

Lookin' Good After 30

By Ray Fox

This year, Sunriver turns 30. Like any neighborhood that's getting a little long in the tooth, some homesteads are aging gracefully while others are starting to show their age. Sunriver's 30th anniversary is the perfect opportunity to evaluate just how well your property is holding its value and whether it's a source of personal pride or an eyesore for the entire neighborhood.

In these hard economic times, many folks simply don't have the funds for major renovations. But you don't have to be rich to make your home look like a million bucks. Here are a few tips to improve your home's "curb appeal."

- Walk around the perimeter of your property and try and see it through a stranger's eyes. You can get so used to flaws on your property that you simply don't see them anymore. Get some perspective by viewing your home from across the street. Note those aspects that enhance the look of your home and what could use some improvement.
- Look for overgrown landscaping that's encroaching on the sidewalk and trim it back where necessary. Residents whose backyard abuts the street should pay special attention to those often neglected strips between the fence and sidewalk.
- How's the house paint looking this season? If money's tight, sometimes just touching up the trim can make a dramatic improvement.
- Resist the temptation to use your front yard for

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Neighboring Farm Serves Up Fresh Ideas

By Ginger Enrico and Ray Fox, Photos by Guy Galante

The land that your Sunriver home now sits upon was once part of the expansive Leidesdorff Ranch, a sprawling 35,000 acre parcel owned by one of California's most prosperous settlers, William Leidesdorff. Shortly after his death, the land was quickly bought up by Captain Joseph Folsom, and part of his purchase became the neighboring town that bears his name. Our local riverside parcel changed hands over the years, and much of it was converted from orchards to housing developments. But there is one chunk of land that has remained relatively unchanged. Just a bit downriver from us, the American River Ranch was established around the time of the Civil War. Within the next few weeks, the land will have a new steward -- Soil Born Farms Urban Agriculture Project will be leasing the land from Sacramento County.



The farm currently has five acres in production,

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**Join us at the next
Neighborhood Meeting
Tuesday, May 6**

Our Guest Speaker will be City Neighborhood Services Manager Kerry Simpson who will field your Code Enforcement questions. Join us at Sun River Church, corner of Trinity River and Klamath, from 7 to 9 p.m. in Room GF1.

Neighboring Farm (Continued from Page 1)

featuring mixed fruit and vegetables and flowers. But Soil Born Farms does far more than just grow tasty organically grown veggies for local stores and restaurants. They also distribute food to low-income families in under-served neighborhoods.

Where Soil Born Farms really shines is in their efforts to educate our youth. They offer Cordova High students leadership training through a wide array of activities, including: hands-on agricultural experience with composting, seed propagation and plant care; healthy cooking classes where students learn culinary skills and develop healthy eating habits; nature hikes along the American River Parkway exploring

the area's diverse ecosystem; restoration projects where members of the Youth Corps plant and water young oak trees; and community service, stewarding Mile 16 of the Parkway with a monthly trash cleanup.

Another way in which the organization is proving its community-mindedness is its decision to remove the fence around the perimeter of the



Members of Soil Born Farm's Youth Corp plant young native Oak trees in the Parkway.

property. Doing so will allow the visitors along the bike path access to the farm and nature paths as well as the river. Wildlife will also benefit from a fenceless farm

as they can move freely through the restored tracts throughout the 25-acre farm.

Working in conjunction with Soil Born Farms, the Sacramento Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will operate a small nursery on the site. This operation will supply native plants for restoration efforts throughout the Parkway.

Upcoming River Ranch Events

American River Parkway Wildlife Walk:

Tuesday, May 6, 5:30-7 p.m.
\$15 for adults, \$5 for kids

under 12. Learn about and observe the wealth of wildlife that passes through the American River Ranch property and take a short hike with resident naturalist and Education Director, Guy Galante, into the natural world of the American River Parkway.

American River Parkway Herb Walk:
Saturday, May 31, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. \$15 for adults, kids 10 and

under are free. Join Candis Hope Cantin at the American River for the annual herb walk. Participants will identify over 20 plants that grow in our area and will discuss their traditional uses that herbalists have employed for centuries.

To learn more about Soil Born Farms, visit them at www.soilborn.org.

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storage. Those boxes you stuck out by the garage may have become invisible to you, but they're probably glaringly apparent to your neighbors.

