

Fireworks Review Inside

AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

"Written by the people, for the people"

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High Public Engagement at Measure J Outreach Events



Tim Mathias, the architect who created the new designs, explains the proposed improvements to Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre.

Story and photos by Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - To gather public input for upcoming park improvements funded by Measure J (and hopefully Prop 68 as well), the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District recently held four public outreach events. Many local residents attended the site tour on May 21, the open-house discussion and kids' workshop event on June 6, and the pop-up booth at Concerts in the Park on June 20. Landscape architecture firm Callander Associates facilitated the community outreach events, and representatives from the firm explained the improvements planned for Village Park, Plaza Park, the Community Clubhouse, and Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre — including an integrated walkway to

increase the connection and accessibility between the major sites in Fair Oaks Village.

The site tour, open-house discussion, and pop-up booth all provided details about the project, which is based on the District's Master Plan from 2012. For Plaza Park, the goal is to improve access by providing more parking, creating an interior pathway, and improving ADA accommodations. A water fountain, art installations, and a plaza area would transform the park into the front door to the Village. There would also be a raised permanent stage for events and performances. To make room for additional parking spaces, some green space would be sacrificed but all the existing trees would remain.

For the Amphitheatre, the proposal

includes changing rooms for the actors and new restrooms. Of two possible designs, the public favored a new stage and backstage area that can be enclosed so the theatre could be used for other community events during the off-season. The outdoor seating area would remain as is, with no additional seating created.

The main concern at the Community Clubhouse is the lack of accessibility with its hilltop location. The current ramp is very steep, so the plan is to replace it with a set of staged stairs and handrails. The project proposes the installation of a rose garden at the foot of the stairs, but some members of the public asked if the garden could instead be planted with drought-tolerant native plants.

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Fund Established for Officer Tara O'Sullivan

CAHP Special Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On June 19, 2019, at approximately 6:10 p.m., Sacramento Police Department Officer Tara O'Sullivan, 26, was shot at the scene of a domestic violence incident. She was transferred to UC Davis Medical Center where she tragically died. Officer Tara O'Sullivan was a dedicated, young officer who had only been with the department for a year. This is the first line-of-duty death of a Sacramento Police Officer in twenty years.

At 5:41 p.m., Officer Tara O'Sullivan and fellow officers responded to a domestic disturbance. Approximately thirty minutes later, shots were fired by an armed gunman inside the house. Officer O'Sullivan was struck while trying to help a woman move her items outside of the home.

With Officer O'Sullivan down, the gunman continued to fire at officers which prevented any form of rescue. An armored vehicle arrived in response and officers were able to transport her to the hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

The standoff lasted for multiple hours until the gunman surrendered at 1:54 a.m.

Officer O'Sullivan was a recent graduate from Sacramento State's Law Enforcement Candidate Scholars Program. After which, she graduated from the Sacramento Police Academy.

"The loss of Officer O'Sullivan is devastating, grievous, and a reminder that police work invokes heartbreak," said Brad Houle, CAHP Credit Union President. "She displayed heroism while protecting an individual in our community. Her family, friends, and colleagues will always remember that she selflessly sacrificed her life to ensure the safety of another."

The CAHP Credit Union has established a memorial fund in honor of Officer Tara O'Sullivan. The CAHP Credit Union is covering all processing fees and administrative responsibilities.

Donations can be made on the CAHP Credit Union website <https://www.cahpcu.org/ficerTaraO-SullivanMemorialFund> or mailed to:

Officer Tara O'Sullivan Memorial Fund, CAHP Credit Union, P.O. Box 276507, Sacramento, CA 95827-6507

California Association of Highway Patrolmen (CAHP) Credit Union has a membership of over 18,000 and is dedicated to matching the integrity, judgement and courtesy displayed by our peace officer members every day, in providing financial services whenever and wherever they need access to CAHP Credit Union. ★

Sacramento County Recommended Budget Approved

**Kim Nava,
Sacramento County**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the \$4.4 billion recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

"Sacramento County's FY 2019-20 budget provided substantial challenges due in part to decreased state and federal revenues, significant costs around lawsuits and increased expenditures," said District 2 County Supervisor and Board Chair Patrick Kennedy. "We were able to weather these challenges with a balanced budget that minimizes the impact to critical services, without eliminating whole programs or services."

The County's General Fund and Restricted Funds budgets for FY 2019-20 totaled

\$2.7 billion in appropriations, which is a 4.2 percent increase over last year's total. Enterprise and special revenue funds comprise the remaining \$1.68 billion.

"We were able to recommend a balanced budget that avoided eliminating whole programs or services, limited the impact on Board-priority programs and avoided employee layoffs," said County Executive Nav Gill.

