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# Gold River Messenger

*"Written by the people, for the people"*

VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 05 **Serving Gold River and Sacramento County**

MAY 2019

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Local  
Postal Customer

## Saturday at the Farm

Story and photos  
by Shauna Boyd

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Soil Born Farms is a local non-profit that produces organic food along the American River Parkway in Rancho Cordova. Soil Born Farms encourages people to participate in the local food system, connect to the environment, and create deeper roots in the community.

On April 6, Soil Born Farms hosted their first Saturday at the Farm event of the season. Visitors explored the farm and purchased fresh produce from the American River Ranch Farmstand. The event featured cooking demonstrations, kids' activities, and live music by Millington Strings.

Crowds of people from all over the Sacramento region attended the event, enjoying a snack at the café and perusing the gift shop for cookbooks, birdhouses, or handcrafted candles.

Saturday at the Farm also hosted Elderberry Farms' spring plant sale. Elderberry Farms is a non-profit native plant nursery located at Soil Born Farms but operated entirely by volunteers from California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Their mission is to promote awareness about

the benefits of native plant habitat.

Chris Callahan, a volunteer with CNPS Sacramento Valley Chapter, explained that the spring plant sale is their largest sale of the year: "Spring is when a lot of the plants are blooming; things are thriving and really starting to take off. It's a great time for planting."

"We found so many wonderful plants for our garden. It's really wonderful here," said Nell Suby, as her 3-year-old son Nicholas happily rode in a wagon with all their new plants.

The kids who attended Saturday at the Farm gleefully ran through the Youth Garden to look at the chickens, search the garden for fairies, and discover ladybugs, bees, and butterflies among the many flowers.

"We look forward to welcoming old friends and first-time visitors to enjoy a country experience in the city every Saturday," said Janet Zeller founder and co-director of Soil Born Farms. Saturday at the Farm will be held weekly through December 14, and Soil Born Farms' annual family event — A Day on the Farm — will be held on May 19. Visit [www.soilborn.org](http://www.soilborn.org) for more details. ★



Photo captions: Above Top - Visitors at Soil Born Farms explore the garden and find ladybugs, bees, and butterflies. Above - Elderberry Farms, a non-profit native plant nursery, held their spring plant sale during the Saturday at the Farm event at Soil Born Farms. Above Middle - A beautiful butterfly among the many flowers.

**Let's Make  
It Safe  
Call 811  
Before  
You Start  
Digging**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Spring is the time to begin outdoor projects. From small projects like planting a tree or building a fence, to big ones like putting in a swimming pool, be sure to call 811 before you dig.

Notifying Underground Service Alert North 811 (USA) a minimum of two full business days before beginning to dig will determine if there are any dangerous underground utilities such as electric power lines in the area. The service is free.

Whether you are doing the job yourself or hiring a professional, smart and safe digging means calling 811 or visiting [usanorth811.org](http://usanorth811.org) to request a utility-locate before each job; using the website for your notification can save time. The notification is valid for 28 days, so if the excavation project goes beyond this timeframe, notify USA North 811 again.

SMUD and other area utilities such as gas, water and telecommunications will be contacted to determine whether they have underground facilities, and if so, the locations will be marked at the excavation site. Underground utility lines are not always located in the street; some utilities may be located in backyard easements. Digging into an underground electrical line can cause power outages and personal injury or death.

Be aware, it is the law to notify USA North 811 before you dig. Besides the legal requirement, it's the way to stay safe and avoid financial and legal responsibility for repairs and/or injuries. ★

## SacRT Earns Security 'Gold Standard Award'

By Jessica Gonzalez  
Sacramento Regional Transit

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) honored the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) with the prestigious Gold Standard Award at a meeting of the transit agency's Board of Directors meeting last week. TSA Federal Security Director Sid Hanna presented the award to SacRT's General Manager/CEO Henry Li.

The Gold Standard Award is the top recognition TSA can give to a transit agency for achieving top scores during an annual review of 17 categories of security and emergency preparedness elements. The review evaluates several aspects of a transit agency's operations including: the security plan; security training; drills and exercise programs; public outreach efforts; and background check processes.