- Avoid the "trashy" look by keeping your garbage cans well out of sight, behind (not in front of) your side gate. Bring them in as soon as possible after your trash has been picked up.
- It may be an obvious suggestion, but break out the broom and regularly sweep the sidewalk, driveway and front porch.
- The condition of your lawn can make or break a landscape. Fertilize once in the early spring and once in the fall.
- Mow the lawn at least once a week. Mow high for healthier grass that shades out weed seeds. Edging your lawn with a string trimmer is easy and gives your yard a beautifully manicured appearance.
- Make sure all your sprinklers are working properly and provide one inch of water per week through two or three waterings. Water deeply, early in the morning.
- Plant a few flowers in your landscape and watch the yard come alive! Easy-maintenance perennials like Daylilies, Salvia and Lantana will bloom year after year with little pampering. Annuals like Marigolds, Nasturtium, and Zinnias

will conk out after the first frost, but will put on an incredible show all season long.

- Keep garden beds mulched with a two- to three-inch layer of redwood bark, cedar chips or cocoa mulch to give your garden a finished look, conserve moisture and prevent weeds.
- Get after those weeds early in the season. Not only will they be easier to pull, but you'll get them before they have a chance to flower. Weeds that are allowed to flower (like Dandelions) result in -- you guessed it -- more weeds!



Most Sunriver residents do a great job of keeping up their property, but occasionally you wind up with a problem neighbor who just doesn't get it. If it's a safety issue or a matter of City code violations, file a complaint with Code Enforcement. Call 851-8770 or visit www.cityofranhocordova.org and click on the "Submit" icon to

file a complaint online. Either way, you will remain anonymous. And plan to join us on May 6 when Rancho's Neighborhood Services Manager, Kerry Simpson, will be our Guest Speaker at the Sunriver Neighborhood Meeting.

Regardless of whether you're a renter or homeowner, a well-tended home inspires others to do the same, while even one neglected property can "infect" an entire block. Take pride in your home and your neighborhood and keep Sunriver looking great for the next 30 years. ☀



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Sunriver Poll

What's your pet peeve about living in Sunriver? What absolutely drives you nuts? Visit www.sunriveronline.org/petpeeve.html and get it off your chest. ☺

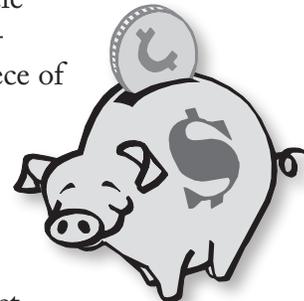
500 Strong!

Recently, the SNA reached an amazing landmark when it registered its 500th member. On March 9, Colleen Crowley joined the ranks of 499 other Sunriver residents to become lucky number 500!

Are you a member? If not, what are you waiting for? To borrow a phrase, membership has its privileges. Participate in the Sunriver e-Group where you can keep up with the latest goings on in the neighborhood, ask questions and get advice. Several City Council members and representatives from City agencies participate in the e-Group, so Sunriver has a direct line to our local government. Do you run your own business? Promote it on the Sunriver Online website's Business Connection page. Or take advantage of the site's Contractor Reviews, where your fellow neighbors recommend the best (and worst) contractors for your home improvement project. And best of all, it's free! Go ahead, sign up today at www.sunriveronline.org/join.html. ☺

SNA Fund Drive

This May the Sunriver Neighborhood Association is holding its annual Fund Drive. As a self-supporting organization, the SNA prides itself on accomplishing many lofty goals on a tiny shoestring budget, but sometimes ya just gotta ask for a little help. Sure, it seems like everyone from Uncle Sam to your neighbors' candy-hawking kids wants a little piece of your hard-earned dough. But donating to the SNA isn't fattening and we promise not to spend it on "pork projects" like a Hotdog Vendor Hall of Fame in Sunriver Park. The fact is, the SNA does incur expenses for mundane items like postage, stationery, web hosting, even stuff like ketchup and napkins at our social events. It all adds up. So if you can spare it, slide a couple of bucks toward the SNA so we can continue to serve Sunriver. The SNA Fund Drive runs May 3 - May 10. Folks can either donate online at www.sunriveronline.org or send a check (made out to Ray Fox) to:



Sunriver Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 602
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

There will also be, as always, a donation can available at the Spring Fling on May 3. Hey, enhancing the neighborhood's a worthy cause, doncha think? ☺

Sunriver Spring Fling!

Spring has finally sprung and it's time to shake off them winter blues and celebrate! Join us for a rollicking romp in Sunriver Park on Saturday, May 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We'll have a bounce house for the wee ones sponsored by Sunriver's own The Learning Years Academy Pre-School & Child Care Center. We'll also have a volleyball net set up so you can challenge members of Sunriver's volleyball team, the Sunriver Sonics. It's a potluck, so bring your favorite springtime dish to share. In case your cooking skills are more Emergency Room than Emeril, Jasper's will be servin' up Saucisse de francfort. (That's French for hotdogs.) Wanna help? Contact SNA Events Coordinator Jessica Ocnosak at 638-8110 or at jocenosak@sunriveronline.org. And happy spring! ☺

The Learning Years Academy
Pre-School & Child Care Center