In spite of the growth of revenue, reductions in positions and programs were necessary due to lawsuit costs, investments in the jails in order to resolve a lawsuit around conditions of confinement, decreases in state and federal revenue for certain programs, as well as other obligations.

To close a general shortfall of \$55 million, Sacramento County recommended \$43 million

in reductions in General Fund Departments and \$12 million in General Fund reserves to bridge the gap.

General Fund departments identified a number of targeted program and position reductions. The reductions included the elimination of 181.3 FTE positions that were either vacant or, in a few cases, filled by employees who were shifted to other positions in the same class. No layoffs were necessary.

The budget also recognized areas of growth, including:

- \$21.7 million to make improvements to the County's jails as part of continuing efforts to resolve conditions of confinement concerns identified in a recent lawsuit;
- \$2.3 million in state and federal revenue to add 25 FTE positions in Child Support Services;
- \$1.2 million in 2011 Realignment

Local Innovation funds to add seven positions in Probation to establish a Pre-Trial Assessment and Monitoring Pilot Program; \$1 million set aside for costs related to the Hardesty/Schneider lawsuit against the County; \$3.5 million to add 29 FTE positions in Airports Department to handle the impact of increasing passenger and freight volume; and \$668,000 to cover the cost of postcards and postage for the March 2020 Primary Election, as required by state law.

The budget also continued funding for programs and services that were initiated over the last few years with Board approval, including:

- Homeless Initiatives: The FY 2019-20 Budget expands services in several areas using state and federal funding, for a total of a \$20 million budget for

Continued on page 3

Celebrate Recovery with Higher Power

Story by Shaunna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Higher Power Ministry hosts a recovery celebration at Lakeside Church in Folsom every Friday at 7:00 PM. Christian bands from a variety of genres such as blues, country, and rock and roll perform at the celebration. Lead Director of Recovery John Heath joked, “I turn the church into a nightclub every Friday night, with Jesus in the middle.”

A speaker talks to the group about recovery from addiction such as drugs, alcohol, gambling, food addictions, sexual addictions, workaholics, co-dependency, and self-harm. “These are life and death situations for the people that come in here, and there’s no such thing as a hopeless case,” said Heath. “We’re getting phenomenal results.”

Higher Power Ministry originated in 1992 at Central Peninsula Church in Foster City. Senior Pastor Jeff Farrar saw the need to help people overcome the addictions that were leading them to jail, institutions, and death. Pastor Steve Aurell, who was a ministry leader until his death in 2013, knew just how difficult it is to overcome addiction since he had once served 15 years in San Quentin Prison because of his own drug addiction. As Pastor of Recovery at Higher Power, Pastor Aurell saved many lives — including the life of John Heath.

Heath had a long history of addiction. During the early 1980s, at the height of the cocaine craze, Heath worked for the Cartel transporting drugs over the border. In 1983, after a serious overdose, he was admitted to the SHARE Unit in San Francisco, the nation’s first cocaine recovery center. He spent 60 days there, breaking medical records for the levels of cocaine in his system. Even after extensive treatment, his addiction continued for many years.



Women pray together at a Higher Power recovery celebration. Photo courtesy of John Heath

In addition to cocaine, he used alcohol, heroin, and eventually moved on to meth.

Heath’s wife sought guidance at Higher Power, and Pastor Aurell urged her to stand by her husband in his time of need. Heath said that Pastor Aurell “was responsible through God’s Grace for saving my life, marriage, and my family.” Heath started attending Higher Power

in 2006: “It was like no other church or place I had ever been. ... I felt comfortable in my skin for the first time in my life.”

After a year of sobriety, Pastor Aurell asked Heath to become a leader in the Higher Power Ministry. “I then knew that God had a sense of humor,” said Heath. After seeing firsthand all the good Higher Power had done for people in need, Heath

felt compelled to spread the message to other communities: “God tapped me on the shoulder and asked me to start a recovery church.”

Heath moved to Shingle Springs and spent a year in prayer. Then he met Pastor John Voelz at Lakeside Church, who invited him to use the church as the site of a new Higher Power Ministry. Heath said, “We are so

appreciative to Lakeside Church for allowing Higher Power to exist in Folsom and for letting us use their site to further our mission of helping those who are lost to addiction in the community.” Higher Power at Lakeside opened on July 7, 2017. “Seven, seven, seventeen — three sevens. I believe those are divine numbers,” said Heath.