"SacRT's designation as a Gold Standard Award winner puts the agency in the top tier of transit agencies, recognizing its hard work and unwavering commitment to security," said Sid Hanna, TSA Federal Security Director in Sacramento. "TSA looks forward to a continued partnership



The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) honored the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) with the prestigious Gold Standard Award. The Gold Standard Award is the top recognition TSA can give to a transit agency for achieving top scores during an annual review of 17 categories of security and emergency preparedness elements. Photos courtesy of SacRT

with SacRT and applauds its continued focus on the security of its customers."

"The safety and security of our passengers and employees is our top priority every day," said Henry Li, SacRT General Manager/CEO. "We are honored to have been recognized for our work and we will continue to strive for the highest level of excellence in the years to come."

"I applaud SacRT for prioritizing safety and security in recent years

during their historic transformation," Congresswoman Doris Matsui said. "The TSA Gold Standard Award is recognition for implementing best in industry security practices and for emphasizing the customer experience first."

"I am delighted that SacRT is being recognized for its commitment to transit security and emergency preparedness," said Congressman Ami

Continued on page 8



# I Spy with my Bird's Eye

By Susan Maxwell Skinner

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Avian species provided a plumed pageant for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's recent Bird and Breakfast fundraisers.

During two events, more than 100 nature-lovers viewed many nesting critters. A red-tailed hawk hauled twigs to a eucalyptus nest; a hummingbird patiently incubated her clutch; woodpeckers checked acorn pantries. Forty or more feathered species inhabited the Nature Center's 100-acre preserve.

Audubon Society-guided forays were favored by weather – even after a wet start on the final Saturday. “Kids love to splash in puddles and see foot tracks left on paths by animal passersby,” said a nature Center volunteer. “Nature’s guestbook isn’t so visible on dry trails.”

The events have been a sell-out hit at the center for 32 years. On spring mornings, house-hunting wood ducks provide harlequin interludes. Close to the American River, killdeer moms are belly-down on flood-plain nests.

Nesting above a walking trail last weekend, a hummingbird nursery was a rarer – usually invisible – treat. “We saw the hen incubating on her tiny nest,” explained the volunteer. “She seemed used to people walking nearby and wasn’t fazed by tourists. It’s amazing to view something so seldom discovered. Audubon people combed the area in previous weeks



Naturalist David Rose and Bird and Breakfast supporters watched nesting California wood ducks and hummingbirds at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

and observed nests being built. Such secrets of nature are what our Bird and Breakfast event offers every year.”

Fred and Betsy Weiland; Wild Birds Unlimited (Roseville).

Learn about Effie Yeaw Nature Center events at [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net) ★



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# Lions Donate \$150k to Society for the Blind

Funds to expand the Low Vision Clinic



Members of the Northern California Lions Sight Association join Lions District 4-C5's Doug Wight and Sheri Retzlaff to present a check to Society for the Blind's Shari Roeseler. Photo courtesy of Society for the Blind.

By Kristin Thébaud, Thébaud Communications

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Society for the Blind recently received a Vision 2020 campaign donation of \$150,000 from the Northern California Lions Sight Association (NCLSA) and the Lions Clubs International (LCIF) to support the expansion of the group's Low Vision Clinic and training space for people who are blind or have low vision.

NCLSA donated \$75,000 to purchase equipment and vision testing devices for the clinic and secured an additional matching grant of \$75,000 from LCIF to add an indoor orientation and mobility course.

"Lions Clubs across the world have a long history of supporting organizations that help people with vision loss, so we are deeply honored that the Lions chose to invest in Society for the Blind here in Sacramento," said Shari Roeseler, executive director, Society for the Blind. Roeseler continued: "As the only comprehensive vision rehabilitation center in the Sacramento region, Society for the Blind is a critical resource for people who are blind or have low vision. The generosity of the regional and international Lions means

that more people across California who are experiencing vision loss will have access to critical assessment and treatment."

Society for the Blind's Low Vision Clinic is one of the longest running community-based clinics in the region. The Low Vision Clinic provides care, vision rehabilitation, low vision devices and transportation assistance to more than 375 people each year.

Clinics are staffed by three optometrists with special training in low vision eye care and serve patients with cataracts, glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and other congenital and degenerative eye diseases.

