

**The History of Sunriver** By Ginger Enrico

One in a series of Sunriver history articles suggested by Sunriver resident Linda Meeks

**What is the history of the land that is now Sunriver?**

**How did Sunriver come to be built on leveled mounds of rock and clay left from gold dredging along the American River?**

**How was the land used before it became Sunriver?**

In the 1840s, 9,000 Maidu Indians fished, hunted, and gathered from Mt. Lassen through Tahoe to here.

Under Mexican rule the 35,000 acres along the south side of the river through present-day Folsom, Gold River, and Rancho Cordova were a Mexican land grant called Rancho Rio de Los Americanos. In 1844 the Mexican government deeded it to African American William Alexander Leidesdorff, Jr.

Leidesdorff's global trade and commerce projects financed and developed the Sacramento Valley. He held city office in San Francisco and was Consul to Alta California, becoming the first

US African-American diplomat. He donated land for the first public school in California. Leidesdorff was affectionately known as the "African Founding Father of California." Today his steamship is on the state seal of California.

Most of the riverside Rancho Rio de Los Americanos was mined or remained agricultural into the 1960's.

Rancho Cordova built up around Mather Air Force Base, but much of the riverside land was away from major roads and other infrastructure. People regarded the dredged areas as "waste lands."

Cities and suburbs expanded in all directions, especially in areas that did not have major physical constraints. With better roads and freeways serving the expanding areas, interest began in the river-side waste lands of Rancho Cordova.

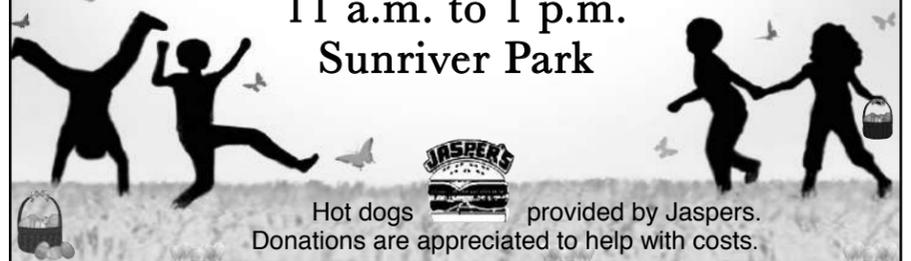
At one point County Planning recommended the present Sunriver site for a junior college.

*continued on pg.2*

**Spring Fest**

Welcome Sunriver Neighbors to our next fun-filled community event. Our annual Spring Fest will feature our traditional Egg Hunt and Bounce House. We'll also be serving up bbq hot dogs along with potato chips, and drinks. Potluck salads welcomed!

**Saturday, March 31st**  
 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 Sunriver Park



Hot dogs provided by Jaspers. Donations are appreciated to help with costs.

**Growing Strong Neighborhoods**

The goals of the Growing Strong Neighborhoods (GSN) initiative are to improve the quality of life in Rancho Cordova, and to increase property values by encouraging residents and business owners to enhance their homes, property, streets, and community.

Since its inception in 2007, GSN has brought about improvements in property appearance and in overall safety and quality. This year under the leadership of Mayor David Sander, GSN enters a new phase, appropriate to our maturing City. The priorities are:

- **Beautification:** to take pride and active involvement in improving our personal and business properties while the City is prioritizing their efforts with graffiti abatement, City property landscaping, and street cleaning.
- **Focus on 50:** a pro-active program where enforcement agencies identify and abate the 50 areas with the largest number of police calls for service and code enforcement complaints.

- **Have a Heart ... Donate Smart:** City Council Members and City staff feel it is better to not give money to panhandlers as the donation is often spent on alcohol and drugs and not for food and shelter. When you see panhandling, call the RCPD's non-emergency number 362-5115 and the Department's Transient Enforcement Detail will provide the panhandler with information on resources for assistance.

- **Pilot Probation Project:** two Sacramento County Deputy Probation Officers will continue working alongside the Police Department and staffs from the Code Enforcement and Building and Safety Division. For more information, contact Kerry Simpson, the City's Neighborhood Services Manager, at 851-8771.

*Come by and see Mayor Sander's presentation on GSN at our next Sunriver Neighborhood Meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 7 p.m. at Trinity Woods Condo Clubhouse.*

**MEETING!!**



**Sunriver Neighborhood Meeting**  
 Tuesday, April 3rd at 7 p.m.  
 Trinity Woods Condo Clubhouse

**Special Guest Speaker:**

**David Sander, Rancho Cordova Mayor**  
 "Growing Strong Neighborhoods"

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.