“I started the ministry one person at a time,” Heath said. “We accept them however they are — high, drunk, or however they walk in.” Anyone who comes to the celebration can share with the group and seek help. “We stay there all night long if we need to,” he said. Higher Power Ministry leaders then follow up during the next week to offer additional help. If someone needs a recovery program, the leaders will find one for them. “We’re building a family,” said Heath. “It’s a huge support system.”

Many of the leaders are also recovering addicts, and Heath shares his story to inspire others to overcome their own struggles. Although Heath is not an ordained pastor, he found a way to ensure that Higher Power has a strong spiritual support system. He established an Elder Board comprised of two recovery pastors — each with 30 years of sobriety — who give spiritual advice and guidance. Heath said that Pastor Gary Freitas from Manteca and Pastor Dale Marsh from Oroville provide “spiritual direction, protection, and correction in the ministry.”

The events are open for anyone to attend. Heath said, “It’s a lot of fun. It’s not too churchy.” They serve free dinner, dessert, coffee, and other refreshments. Higher Power is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization; donation checks can be written to Higher Power Ministry and then mailed to Lakeside Church, 745 Oak Avenue Parkway, Folsom, CA 95630. ★

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High Public Engagement at Measure J Outreach Events

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At Village Park, the plan is to formalize the entrance and create more parking and safer sidewalks around the park. The public suggested picnic areas and more shade trees, as well as an expanded playground. The restrooms are up the hill from the playground, so a switchback ramp would improve access.

The kids’ workshop event gave young citizens the opportunity to provide their input about improvements to the playground at Village Park. They voted for their favorite designs, created their own playground drawings, built model playgrounds with Legos, looked through a wide array of playground equipment options, and took a 3D virtual playground tour.

Senior recreation leader Mary Cattolica said the event allowed them to “see through the eyes of a kid what’s attractive to them, since that’s who it’s for.”

Six-year-old Mary Crosariol said she would like a zip line in the park along with a “ginormous” slide.

Ben Woodside, a principal at Callander Associates,



Young artists created their own designs for the perfect playground.

said the consensus among parents is the desire for “a water feature, shade, and safety upgrades.”

The public engagement at the outreach events has been “amazing,” said District administrator Mike Aho. “It’s better than any I’ve ever done in my entire career.” Aho is happy to see so much interest in the projects, saying, “You voted for it; it’s your money. Now tell us how to spend it.”

The next outreach event will be a formal presentation at the Community Clubhouse (7997 California Ave.) on July

16 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Attendees can review the District’s Master Plan, ask questions, and offer feedback. Visit www.forpd.org, select the “About Us” tab, and click “Measure J” for more information.

The Measure J Bond Oversight Committee canceled their meetings for June and July so members can focus on attending outreach events to gather community input. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6 at 6:30 PM in the Old Fair Oaks Library, 4200 Temescal St. Meetings are open to the public. ★

Gilligan's Island: The Musical is Playing at Fair Oaks Theater

Fair Oaks Theater Festival

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Gilligan’s Island: The Musical is a family-friendly stage musical version of the ever popular and iconic 60’s TV comedy show, Gilligan’s Island. Shipwrecked on a remote Pacific Island, the seven castaways discover strange hieroglyphics in a spooky cave, which speak of an ancient legend.

The weather gets rough, Gilligan played by Danny Beldi foils the best-laid of the castaway’s rescue plans... romance developments between the professor played by David Guria Jr. and Ginger played by Analise Langford... the castaways including Thurston and Lovey played by Joe Hart and Chris Cay Steward, Mary Ann played Ashley Jeffers and of course the Skipper played by Jay Evans... all have an out-of-this-world encounter... it’s fun, wacky and entertaining with original, tuneful and memorable songs.

Directed by Michael Coleman. Choreographer is Natalie Quilici. Vocal



The cast of Gilligan’s Island from left to right: Ginger played by Analise Langford, Mary Ann played by Ashley Jeffers, Gilligan played by Danny Beldi and the Skipper played by Jay Evans. Courtesy Fair Oaks Theater Festival

Direction by Tracy Martin Shearer. Musical Director is Kirt Shearer. Words & Music: Hope and Laurence Juber, book by Sherwood Schwartz and Lloyd J Schwartz, based on the TV show “Gilligan’s Island” created by Sherwood Schwartz

Show runs June 14 – July 14 every Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Play starts at 8:00 pm. Ticket Prices: General: \$18

Students/Seniors/SARTA: \$15. Beer and Wine Sales. ★

Sacramento County Recommended Budget Approved

Continued from page 1

the initiatives. A \$700,000 reduction in funding for the Scattered Site Housing program subsidies (contractor did not need the full amount and placed families in federally funded housing slots). The remaining amount for the Scattered Site Housing program is \$2 million;