Clinic staff includes a vision rehabilitation therapist who works with patients with some functional vision, teaching them techniques to use their remaining vision safely and effectively and providing training on assistive devices.

"It's in our Lions Club DNA to help organizations like Society for the Blind," said Douglas Wight, governor, Lions District 4-C5. "Across the world, we work to bring greater stability and independence to people with vision loss by providing services and supporting organizations that do this work." ★

# You Can Help Prevent Animal Cruelty

By Allison Harris, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - To hold animal abusers accountable, the Sacramento County District Attorney's office launched an Animal Cruelty Task Force in our region in January 2018. Since then, many animal abusers have been brought to justice, and the County's Bradshaw Animal Shelter has helped with nearly 30 of those cases.

In California, it is illegal to: Organize dog fighting;



Since animals cannot speak for themselves, it is up to us to help.

Tether a dog to a stationary object for more than three hours; Leave pets unattended for extended periods of time: in vehicles in extreme weather; or without food and water;

Maliciously and intentionally maim, mutilate, beat, torture, torment, wound, or kill an animal or overdrive, overload, or overwork animals.

Here are a few ways you can help prevent animal cruelty: When reporting an animal cruelty incident, make sure you are not in danger; To report an emergency, such as to rescue a dog in a hot, locked car, call 9-1-1; To report a non-emergency animal abuse and neglect incident immediately, dial 3-1-1 or (916) 874-4311. ★



## FAIR OAKS CEMETERY 21st ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

Saturday, May 25, 2019 - 10:00am

The American Legion was formed in Paris in March of 1919 and was chartered by Congress later that year. The American Legion is headquartered in Indianapolis. The Legion was the primary group behind the passage of what is now known as the G.I. Bill in 1944. The Legion today assists other veterans through service at VA clinics and hospitals in Washington, DC on behalf of veterans. The American Legion is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Today the American Legion provides many services for Veterans on its website and at its almost 14,000 posts around the world.

The twenty first Annual Memorial Day and Avenue of Flags Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 25, at Fair Oaks Cemetery, located at 7780 Olive St., Fair Oaks. The formal ceremonies begin at 10 a.m.



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- Orangevale
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- Folsom
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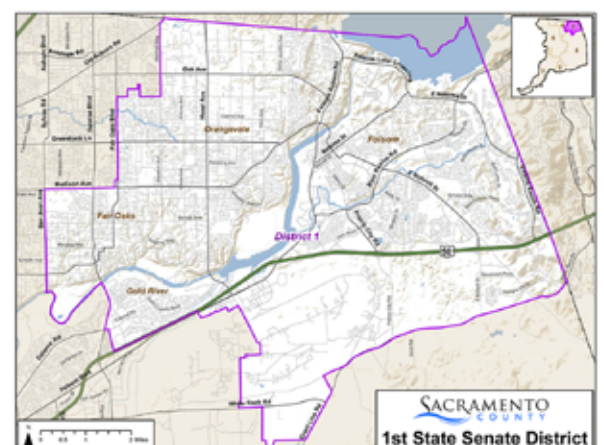
Ballots will begin being mailed to all registered voters in Senate District 1 the week of May 6, 2019.

**MAIL IT** - Return your voted ballot in your signed pink return envelope. No postage is necessary.

**DROP OFF YOUR BALLOT AT ANY BALLOT DROP BOX** - Return your voted ballot in your signed pink return envelope to any Ballot Drop Box in Sacramento County, Senate District 1. A 24-hour Ballot Drop Box is available outside the Elections Office until 8:00 p.m. on Election Night. All Ballot Drop Boxes will be open beginning May 6, 2019.

**VISIT A VOTE CENTER** - Return your voted ballot in your signed pink return envelope to any Vote Center in Sacramento County, Senate District 1. Still want to vote in person? You can vote at any Vote Center. You can also request a replacement ballot, register to vote or update your registration, vote using an accessible ballot marking device, and receive voting assistance in multiple languages. One Vote Center will be open May 25, 2019 through Election Day. Two additional Vote Centers will be open on Election Day, June 4, 2019.

