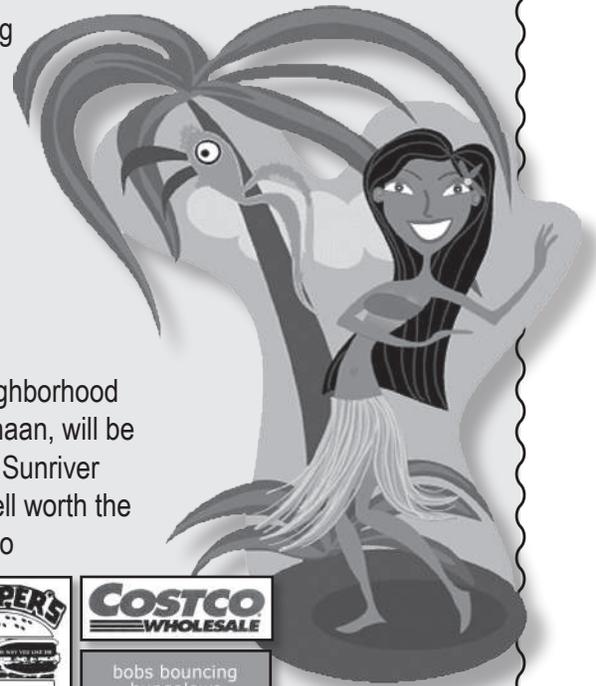
Blend all the ingredients in a blender or food processor until the gazpacho is smooth. (Ingredient amounts can be adjusted according to taste.) Refrigerate until chilled. Top with seasoned croutons before serving. Serves ten. Great leftovers!

If you have a recipe you'd care to share, send it to recipes@sunriveronline.org or send it to Sunriver Recipes, 11230 Gold Express Dr. #310-292, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. The SNA will be posting neighbors' recipes on the Sunriver Online website (www.sunriveronline.org) and in future issues of the *Sunriver Sentinel*. Bon appétit!☀

Sunriver Endless Summer Luau & Neighborhood Meeting

This summer the SNA is trying something a little different. Instead of putting on a summer event and then holding a separate Neighborhood Meeting, we're combining the two into one big Sunriver event. Friday evening, August 19, join us for the Sunriver Endless Summer Luau. Dress in your favorite Hawaiian attire and prepare for an evening of feasting and fun. We'll have chicken on the grill and Jaspers hot dogs to tempt your tummy. Costco is offering complimentary cookies and bottled water. And as usual, we'll have a bounce house from Bob's Bouncing Bungalows to keep the kiddies occupied.

Once folks have had a chance to chow down, we'll hold a casual SNA Neighborhood Meeting. Rancho Cordova's Code Enforcement Team Leader, Yvonne Dehaan, will be our guest speaker. Yvonne will take your questions regarding how to keep Sunriver looking great and how to deal with problem areas in our neighborhood. Well worth the price of admission (which is free, by the way). Representatives from Costco will also be on hand, offering Sunriver residents a sign-up special. So dig out that ol' Hawaiian print shirt and that plastic lei of yours and make plans to join us Friday evening, August 19 at 6:30 pm in Sunriver Park. Aloha!☀



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2005 Neighborhood Survey

The Spring 2001 edition of the *Sunriver Sentinel* contained the SNA's first Neighborhood Survey, which tapped into the primary concerns of Sunriver residents. As the SNA approaches its five-year anniversary, we thought it a good time to reevaluate our little corner of the world and see what's currently on the minds of our good neighbors. Please take a moment to fill out the survey below and send it to The Sunriver Neighborhood Association, 11230 Gold Express Drive, #310-292, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Or fill it out online at www.sunriveronline.org/survey

The SNA is comprised entirely of neighborhood volunteers working to improve our own community. You can learn more about the SNA at www.sunriveronline.org/about.html

- 1) How long have you lived in Sunriver? _____ Own _____ Rent
- 2) What do you like most about living in Sunriver? _____
- 3) What are your biggest concerns about living in Sunriver? _____
- 4) Over the last five years, would you say Sunriver has: _____ Improved _____ Stayed the same _____ Declined
- 5) What would you like to see change in Sunriver over the next year? _____

- 6) Do you see yourself living in Sunriver over the next: _____ Year _____ 2-5 Years _____ 6 Years or more
- 7) What are your impressions of Rancho Cordova's public school system? _____
- 8) What evening of the week would be best for you to attend a quarterly Neighborhood Meeting? _____
- 9) Would you be interested in volunteering to help with the SNA? _____ Yes _____ No
- 10) Are you already a registered member of the SNA? _____ Yes _____ No
- 11) If not, would you like the SNA to use the info below to register you? (Membership is free.) _____ Yes _____ No
- 12) Please use the space below for any comments concerning the SNA and/or the Sunriver neighborhood.

Name: (Contact info is optional) _____ Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____