The Parkways and Unincorporated Communities Clean-up and Safety Initiative to reduce the incidence and mitigate the impact of illegal camping in the County’s parkways and unincorporated communities received continued funding with a reduced level of deputies on the Homeless Outreach Teams, reduced hours for the Parks Resource Team and eliminated funding for an animal control officer;

The intelligence-led policing model implemented by the Sheriff’s Department;

The Healthy Partners Program that provides healthcare services to undocumented immigrants;

A strategic plan to reduce disproportionate African-American child deaths through community-based

contracts and targeted staffing in Child Protective Services, Public Health and Probation;

Implementation of an Adult Supervision Model in Probation that will prioritize supervision and services for high-risk probationers in the first six months to a year of probation;

Behavioral Health Services enhancements to provide appropriate services to persons with serious drug and alcohol use disorders, reducing reliance on hospital emergency rooms, and ensuring that individuals experiencing a mental health crisis receive treatment in the most appropriate setting for their needs;

Continue to implement the Board-approved three-year MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) to expedite mental health services for individuals with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders and are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless;

Animal Care Initiatives focused on improving animal care, increased spay/neuter services and increasing the Bradshaw Shelter’s live release rate. The budget

recommends reductions in contracts and two positions, but the department expects to continue to maintain its high live release rate;

Efforts to reduce fire danger and illegal camping, increase debris removal and enhance the visitor experience in the American River Parkway and the County’s Regional Parks will continue with a reduced number of seasonal staff hours from 9,000 to 4,654;

For details, read the County Executive’s Budget Letter or view the budget documents on the Office of Budget and Debt Management;

The numbers on the Recommended Budget will change between now and September, when the County receives new information, including the impact of the State Budget and updated revenue totals. The Final Budget will come back to the Board of Supervisors in September for review and adoption.

By the numbers: \$4.4 B: Total Budget; \$1.8 B: General Fund; \$1.6 B: Enterprise and Special Revenue; \$918 M: Restricted Funds; 12,307: Number of Employees. ★

Fair Oaks Chamber Corner



By Dot Boyd, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - It’s heating up in Fair Oaks, and the hottest ticket in town was the sold-out 26th Annual a Taste of Fair Oaks event held at North Ridge Country Club on June 7th. It was a spectacular showcase of wineries, micro-breweries, restaurants, and even our local grocery stores, sampling out the best they have to offer. Chamber President and Committee Chairperson Roselyn Barbray stated, “I’m so grateful for another sold-out event and that the community continues to support it. We greatly appreciate our many sponsors, exhibitors, and donors, because we could not do this event without them,

year after year!” This is the Chamber’s largest, single fundraising event each year and this year did not disappoint with over 125 silent auction items, the wine wall, and other fun contests. The Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank will soon be awarded with a portion of the proceeds, to help our neighbors in need.

The race for our 42nd Honorary Mayor is heating up, too! Jacob Giorgi, President of House to Home Moving, is raising money for Adopt an Elder Foundation, a local non-profit organization supporting low income seniors; and Matthew Mason, a June 2019 graduate of Bella Vista and the youngest candidate in history, is raising money for the BV Visual Arts Department. Come join in the fundraising fun at their many events this summer and feel good knowing that your contributions stay right here in our community, making a difference for others. The candidate which raises the most money by early September will have bragging rights! Since its inception in 1979, candidates have raised over

\$435,000 for various causes and projects in our community!

It’s not too hot to come out and enjoy this summer’s Concerts in the Park! Bring your lawn chair and leave the cooking to us because your purchases of pizza (generously donated to us by Del’s Pizza), hot dogs, popcorn and ice cream sundaes raise funds for Fair Oaks! Concerts, which are free, run every Thursday through August 22nd (except July 4th), from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm in Fair Oaks Village Park.

None of these events would be possible without the countless volunteers from our member businesses, sponsors, community partners and YOU! This year alone, we have added twenty five new members to the Chamber and we encourage you to check out our on-line Business Directory before you shop, enlist a service, or dine out. We appreciate your continued support! Please visit <https://www.fairoakschamber.com/> for all of the details or contact Kim at info@fairoakschamber.com.

See you in Fair Oaks! ★

Enjoy! Kid’s Bike Festival, Concerts in the Park

Mary Cattolica, Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Join the Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District for a festival celebrating kids and their love for bicycles! Kids can challenge their friends in a race around our track, ride around for fun in our bike park, and participate in our skill challenges. The Festival will be packed with a variety of bike-themed carnival games and activities, along with vendors, a special appearance from our mascot Rocky the Rooster and much more! Be sure to bring your helmet and a positive attitude for this awesome event! Last year’s event brought nearly 50 racers and was a huge success, so come be a part of it this year!