A list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations will be available in your County Voter Information Guide, in your mail ballot packet, and at [www.Elections.SacCounty.net](http://www.Elections.SacCounty.net).



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By County Supervisor Sue Frost

## GOLD RIVER COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Misguided Approach on Police Use of Force

Through the generosity of the *Gold River Messenger*, this column serves to provide an update about matters affecting the unincorporated community of Gold River.

There is a bill quickly making its way through the California Legislature (AB 392) that if passed, will create a highly subjective standard for evaluating and holding law enforcement officers criminally liable for using force when responding to life-or-death situations based on hindsight, without providing any extra training to officers. Because this bill would have a direct impact on the law enforcement officers that work for us here in Gold River, such as the Deputy Sheriffs and CHP, I want to take an opportunity to give you more detail on this important issue, and explain why I am staunchly opposed to this bill.

Law enforcement officers today are allowed to only use deadly force when there is a reasonable fear of death or serious bodily harm to the officer or another person. Due to this, peace officers are held to the standard of what an objectively reasonable officer on the scene

would do. Under AB 392, this would change so that peace officers would need to pause when contemplating the use of deadly force, only allowing them to use deadly force in circumstances when "the homicide would be justifiable in self-defense or the defense of another person."

By requiring officers to further hesitate in their actions, we not only put the officer and his or her partner at an even greater risk, we put the general public at a greater risk. In these high stress situations, quick reaction time is imperative and a matter of seconds can mean life or death. Creating doubt in the minds of our officers will make them vulnerable to even greater dangers than those that they already face. It is critical that we do not tie the hands of law enforcement and that we uphold the safety of our officers and those they are sworn to protect.

To understand this issue more clearly, shortly after I was sworn-in as your County Supervisor, I had the Sheriff's Department allow me participate in their "use of force simulator" so I could personally experience some of the training our deputies undertake to help them handle potentially deadly situations. The experience opened my eyes to what our deputies have to be prepared to face while on patrol – and the training they

receive on how to handle those situations. Before this experience, it was easy for me to watch a video of a police encounter and say how I would have done things differently. But after going through it, it has changed my perspective on all the police encounters I have watched – and has given me a greater appreciation for how hard it is for the officers.

The decision to apply this level of force is the most solemn, serious, and scrutinized choice an officer could be asked to make. It must often occur without notice and with only milliseconds to contemplate his or her actions. As such, shifting the standard that guides the use of lethal force from one of objective reasonableness in light of the facts and circumstances, to necessity given the totality of the circumstances, is an impossible standard to achieve.

California's police officers take an oath that they will run towards danger when everyone else is running away – and they do so to protect our families and communities. The subjective legal standards AB 392 seeks to implement will have a chilling effect on the men and women in uniform by undermining their ability to respond to life-or-death situations – creating new challenges that would threaten the safety of our families, communities and officers.

Even if this change in standards were appropriate, agency policies would have to be changed and tens of thousands of peace officers would have to receive all new training. But this bill does not provide any additional funding for training – the foundation for minimizing the use of force – nor does it put in place even one proactive measure to reduce the use of force. In addition, this opens the door for trial attorneys to severely reduce law enforcement budgets due to the need for departments to hire more lawyers to defend the sudden rise in lawsuits.

There is a bipartisan competing bill in the legislature that I do support (SB 230) that attempts to find ways to improve outcomes for use of force incidents. That

bill will refine the circumstances by which an officer could discharge their weapon in alignment with U.S. Supreme Court decisions, require all law enforcement agencies to establish a comprehensive policy on Use of Force, require this written policy to be made accessible to the public, and emphasize officer training and education through coursework prepared by the well-established Commission on Peace Officer Standards & Training.

The loss of even one life is too many, and an officer's use of serious force is and must be a last resort. This is a sensitive and important issue that we must proactively address, but AB 392 is not the answer – and will only create new problems

threatening the safety of California's families and communities. I urge the bill's authors, sponsors, and supporters to develop truly effective and achievable improvement to help California law enforcement minimize the use of force.

Thank you for reading – and as always, if you want to contact me call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@sac-county.net.

Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes all or part of the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, Rio Linda, Elverta, Gold River, Rancho Murietta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms and Fair Oaks and Rancho Cordova. ★



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Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

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By David Dickstein, Gold River resident

Ah, May, my third-favorite month after October (Halloween, the World Series, International Coffee Day) and July (fireworks, 'nuff said).

What makes May so great? The Gold River Garden Tour, of course! The Gold River Villagers social club holds the event every spring or so, and I will say I'm a bit nervous about this year's because there was no mention of it in the April newsletter. But, man, if it happens, it's gonna be off the chain! No one does a garden tour like those wild and wacky Villagers. If you're into hedonism and pure, unadulterated debauchery, run, don't walk to the Gold River Garden Tour!

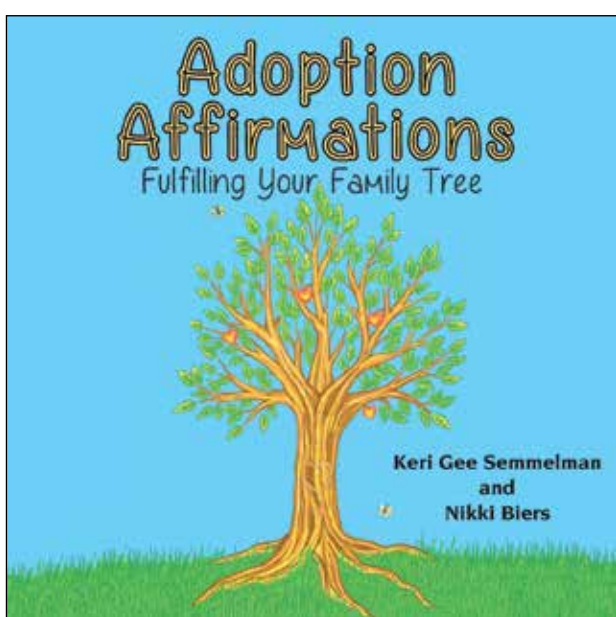
I kid, of course – The Gold River Villagers are some of the most upstanding women in town – well, except for you-know-who from you-know-which-village who cheats at Thursday mahjong. And if you didn't catch my sarcasm, in truth I have as much interest in a tour of gardens as I did smoking a cigar in Cuba last month.

# 'Fool's Gold'

## Come What May, Like Mother's Day

Never puffed anything in my life, never will! My wife is totally into it, though – gardening, not cigars. I think she'd enjoy strolling through the best-manicured gardens of Gold River, chatting it up with the other ladies as they admire daffodils in Discovery, petunias in Prospect and camellias in Comstock.

Putting tongue back in cheek, I don't think it's an overstatement to say that the Gold River Garden Tour, if it takes place, will be the most exciting thing to happen in our community since the Gold River Racquet Club changed its name to the Gold River Sports Club. I'm not suggesting that our community is as sleepy as Wee Willie Winkie on ZzzQuil, but if you go to [grca.info](http://grca.info), check out the "News & Notices" section on the home page. The dozen or so announcements include GRCA being bestowed with the "Master Association of the Year Award." Not for 2019. Not for 2018. Not for 2017. But 2016. That's three-year-old news! I've got one even better: A notice from 2003 – two-thousand and freaking three! – about a wildlife safety program from the state's Fish and Game Department. So, what GRCA might be



The book provides people a best friend in the form of a book.

telling us is nothing in the past 16 years has been interesting enough to bump these cobwebbed notices off the news page.

But I digress. Getting back to May – May 2019, not May 2003 – don't forget Mom's big day on the 12th. This will be my second Mother's Day since the passing of mine, which is heartbreaking for the wrong reason. For much of her life, and worse in the final quarter-century, my mom was an avid practitioner of five of the seven deadly sins: wrath, envy, gluttony, sloth and pride. And as for the two she didn't live by, one – greed – is well-represented by my mercifully estranged sister. Disappointing

humans both, but that's for another column, maybe. As for the yet-addressed seventh deadly sin of lust, let's skip over that one – not because my mom and sister never lusted from what I've seen, but because this is the wrong time and wrong newspaper for that subject. Keep it PG at worst, Davey Boy.

