

New Dimensions - Sunriver e-Group

by Rob Towns

We're excited to see how the Sunriver E-Group continues to develop and grow. We currently have more than 400 members, and the group has become an invaluable tool for many folks in our neighborhood.

The Neighborhood Patrol has brought a new dimension to the e-group. Patrol members often post reports to the group of what they observed on the previous night's watch. This helps to identify and make neighbors aware of "hot spots." It also helps to clear up misunderstandings, such as helping the patrol to identify residents who are out and about in the wee hours, so that they are not mistaken for people who are up to no good.

For several years, it has been common for e-group members to post messages alerting neighbors to suspicious or "anti-social" (for lack of a better term) activity: aggressive solicitors, people looking into yards or garages, reckless drivers, etc. As the e-group has grown, this practice has continued, and now it forms a valuable part of the message traffic.

It's not all crime and security, though. As an official communications channel for the SNA, we use the e-group to pass along valuable information. For example, Ginger Enrico, our Parkway Liaison, posts notices about Parkway meetings, construction, and monthly Ranger reports. Jessica Ocenosak, our Rancho Cordova Alliance of Neighborhoods (RCAN) representative, shares information about neighborhood programs in the city. Deanne Sherman posts messages about upcoming SNA events and other neighborhood and city activities. Our resident water-quality expert, Larry Ladd, keeps us up to date on critical drinking water issues.

Residents often post messages seeking advice on good contractors, items for sale or "free to a good home," Sunriver properties for rent, and so forth.

As you can see, the e-group has become a great channel for real-time neighborhood information. If you have never been a member, or

continued on pg. 2

Effort Launched to Save our Regional Parks' Legacy

From the Grass Roots Working Group Report

Our magnificent Regional Parks and Open Space System is in peril because of Sacramento County's continuing budget crisis.

Operated by the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, the system includes the American River Parkway, Dry Creek Parkway, Gibson Ranch Regional Park, Cosumnes River Preserve, Deer Creek Hills, Mather Regional Park and vernal pools, North Stone Lakes, Sherman Island and other treasures. The system is central to the quality of life here.

The County closed Gibson Ranch after Labor Day and Dry Creek Parkway is largely unstaffed. Deer Creek Hills and others remain undeveloped and largely unavailable to residents. Most troubling, the county has begun divesting its responsibilities to other jurisdictions, to nonprofits, and to for-profit groups. (And fewer accessible

parks elsewhere, means increased use of the American River Parkway.)

Ranger patrols and maintenance staff have been sliced in half, which means bicycle, hiking trails and other areas are not as clean, safe or pleasant for users.

A Grass Roots Working Group, supported by Save the American River Association (SARA), has launched Save Our Regional Parks' Legacy. The aim is to secure adequate, stable, long-term funding for operations, maintenance, development, expansion and connection of these open spaces and developed recreation sites.

The Working Group's vision is: an integrated system of Regional Parks and Open Spaces linked by a bicycle and pedestrian transportation network. It would also help relieve overuse of the American River Parkway. *continued on pg. 2*

Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

Ho, Ho, Ho!
 JUST LISTEN FOR
 THE FIRE ENGINE
 SIRENS!

Santa and his little Elf Pammie will be escorted by our R.C. Fire Dept. to Sunriver Park on Saturday, December 11th - from 11am to 1pm. Come on out and tell Santa if you've been a good little boy or girl! We'll be serving up some Hot Cocoa, Cookies and Candy Canes.

Caroling Anyone?

Join your Sunriver neighbors for an evening of merriment. We'll sing Christmas Carols, share some Hot Cocoa and Cookies to warm our bellies. Tuesday, December 14th, 7pm at Sunriver Park.



Our New Gateway's Coming Soon!

by Jessica Ocenosak

Amongst my time volunteering for SNA and Scouts, I'm proud to say I've been busy working with our Rancho Cordova Gateway Team for over a year now to research and develop conceptual drawings of new entrances to our city. Gateway monument structures serve the purpose of welcoming people into a city. Just as we take great pride in our Sunriver neighborhood, I hope you feel this same pride and will take the time to give your input.