The event will take place on Sunday July 14, 2019, from 9am-12pm at Phoenix Park; 9050 Sunset Ave.

Festival Activities Include: Kid’s Fun Zone, Bike Racing (registration required), Skill Challenges, and Bike Safety Stations. Race registration is available now: \$7 pre-registration, \$10 day of registration. Visit www.forpd.org for full event details include race information and skill challenges.

Thank you to our



Kids can challenge their friends in a race around our track, ride around for fun in our bike park, and participate in our skill challenges.

Sponsors: Fair Oaks Family Taekwondo and Sacramento Waldorf School.


Concerts in the Village Park on Thursdays at 6:30pm-9:00pm

The Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District, the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce, and the Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts

proudly present the 2019 “Concerts in the Park” series. Concerts in the Park is a free series of concerts for the Fair Oaks community. It’s an opportunity for families to come together to enjoy a relaxing summer evening in the park. Come dressed up on theme nights in your best digs for a chance to win prizes! ★

Concerts in the Village Park Thursdays at 6:30pm-9:00pm


- 7.11 - Swing Masters
- 7.18 - Tom Rigney and the Flambeau – Mardi Gras Theme Night
- 7.25 - Hipper Than Hip
- 8.1 - Jim Anderson & the Rebels– Elvis Theme Night
- 8.8 - Keep on Truckin'
- 8.15 - Journey Revisited– 80’s Theme Night
- 8.22 - On Air (Sponsors Night)



Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Years ago when I began my search to know, love God and follow Him a short chorus penetrated my heart and periodically returns to my memory. The words hold significant meaning in the prayer of my heart that has not changed in nearly fifty years.

Here they are:
“To be used of God, to sing to speak, to pray To be used of God to show someone the way. I long so much to feel the touch of His embrace To be used of God is my desire this day.”

The privilege of “writing for God” is an adventure into “writing with God” that takes one into experiencing His very presence and hearing a profound voice within the soul. It far exceeds any ideas, vocabulary words and phrases common to this writer. Humbly, it is like having the Spirit of God, living within as a believer and hearing His voice speak to and through us as we write. Our writing no longer becomes just our

To Be Used Of God Is What I Pray

message, but His message of love He wishes to convey to the world.
We may paint the words on paper, but we are full aware what we have been honored to use pen on paper that is truly something beyond ourselves. We write it out in obedience, with a grateful heart. He allows us to gracefully place the word author after our name, but we know God is the true author. Our prayer is that the words will bring honor and glory to God who deserves them.
The closest I can relate to is listening to a minister of God’s Word teach and preach the Word with profound clarity. Listening to the message the minister is filled with God’s Holy Spirit and acutely aware God is using him to speak directly to the needs of someone’s heart. His message clearly moves in hearts of the hearers to make changes in their lives to become more like Jesus Christ in their daily walk. Possibly some people come forward for prayer at the altar call. Even the Pastor himself is amazed at the words that flowed from his lips as he used the authoritative scriptures he had studied and prayed over as the power of God moved within him in new and fresh way to reach the people. He was humbled by the experience!
And isn’t that what all of us who have the Lord and serve Him desire to experience? To touch a heart that is ready to make the most

important decision of their life by accepting God’s Beloved Son as their personal Savior and Lord of their lives? Receiving the gift of eternal life and having a peace within that surpasses anything they have ever known! To be a witness of someone’s personal surrender and commitment of their lives to a life of obedience, following the teachings set forth for all of us in the Holy Bible. We, along with the angels of God rejoice in seeing someone being transformed as one willingly submits to God’s Word by the renewing of their mind. What an honor and privilege we have to reach and touch a life, so they might ultimately experience the abundant life promised by God.
“Writing for God” we learn there is no beginning and no end. He always was and He will always be! The One we call God has many names and His names most always refer to something He did or does in relations to His Sovereign Design and Will.
His Name is God. He IS Wonderful, counselor, Jehovah, Father, Mighty King, Almighty, Master, Creator, Friend, Lord, Yahweh, Messiah, Living Word, Alpha and Omega and so much more!

Marlys Johnsen Norris
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PO Box 114, Orangevale, Ca ★



By Pastor Ray Dare

God knows everything about you. He’s intimately acquainted with you. First God knows all your feelings and frustrations. Maybe you’re hurting. Maybe you have been saying, “No one understands me.” God understands you completely. He sees your hurt. He has recorded every tear; He has kept them in a bottle. Every time you cried yourself to sleep, He has seen it. He loves you and He’s very much aware of all that has happened in your life. That means you can look to Him for comfort and look to Him for strength.
God knows your future. He’s already been there. He knows the end from the beginning. Nothing will catch Him by surprise. If you’re married, one day one of you is going to die first. One of us will lose a mate first, we’ll lose our partner.

Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

What God Knows About You

That can be an incredibly devastating time. The fact is, God already knows when it’s going to happen, and God is preparing already for that event. God knows all about your future, so you ask Him for wisdom and guidance.
God knows your worries. What are you afraid of? Are you afraid of a health issue? Are you afraid that your needs will not be met? The Bible says your Heavenly Father knows. He knows what you need. And He will take care of you. Instead of worrying, start trusting; instead of panicking, pray. He knows your needs.
God knows all your faithfulness. Are you discouraged by trying to do what’s right? You think, “I’ve been trying to do what the Bible says but I don’t know if it’s paying off and I don’t think anybody appreciates it!” God appreciates it and He will reward you. He sees your faithfulness and He’s the one who counts. God sees it all, so keep on serving, keep on being faithful and he will reward you.
The most amazing thing in life is this; God knows

about our faults and failures and He still loves you. “My sins, O God, are not hidden from you; you know how foolish I have been.” Ps. 69:5 (GN) Our job is to admit our sins to ourselves and to God -- come clean – I ask God to forgive us. Remember that He already knows about it and He still loves you. So when you admit it to Him it’s not going to change the way He feels about you. That’s called grace! So, there’s nothing to hide; you can always be honest with God.
Nobody knows you like God does. He knows you better than you know yourself. And nobody loves you like God does, so you don’t have to worry about your future; God already knows it and He’s going to take care of you. Give your worries to God today. Continue serving Him and doing the right thing because He sees it all and one day will reward you.
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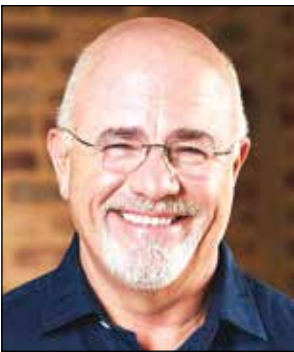
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Budget Billing for Utilities?

Dear Dave,
I'm just starting my debt-free journey and trying to lay out a budget. What are your thoughts on budget billing for utilities? –Ryan
Dear Ryan,
I think it’s wonderful! There’s absolutely nothing wrong with it at all. For a lot of folks, especially those in your situation, it helps smooth out utility payments and make them a little more manageable.
In most budget billing scenarios, they add up your utility bill for the last 12 months and divide that total by twelve to determine a fixed billing amount for the next twelve months. It can make things so much easier when you’re first starting to

Dave Ramsey Says

live on a budget, and you don’t have a lot of wiggle room where your finances are concerned.
I’m glad you’re taking steps to get control of your money, Ryan. You can do this! –Dave
Emergency Fund for Business?
Dear Dave,
I have my own small business. My annual sales are just over \$100,000, and I have a couple of months in administrative and general expenses set aside. Should I have an emergency fund for my company, too? If so, how much? –Taylor
Dear Taylor,
This is a great question! I like the idea of a small business having six months of expenses set aside in an emergency fund. A financial cushion like that provides peace of mind and options. Also, it eliminates the need for borrowing money. With that kind of cash sitting around, you basically become your own line of

credit.
When it comes to personal finance, I usually recommend setting aside an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses—depending on a person’s overall financial condition. But the basic idea is the same, regardless of whether you’re talking about personal finance or the financial health of your small business.
An entrepreneur has enough to worry about on a day-to-day basis. Having a fully-funded emergency fund for your business can turn a disaster into nothing more than a minor inconvenience! –Dave
Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 14 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey. ★

Find Puzzles on Page 6

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9	2	3	5	6	1	4	7	8
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Capitol Pops Concert Band Celebrates America's Birthday

By Linda Glover,
Capitol Pops Concert Band

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The Capitol Pops Concert Band will celebrate America's 243rd birthday and continue its 23rd season with a pair of free and open to the public, family-friendly concerts during Independence Day week.

The band will get things going with a spirited "Celebrate America" concert from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, June 30, 2019, at Fair Oaks Village Park, 4238 Main St., in Fair Oaks.

On Thursday, July 4, 2019, the Capitol Pops once again will perform its outdoor Fourth of July concert, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Royer Park, 190 Park Drive, in Roseville. The band's annual performance is part of a full day of red, white and blue festivities, including a morning parade in Roseville. This concert is sponsored by Performing Arts of Roseville as part of its 2019 Roseville Music in the Park series.