But I digress yet again. Back to happier thoughts about moms, a year ago in this column I recommended where to buy the perfect Mother's Day gift right here in Gold River. While I still think a massage at the since-renamed Sports Club and a mani pedi at Bellissima would be a hit with any deserved mother, here's a gift idea

especially for moms (and dads) of adopted children. It's a new book titled "Adoption Affirmations: Fulfilling Your Family Tree," authored by Keri Gee Semmelman and Nikki Biers, and available on Amazon. I mention this because of the large number of Gold River area couples I know who are considering adoption, currently going through the process or had given up after years of frustration and heartache. The Semmelmans' adoption journey was a roller-coaster ride of five years. As much as raising Aubree is heavenly to Keri Gee and Elliot, the ordeal to adopt was hell at times. Excited to celebrate her ninth Mother's Day, Keri Gee, a former Sacramento lobbyist for the California Department of Education, told me the book is her "gift of hope" to those at all stages of the journey.

"The book provides people a best friend in the form of a book – a friend that knows all the right things to think about, visualize and say to themselves after ups and downs so they remain on their journey and in a state of helpfulness to fulfill their family tree."

Being Keri Gee's longtime friend and a parent of only biological children, I don't think my

review of "Adoption Affirmations" would be as credible as one provided by a mother of adopted children. Lana Avila, a two-time adoptive parent, is a friend and colleague at VSP Global in Rancho Cordova. Here's what she wrote:

"As an adoptive parent myself, the affirmations in this book touched my heart. I have lived most of the moments mentioned in this book and to read someone else's take on the situation, and the lovely affirmations to tell yourself, made me feel like someone else completely understood my journey. This book is a quick, easy read but one that can be re-read throughout the adoption process to provide comfort and positive thoughts when they are needed most."

Nicely said, Lana, and happy Mother's Day! Same to my wife, Mimi. Great job helping raise Dylan and Max. And to all the awesome moms out there, may you be spoiled on your special day, whether it's a quiet one here in Gold River or something exciting elsewhere.

David Dickstein can be reached at [daviddickstein1@gmail.com](mailto:daviddickstein1@gmail.com) ★

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# \$15.5 Million in Rebates Awarded for Electric Vehicle Chargers

**SPECIAL RELEASE**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)**

- A rebate project to increase access to electric vehicle (EV) chargers throughout Sacramento County is launching with up to \$15.5 million in funds available for qualifying local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

The rebates will be available through the Sacramento County Incentive Project to install both commercial-grade Level 2 chargers and high-powered DC fast chargers. The project is an initiative of the California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP), which works with local community partners to develop and implement regional incentive projects for charging infrastructure that supports the adoption of EVs statewide.

CALeVIP and its regional projects are implemented by the Center for Sustainable Energy and funded primarily by the California Energy Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program. California's goal is to get 5 million EVs on its roads by 2030 to reduce carbon emissions and to support those vehicles by installing 250,000 chargers statewide.

"The California Energy Commission is pleased to partner with the Center for Sustainable Energy and SMUD to increase access to charging infrastructure that makes plug-in electric cars with no tailpipe pollution an easier choice for drivers in Sacramento County and surrounding communities," said Janea A. Scott, Vice Chair of the California Energy Commission.

"By supporting increased deployment of charging infrastructure in communities

across California, CALeVIP is helping the state transition to zero emission vehicles, reducing pollution from the transportation sector."

In Sacramento County, the Energy Commission is funding \$14 million and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is providing \$1.5 million. SMUD has also committed to invest all its revenue generated by this project from the state's Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program to support additional community EV charger installations.

Currently, there are more than 10,000 EVs and nearly 700 EV chargers in public locations throughout Sacramento County, according to SMUD officials.

"Our goal is to improve the environmental, social and economic vitality of communities across our region, and increasing mobility with clean cars is one way to do that," said Ed Hamzawi, SMUD's director of Advanced Energy Solutions. "We are proud to play a key role in promoting electric vehicle adoption and infrastructure expansion as Sacramento works to lead the way."

CALeVIP is currently accepting applications from eligible Sacramento businesses and public entities for DC fast charger installations with rebates of up to \$70,000 per charger or 75 percent of the total installation project's cost, whichever is less. Rebates for Level 2 chargers are up to \$6,000 per connector. Applicants can apply for multiple charger rebates.

