

86 Percentage of cell phone users who report being irritated by other cell users conducting "loud and annoying" calls in public places

8 Percentage of cell phone users who admit drawing criticism or irritated stares from others while conducting calls in public places

28 Percentage of cell phone users who admit to not driving as safely as they should while using a cell phone

Source: Pew Research Center—Steve McKay

DID YOU KNOW?

>> **Nugget Markets**, headquartered in Woodland, was ranked 33rd by *Fortune* magazine in its "100 Best Companies to Work for 2006." *Fortune* said: "Even the baggers benefit at this Northern California supermarket chain. There's no premium for full health insurance, family coverage is \$1 a week, and employees are offered a pension plus a 401(k) plan."

SOURCE: FORTUNE MAGAZINE

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Fair Oaks Village



You can blow by on Sunrise Boulevard and never even know it's there, but pull in on Bridge Street or Winding Way, and you're suddenly in charming Fair Oaks Village—sidewalks lined with shops, chickens stopping traffic as they leisurely, uh, cross the road. In fact, it's a testament to the mood immediately evoked here: The same black BMW 740i that would normally mow you down—or at least honk viciously—will wait patiently, even fondly, for the rooster crowing in the middle of the street.

As for village housing, it's a happy hodgepodge: Several requisite McMansions are squeezed in by the river, but for the most part, housing consists of one-story, prewar cottages, with hardwood floors and fireplaces, as well as the occasional turn-of-the-century farmhouse surrounded by wildflowers. There also are Craftsman bungalows and a few examples of artsy modern design, with elaborate decking or enclosed courtyards. Connecting it all are winding, dead-end streets, fruit trees, azaleas, carefully tended front gardens or large, wild lots. It's the kind of place you can leave a string of Christmas lights up 'til June, just because you like coming home to the cheery twinkle, and never be confronted by an angry neighborhood association brandishing a sheaf of CC&Rs.

Eat dinner at the always-perfect Slocum House, which has live music and seating on its fairy-lit patio—and undoubtedly a chicken or two clucking away among the tables.

Resident or tourist, there's a lot to do: Grab a picnic lunch at Fair Oaks Coffee House & Deli or a nutburger at the all-natural, vegetarian Sunflower Drive-In, then head southeast on Bridge Street. You'll come to the Fair Oaks Bridge Access—a lovely footbridge that connects to the American River Parkway, a place to ride bikes, walk for miles or stop at a beach for wading and swimming.

Another option is to meander through town along with the chickens. Buy a hammer at Nardinelli's Oaks Hardware, pick up a one-of-a-kind birthday present in the antiques or gift shops, admire work by local artists. You also can play conga drums, learn tai chi, visit a psychic. And beginning this month, listen to concerts in Village Park (Thursday nights, June 15–Sept. 7 at 7 p.m.) and watch shows under the stars in the Veterans' Memorial Amphitheatre. (*Gypsy* runs June 23–July 23, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* Aug. 11–Sept. 10.) Eat dinner beforehand at the always-perfect Slocum House, which has live music and seating on its fairy-lit patio—and undoubtedly a chicken or two clucking away among the tables.

—Thea Marie Rood



ANNETTE CHOW (2)