A PowerPoint presentation has been posted on the City website at

<http://www.cityofranhocordova.org/> that explains the evolution of ideas along with concepts and materials that might be used for our Gateways. Click "Hot Topics" on the left side of the home page for a link to our City Gateway Conceptual Design Presentation.

Rancho Cordova residents are encouraged to offer comments via several methods. Send an e-mail to citygateways@cityofranhocordova.org, come to City Hall, or call 851-8757. Input will be compiled and presented to Council at the December 6th City Council meeting.

You Are Cordially Invited:

Sunriver Neighborhood Meet, Mix and Mingle

Trinity Woods Clubhouse
 Friday, December 3rd, 7:00-9:00PM

Join your neighbors for conversation, information, schmoozing, music, laughter and overall fun! Festivities will include drinks and appetizers.

Mingle with interesting people and organizations that will be on hand to share information.

Guests include our own Sunriver Patrol, Save Our Parks Legacy Group, Sunriver Entrepreneurs, Bicycling Advocates of Rancho Cordova (B.A.R.C.), Soil Born Farms, Native Plant Enthusiasts and more!

Come on out to the Trinity Woods Clubhouse. The gatekeeper will open the gate for you to park in uncovered spaces. If full, please park on Trinity River Drive and walk in.



Support your local Scouts!



Cub Scout Pack 28 has beautiful Christmas Wreath's fresh from Oregon and made of Noble Fir & Blue Juniper for sale this holiday season.

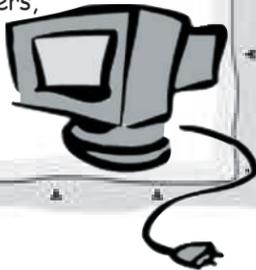
Three styles to choose from only \$20.00 each:

- Traditional
- Swag
- Candy Cane

To order, call Jessica at 638-8110 or send a message to theosathome@msn.com

Boy Scout 363 and Cub Scout Pack 28 E-Waste fund-drive:
Saturday, December 4th,
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
at Lowe's in
Rancho Cordova,
3251 Zinfandel Drive
Or call Jessica at
638-8110 for pick-up.

Donate your monitors, TV's, desktop and notebook PCs, VCRs, speakers, keyboards, stereo equipment, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, telephones, cell phones, zip drives, printers, copiers, laser and multifunction scanners and fax machines.



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Fall and Winter Gardening by Pam Britton

We have the wonderful opportunity here in the Sacramento region, to grow just about anything you might pick during the fall and winter months. Now that our days are cooler, doing garden chores comes a little easier. Pull out that summer garden and get started with your cool-weather vegetables and flowers.

Now is the time to plant seeds for many flowers, directly into the garden, including cornflower, nasturtium, poppy, portulaca and sweet peas. In the vegetable garden, seed bok choy, mustard, spinach, radishes and peas. Plant garlic and onion sets. Now is the ideal time to set out cool-weather bedding plants including calendula, pansy, snapdragon, primroses and viola. Plant daffodil bulbs now, over a three-week period to extend next spring's bloom. Not to be forgotten are fall chrysanthemums. Their splendor of colors over the next few months, will brighten up any area of your garden you may choose.

It's also time to plant native perennials. The Sacramento Chapter of the Native Plant Society, Elderberry Farms, has a wonderful selection of ready-to-plant, one gallon pots. Their nursery is located right here in Rancho Cordova, at Soil Born Farms*, 2140 Chase Drive. The U.C. Davis arboretum also offers native plants for sale.

Trees and shrubs will thrive being planted in the fall. So come out into your garden, enjoy the fruits of your labors. Spring is just around the corner!

*Come talk with Soil Born Farms at our next Neighborhood Meet, Mix & Mingle.