Additional funding is available for installations in disadvantaged communities, with up to \$80,000 for DC fast chargers and up to \$6,500 for Level 2 chargers.

Level 2 chargers deliver 15-35 miles of electric driving

range per hour of charging and are great for locations where drivers are parked for a few hours. DC fast chargers can power most EVs and provide over 100 miles of driving range per hour of charging, which is ideal along major travel corridors for on-the-go charging.

"With a growing number of car shoppers in Sacramento County choosing electric vehicles, it is increasingly important that fast charging be available at convenient locations, along the highways and at common destinations," said Andy Hoskinson, senior manager for EV initiatives at the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE).

"The increased rebates for disadvantaged communities are particularly significant as these neighborhoods are often more heavily impacted by traffic and poor air quality."

A national nonprofit organization, CSE manages statewide incentive programs for electric vehicles and electrical vehicle charging infrastructure in California, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

CALeVIP also currently offers incentive projects in a four-county area of Southern California and in Fresno County with other projects planned throughout the state. CALeVIP is currently funded for \$77 million, with the potential to receive up to \$200 million.

Property owners and managers can learn about plug-in EV charging, how to plan installations and manage chargers and the application process by visiting the CALeVIP website. A recorded webinar for prospective charger site hosts is available online. For more information, visit CALeVIP.org.

The California Energy Commission is the state's primary energy policy and planning agency. The agency was established by the California Legislature through the Warren-Alquist Act in 1974. It has seven core responsibilities: advancing state energy policy, encouraging energy efficiency, certifying thermal power plants, investing in energy innovation, developing renewable energy, transforming transportation and preparing for energy emergencies.

The Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) is a national nonprofit organization focused on the goal to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world powered by clean energy. CSE helps consumers, businesses, governments and others adopt energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean transportation technologies.

Headquartered in San Diego, CSE operates regional offices in Los Angeles, Sacramento and Oakland, California; Boston, Massachusetts; and Brooklyn and Stony Brook, New York. Learn more at EnergyCenter.org.

As the nation's sixth-largest community-owned, not-for-profit, electric service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity for more than 70 years to Sacramento County and small adjoining portions of Placer and Yolo counties.

SMUD is a recognized industry leader and award winner for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. SMUD's power mix is about 50 percent non-carbon emitting. For more information, visit smud.org. ★

# IRS Urges Taxpayers to Check Their Tax Withholding Early in 2019

By David A. Tucker, IRS

**WASHINGTON** - The Internal Revenue Service has renewed its effort to encourage taxpayers to review their tax withholding using the IRS Withholding Calculator and make any needed adjustments early in 2019.

Doing a Paycheck Checkup can help taxpayers avoid having too little or too much tax withheld from their paychecks.

The federal income tax is a pay-as-you-go tax. Taxpayers pay the tax as they earn or receive income during the year. Employers generally use withholding tables to determine how much tax to withhold from their employees' paychecks and then pay it to the IRS. Workers who are not subject to withholding, such as those working in the gig or shared economy, should make quarterly estimated tax payments to pay their tax during the year.

Taxpayers should check their withholding each year and when life changes occur, such as marriage, childbirth, adoption or buying a home.

For 2019, it's important to review withholding and do a Paycheck Checkup. This is especially true for taxpayers who adjusted their withholdings in 2018 - specifically in the middle or later parts of the year. And it's also important for taxpayers who received a tax bill when they filed this year or want to adjust the size of their refund for next year.

A withholding table shows payroll service providers and employers how much tax to withhold from employee paychecks, given each employee's wages, marital status, and the number of withholding

allowances they claim.

The IRS Withholding Calculator can help taxpayers get their tax withholding right. Checking withholding can protect against having too little tax withheld and then facing an unexpected tax bill or penalty at tax time next year.

A taxpayer may prefer to have less tax withheld upfront and receive more in their paycheck. And, some people may choose to have their employer withhold more money from their paycheck. Others may choose to make higher or more tax payments than required and receive the overpayment - or refund - when they file their tax return. This is an individual taxpayer choice.