Under the baton of Director Judith Steinle,

both Capitol Pops concerts will include a mix of fresh pops tunes, some of the band's traditional American popular standards and familiar patriotic selections celebrating the nation's founding in 1776. The concerts also will include music recognizing service veterans and branches of the U.S. military. Both shows will include intermissions of about 15 minutes.

Concert-goers are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs and refreshments to enjoy the performances on the grounds of both venues. Various vendors will be at both sites. Started in 1997, the Capitol Pops Concert Band has performed a diverse portfolio of high-quality, well-prepared music heard by thousands of concert-goers throughout Northern California. Based in Citrus Heights, the self-supporting, nonprofit community band of about 50 musicians represents a wide cross-section of the Sacramento area.

For more details on the Capitol Pops Concert Band, visit its Facebook page or www.capitolpops.org. ★




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with Mary Jane Popp

True Declaration

Thought we'd have some fun with a bunch of 'did you know's' about the Declaration of Independence since July 4th is just around the corner. These are some fun facts I learned about the document that spells out what our country is all about. So let's get going with a fact that most people never think about when they are going to parades and having those tasty picnics like... the Declaration was signed on July 4, 1776, right? Not really. Independence was formally declared on July 2, 1776. The Continental Congress approved the final text on July 4 and it was not signed til August 2, 1776. Remember the thirteen colonies did not have rapid transit to get back to do their thing.

Now, I did not know that there was a five-man committee approved by the Continental Congress to pull it all together...made up of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston

and Roger Sherman. Was I living in another country? Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman never rang my bell. But facts are facts. And here's one. Robert Livingston never signed the Declaration. He believed it was too soon to declare independence and just refused to sign.

Of course EVERYONE knows about Thomas Jefferson. He wrote the first draft. You'd think he was a genius and nothing else needed to be done. Oh contraire. Other members of the committee and the Continental Congress made 86 changes to Jefferson's draft and reduced the length of it by a fourth. Was he happy? No way! He had included language condemning the British promotion of slave trade (even though he himself was a slave owner). This criticism of slave trade was removed in spite of Jefferson's objections.

Now I have always wondered how Jefferson came up with this incredible document. It seems that he drew upon two sources. One was his own draft of a preamble to the Virginia constitution and George Mason's draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. That's another name

not in my history mind. On December 13, 1952 the Declaration of Independence (along with the Constitution and Bill of Rights) was formally delivered to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. where it has remained since then. And I thought this was very ironic. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the approval of the Declaration of Independence. They had done their job! And there were these immortal words uttered by John Adams about this special date. He believed this date would be "the most memorable epocha in the history of America."

So when you are out with family and friends on this FUN day, please take a moment to think about what this document means to us 243 years later. It gives us the freedoms we take for granted, and what our forefathers and foremothers too, sacrificed so we could enjoy all these freedoms. They put their lives in jeopardy so that we, the future generations, could enjoy the lives we live today!

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!!!! ★

County Receives Grants For Two Housing Sites

By Janna Haynes,
Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County is pleased to announce that funding for two proposed permanent supportive housing developments for persons experiencing homelessness has been awarded by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The No Place Like Home (NPLH) program funding, totaling nearly \$13 million in new money for Sacramento, will provide permanent housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and who are living with a serious mental illness.

Sacramento County's successful applications in the State's first competitive funding round were the result of a collaborative effort with the development sponsors, the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, and the cities where the developments are located.

The two new housing facilities, Sunrise Pointe and Capitol Park Hotel, will result in 180 new housing units for persons experiencing homelessness, 87 of which will be dedicated for persons that also have a serious mental health illness and need services (designated NPLH units). Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health Services has committed to providing mental health treatment services to the designated NPLH units for a minimum of 20 years. "This is a priority for Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services. Investing in permanent, stable housing is critical for our consumers' recovery," said Ryan Quist, Ph.D., Sacramento County Behavioral Health Director.

Sunrise Pointe is a new construction project located at 7424 Sunrise Boulevard in Citrus Heights and consists of 47 one- two- and three-bedroom units. Of these, 22 will be designated NPLH units. All units will serve families and individuals experiencing homelessness. The site will be developed and operated by Jamboree Housing and Hope Cooperative (aka TLCS, Inc.) respectively.

"We are grateful for No Place Like Home funding to support this important project in the Citrus Heights community," said Erin Johansen, Hope Cooperative executive director. "Sunrise Pointe is a collaboration between Hope Cooperative and Jamboree Housing that will provide 47-units of much-needed permanent, stable housing for individuals and families in need. Hope Cooperative will provide on-site Residential Service Coordinators who will work closely with residents in accessing a variety of resources including job training, budgeting and other needed services, as well as an on-site property manager. This project will help people live successfully in the community and is an essential step in ending the cycle of homelessness in the Sacramento region."