**The Garden Path**

**Spring Inspirations**  
 by Pam Britton

The Garden Path this spring is taking me in a new direction. Patricia Lanza, the award winning author of *Lasagna Gardening*, has written a sequel to her unique method of preparing planting beds. Her new book, *Lasagna Gardening for Small Spaces*, has been inspiring.

Layering organic materials, and simply letting them compost naturally, you can create garden beds that produce wonderful soil

that will grow beautiful flowers and vegetables.

Lasagna gardening requires no digging! The process begins with laying down a layer of wet newspaper, which initially keeps weeds from growing; and then covering them with layers of shredded leaves, compost, peat moss, or any combination of organic matter you have handy. Don't worry, the earthworms are able to chew through the newspapers and continue churning the soil!

*Lasagna Gardening for Small Spaces* has given me the ability to use new gardening spaces in manageable ways. Preparing a

**Sunriver Volunteer Neighborhood Patrol**

by Dana Johnson, Sunriver Patrol

It's time to gear up for the spring/summer season and time to revitalize the Sunriver Volunteer Neighborhood Patrol. The warmer weather usually brings out more of the bad guys, with more break-ins occurring during this time. Being a good neighbor is

one of the best ways to keep aware of what is going on in the neighborhood. I think most of us keep an eye out for our neighbors and will call attention to a garage door left open, or an unfamiliar car on our street. Many of us have also posted suspicious activity on the Sunriver e-Group to alert us. Similar to the Neighborhood Watch, sharing a list of names,

*continued on pg.2*

## Sunriver Holiday Party

Sunriver had its Holiday Party this past December. This is becoming an annual event. It's a great time to meet up with old neighbors and meet new ones. It was held at Trinity Woods Condominium's Clubhouse and there were about 30 neighbors that attended. The festivities included lots of food, holiday music, and good cheer.



## Santa's Visit

Santa your the best! We love it when you visit us in Sunriver. Thank you to Rancho Cordova Fire Department for kindly escorting Santa around our Sunriver neighborhood. They stayed around awhile too, so the kids could touch the gleaming red and silver fire truck and ask questions of the Firemen.

## Sunriver Caroling

We had more carolers this year than we've ever had in the past, guess the word has gotten out. It's a fun time for the family to come out and share their holiday spirit with their neighbors.

## The History of Sunriver (continued from pg. 1)

The dredging mounds could be leveled, but engineers did not know if the layers of rocks and clay would be stable enough to build on or if the ground would shift, cracking the foundations of any buildings. No such land had been "reclaimed" for development before.

Award-winning developer Carroll Brock bought the Sunriver property and initiated work to reclaim the site.

Not only would the County Environmental Planning Office have to approve any building project on the reclaimed land, but also the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) would have to approve any residential project since the FHA normally provided financing to home buyers.

Crews graded and compacted the ground. Engineers monitored the land for some years to determine if it would settle uniformly and therefore be buildable. Ultimately the FHA, other federal agencies, and County staff were satisfied that development could take place on the site.

The County approved Brock's plan, and Sunriver was born. The first house was sold in 1978. The development was well received. Sunriver soon sold out.

Thanks to Al Freitas (formerly of Sacramento County and who approved Sunriver for development) for the 20th century information. The Leidesdorff history is from the Counsel of the California Legislature & from the National Park Service.

## The Garden Path (continued from pg. 1)

foot-wide bed along a ten foot strip of fencing takes about an hour. No need for raised beds, just layer the existing bed to a depth of six inches or more, depending on what your planting needs may be.

*Lasagna Gardening for Small Spaces* also has chapters on how to grow in containers. Lanza details how to grow flowers and vegetables using her layering method in small pots or larger containers. Her book also gives you a lengthy list of organic, compostable materials, and where you might find them.

So as spring is now upon us, go into your garden with joy and anticipation! Happy gardening!

## Sunriver Patrol (continued from pg. 1)

addresses, phone numbers and vehicles of your neighbors in your court or surrounding area is the best way to know who's who.

In addition to the good neighbor defense, the Patrol would like to create a more visible presence in our neighborhood. In order to accomplish this, more "Patrolers" are needed. The more volunteers, the greater the visibility and, hopefully, more of a deterrent to crime. The process is pretty easy - it involves a brief training session, which will take place immediately after the end of our next Patrol Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. at Sunriver Church.