Taxpayers can use the results from the IRS Withholding Calculator to determine if they should complete a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate. The calculator will recommend the number of allowances to claim on this form and, if needed, the amount of additional federal income tax to have withheld each pay period. Employees submit the completed Form W-4 to their employer, not the IRS.

When taxpayers file their 2018 tax return, they may notice significant changes from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) including lowered tax rates, increased standard deductions, suspension of personal exemptions, increased Child Tax Credit and limited or discontinued deductions.

Whether at home, at work or on the go, taxpayers can find answers to questions, forms and instructions and easy-to-use tools online at IRS.gov ★

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**CAPITAL REGION**  
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May 6th - May 11th

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## Small Business Week Events

<p><b>May 6</b></p> <p><b>Capital Region Small Business Week Multi-Chamber Mixer</b></p> <p>COWO Campus</p> <p>5:00 pm - 8:00 pm \$20 Admission</p> <p>1507 21st Street, Suite 200 (2nd Floor), Sacramento CA 95811 (21st and O Street)</p>	<p><b>May 7</b></p> <p><b>BizX: "Leading Like A BOSS"</b></p> <p>The City of Sacramento, Sacramento County, BERG, CSUS, and Uptown Studios</p> <p>3:00 p.m. - 5:00 pm 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm After Party \$10 Admission</p> <p>Golden 1 Center 500 David J Stern Walk, Sacramento, CA 95814</p>	<p><b>May 8</b></p> <p><b>Capital Connection</b></p> <p>Capital Region Small Business Development Center</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (9:00 am Registration)</p> <p>West Sacramento City Hall Galleria 1110 W Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691</p>
<p><b>May 9</b></p> <p><b>Small Business Awards Lunch</b></p> <p>U.S. Small Business Administration, Sacramento District, Sacramento Business Journal</p> <p>11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. \$60 registration fee (per person)</p> <p>Double Tree Hotel 2001 Point W Way, Sacramento, CA 95815</p>	<p><b>May Marketplace: Small Business Pop-Up Shop</b></p> <p>California Capital FDC</p> <p>5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>The Scottish Rite Masonic Center 6151 H St, Sacramento, CA 95819</p>	<p><b>May 10</b></p> <p><b>Small Business Start-Up Forum: Learn about the Fundamentals of Starting a Business</b></p> <p>City of Elk Grove</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Registration &amp; Networking 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Laguna Town Hall 3020 Renwick Ave, Elk Grove, CA 95758</p>

capitalregionssmallbusinessweek.org



In Partnership with: US Small Business Administration, SMUD, Sacramento Metro Chamber, The City of Sacramento, Sacramento County, Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC), Capital Region, The City of Elk Grove, California Capital Financial Development Corporation, Haney Biz, Sacramento Business Journal, SBDC

# SacRT Earns Security 'Gold Standard Award'

*Continued from Page 1*  
 Bera. "This prestigious award reflects SacRT's implementation of security programs that benefit the Sacramento community."  
 TSA has oversight of 6,800 public transit agencies in the country. Every year the TSA assesses a select number of transit agencies nationwide for evaluation through its Baseline for Security Enhancement (BASE) program. A select few achieve scores high enough to receive the Gold Standard Award.  
 In the most recent round of BASE evaluations, TSA reviewed 92 transit agencies. SacRT scored

an exceptional 98% on its assessment. This is the first time SacRT has earned the Gold Standard Award.  
 SacRT operates approximately 70 bus routes, including fixed-route, dial-a-ride and microtransit, 43 miles of light rail and ADA paratransit services. It serves a 400-square mile area throughout Sacramento County, which includes service in the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove. Sacramento buses and light rail trains operate 365 days a year. SacRT's entire bus and light rail system is accessible to the disabled community.

SacRT was one of seven transit agencies nationwide to be honored with the award during the most recent evaluation phase.  
 Other agencies that received the Gold Standard Award are North County Transit District in North County San Diego, Calif.; Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority in Pinellas County, Fla.; Denver Regional Transportation District in Denver, Colo.; MetroLink St. Louis in St. Louis, Mo.; Regional Transportation Commission Washoe in Reno, Nev.; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in Washington, D.C. ★

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