(See page 1 for meeting info.)

e-Group - New Dimensions (continued from Pg. 1)

if you have not tried it recently, I encourage you to sign up for free at <http://sunriveronline.org>. Click the Join Sunriver button and fill out the short online form.

Please note that we do need your address on the form in order to process your request. This is because membership is limited to Sunriver residents and property owners, plus a small number of local officials (council members, plus a few city staff and police officers). Also, there are several other communities in the US named "Sunriver," and sometimes folks in other states will find us by web searching and try to sign up.

If you're concerned about getting too many e-mails from the group, try the "Daily Digest" delivery option. This sends one e-mail per day, which includes all of the messages from the previous 24 hours. Messages in the Digest are grouped by subject, making it easier to follow conversations. You can easily switch to or from the Digest format at any time, by clicking links at the bottom of each group message.

Finally, please note that this is a moderated discussion group. Since we are committed to making it a useful and welcoming place for all members, we have established these guidelines for posting messages to the group:

- Keep it on topic. The purpose of the group is to discuss Sunriver and Rancho Cordova issues – not politics, religion, or other divisive subjects.
- Keep it original. Please do not forward jokes, urban legends, etc. to the group. We get plenty of those already...
- Keep it brief. Concise messages are easier to follow.
- Keep it polite. We don't always have to agree, but we should make every effort to be civil when we disagree.
- Keep it coming. A lively discussion makes for an interesting and active group.

If you're not an e-group member, we hope you'll give it a try. If you have any questions, please contact me at rtowns@runriveronline.org.

Save Our Regional Parks' Legacy

(continued from Pg. 1)

The Working Group raised over \$50,000 in donations for a feasibility study by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the Dangermond Group. TPL is researching four governance options: A new independent regional district, a new dependent regional district, a new countywide community services district, and the existing county department if it had a dedicated revenue source.

The Dangermond Group is studying a nonprofit conservancy option and will deal with budget estimates for operation and maintenance of the Regional Parks and Open Space System.

The Working Group will review the TPL and Dangermond Group results and other information and make a recommendation to the public in late January, followed by a community summit in early February. Sacramento County has specified that a measure needs to be on the November 2012 ballot for voter consideration.

What can you do to help protect our Regional Parks and Open Space for future generations?

- Ask the Working Group to present to your group, church, or school.
- Sign up for Save Our Regional Parks' Legacy updates.
- Give money! No government funds are available for this effort.
- Buy a Parks Passport.
- Appreciate your regional parks by visiting them – and take a friend!

For more information, come to the SNA Meet, Mix and Mingle Friday, 7-9 pm 12/3/10, or contact SARA at 916-482-2551 or INFO@SARAriverwatch.org or visit its Web site at <http://www.sarariverwatch.org/grassroots.html> and click on Grassroots Process.

Clip and Save

Staff to Remember

- ✓ **Sunriver Neighborhood Meet, Mix & Mingle**
Friday, December 3rd, at 7PM
Trinity Woods Clubhouse
GUESTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:
~ Sunriver Neighborhood Patrol
~ Save Our Parks Legacy Group
~ Native Plant Enthusiasts
~ Soil Barn Farms
~ BARC-Bicycling Advocates of R.C.
~ Sunriver Entrepreneurs
- ✓ **Santa Claus and Pammie the Elf**
Saturday, December 11th,
10AM-12PM, Sunriver Park
Kids come get some hot cocoa, cookies and a candy cane!
- ✓ **Christmas Caroling**
Tuesday, December 14th
7PM, at Sunriver Park

The Sunriver Sentinel is a publication of the Sunriver Neighborhood Association (SNA)

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Keep up to date with important neighborhood issues; join the SNA today. Membership is FREE for everyone who lives or owns a home in Sunriver. You will have access to the Sunriver e-Group and the Sunriver Online web site.

**Join today at
www.sunriveronline.org**