Please consider becoming involved with the Patrol. You can devote whatever time you want to spend. See below for Patrol information:

## Sunriver Neighborhood Patrol

Donations Welcome. Checks payable to: Kevin Grant c/o: SNA, P.O. Box 1436 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

For more information or to join contact:

Dana Johnson: 802-9907  
Larry Ladd: 852-8188  
Kevin Grant: 635-8047

Sunriver Neighborhood Volunteer Patrol Meeting  
Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.  
Sun River Church (follow the signs)

e-mail: patrol@sunriveronline.org



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

Neighborhood Association  
Steering Committee Members

Events Director - Jessica Ocenosak  
jocenosak@sunriveronline.org  
(916) 638-8110

Communication Director - Rob Towns  
rtowns@sunriveronline.org

Designer/Editor - Deanne Sherman  
dsheerman@sunriveronline.org  
(916) 549-5173

Parkway Liaison - Ginger Enrico  
genrico@sunriveronline.org  
(916) 631-8400

Trinity Woods Liaison - Gail Osborn  
Committee Member - Pam Britton

Sunriver Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 1436 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

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](http://www.sunriveronline.org)

Clip and Save

## Staff to Remember

✓ Sunriver Spring Fest  
Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>  
11AM-1PM • Sunriver Park

✓ Sunriver Neighborhood Meeting  
*Guest Speaker:* Mayor David Sander  
Growing Strong Neighborhoods  
Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Starts at 7 p.m.  
Trinity Woods Clubhouse

✓ Sunriver Neighborhood Volunteer Patrol Meeting  
Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> - Starts at 7 p.m.  
Sun River Church

✓ Sunriver Annual Yard Sale  
Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

## Join in on the discussion

We'd love to hear your comments, suggestions, ideas or questions regarding the articles in your Sunriver Sentinel. You can use the Sunriver e-Group as a discussion arena to voice your thoughts, or you can e-mail the Sentinel Editor directly at [dsherman@sunriveronline.org](mailto:dsherman@sunriveronline.org).

If you haven't joined the Sunriver e-Group, it's easy. Just go to [www.sunriveronline.org](http://www.sunriveronline.org) and click: "Join Sunriver!" It's the best way to keep in touch with what's going on in your neighborhood.

Please patronize these businesses that support your Sunriver Neighborhood Association!



Love Your Car Loan as Much as You Love Your Car!

Big Valley Credit Union  
Offers LOW Rates and Great Terms

Not a member? Not a problem. You can join! Call us today!

Buy a new or used auto or refinance your higher-rate auto loan from another lender and SAVE!

- One of the lowest auto loan rates around
- Terms up to 84 months
- Up to 100% financing

Federally insured by NCUA

Big Valley FCU

[www.bvfcu.org](http://www.bvfcu.org) (916) 638-8238



We're your neighborhood not-for-profit financial institution.



New-2-Ewe

Thrift and Consignment Boutique

Donations Accepted...

"We Come to you"

Sunriver Special

10% Off

852-1853

11050 Coloma Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. • Closed Tuesdays

FIRST STOP SMOG

TEST ONLY STATION

916-851-9491

2301 Vehicle Dr.  
Rancho Cordova, CA

Block behind K-Mart

[www.firststopsmog.com](http://www.firststopsmog.com)



Gold Country Service Center

631-7337

1940 Zinfandel Drive • Suite H  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(In the middle of Auto Village used car dealership)

Sunriver Spring Special

\$1795 Synthetic Blend

OIL CHANGE

REG. PRICE \$54<sup>95</sup>

- Oil Filter & Lube Service (up to 5 quarts)
- Tire Rotation (as needed)
- Complete Brake Inspection
- Top Off any Fluids
- Synthetic Fluid is extra
- Consultation on any Problem with your car

Expires June 15, 2012

Complete Auto Service & Repair  
All Imports & Domestic

Smog, Brakes, Radiators, Tune-Up, Electrical, Transmission, Suspension, Failed Smog Diag., Check Engine Light Diag., 10K/60K/90K Services... we do it all.  
Cars • Trucks • RV's • Trailers

10 year/million mile warranty on most repairs

\$25<sup>00</sup> OFF

ANY SERVICE OVER \$100

Expires June 15, 2012