"Jamboree has a long, rich history of effectively utilizing new state resources in order to create more affordable and supportive housing," said Laura Archuleta, President and CEO of Jamboree Housing Corporation. "We are thrilled to have successfully partnered with Sacramento County and

recovery," said Ryan Quist, Ph.D., Sacramento County Behavioral Health Director.

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Hope Cooperative in securing more than \$3 million from the new No Place Like Home program for the development of Sunrise Pointe. This funding will be instrumental in addressing the region's affordable and supportive housing needs, and will positively transform and strengthen the Citrus Heights community for years to come."

Capitol Park Hotel is a rehabilitation project located at 1125 9th Street in downtown Sacramento. This development will be an acquisition and rehabilitation of a historic building and will include 134 units for households experiencing homelessness. Of these, 65 will be designated NPLH units. The site will be developed and operated by Mercy Housing California (MHC).

"We are thrilled with the huge step the proposed permanent supportive housing at Capitol Park Hotel has taken this week with the award from HCD," said Stephen Daves, Regional Director of Mercy Housing California. "We have a lot of work remaining, but this provides the momentum needed to secure the remaining funding."

"The Courtyard Inn transformation is well underway and only delayed by one month after enduring the heavy spring rains and the many surprises that come with striping the building down to the studs." Daves says, "The rebuilding stage is now underway and handing over keys to the new apartment homes for 92 formerly homeless households is well within sight."

Source: Sacramento County Media ★

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By County Supervisor Susan Peters

Through the generosity of *The American River Messenger* this column serves to provide an update about matters affecting the unincorporated community of Fair Oaks.

SHERIFF TO TARGET ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

The Sheriff’s Department will be conducting a dedicated illegal fireworks enforcement shift between 6 pm and 2 am from July 2 – 4 to address scofflaws who endanger themselves and others through the use of illegal fireworks.

Ten teams of two deputies per team will be targeting areas of the unincorporated area known for past illegal fireworks activity. Besides having law enforcement’s commitment to have “boots on the ground,” the District Attorney’s Office is in full support of this effort and will prosecute offenders.

Sacramento County will be actively pursuing illegal fireworks offenders and citing violators to the maximum penalties allowed

FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY UPDATE

by California Health and Safety Code Sections 12500 – 12728 which can include up to one year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$1,000 for a misdemeanor offense. Large quantities of dangerous fireworks can be charged as a felony with penalties of up to three years in state prison and fines as high as \$50,000.

A big thank you goes to TNT Fireworks and Phantom Fireworks which have offered to assist with funding half of this targeted enforcement effort.

ALCOHOL BAN KEEPS PARKWAY FAMILY FRIENDLY

If you are planning to enjoy the American River Parkway over the Fourth of July, there will be a complete ban on alcohol consumption and possession both on land and in the water between Hazel and Watt avenues (Ancl Hoffman Golf Course).

In past years summer holidays had become major problems along the American River due to excessive alcohol consumption making the parkway less of a family friendly outing because of fights, public nudity, profanity and littering.

Besides Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, the restriction is also applicable for Independence Day. In addition, the Board of Supervisors delegated authority to the Director of Regional Parks in consultation with the County

Executive the ability to prohibit alcohol in the Parkway on any additional days between Memorial Day and Labor Day when such a ban is needed to maintain order to address excessive alcohol consumption encouraged by social media.

USE ONLY SAFE & SANE FIREWORKS

Because of risk of fire danger, please only use those fireworks that have been certified as “safe and sane” when celebrating this year’s Independence Day.

Dangerous illegal fireworks like aerial shells and other flying devices pose a significant fire hazard, potentially allowing sparks to fall onto roofs and dry brush. If you are aware about illegal fireworks being used, please call the Sheriff via the non-emergency number 874-5115 or if an emergency situation exists dial 911.

And even “safe and sane” fireworks can pose a hazard if abused or not exercised with good judgment. Fire officials advise that you should set off fireworks far from dry grass or vegetation, and soak used fireworks in water.

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Susan Peters represents the Third District on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. She can be reached at susanpeters@sacounty.net. ★



By County Supervisor Sue Frost

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

One of the more common reasons that people call my office is to plead for help in getting junky/abandoned vehicles removed from their neighborhood. People will purchase cars/RVs in horrible condition for extremely cheap, run them into the ground, then leave them to rot on a residential street. Many decide to use that broken-down vehicle as their home. They know the County cannot legally tow a vehicle unless it has been stationary for over 72 hours, so they drive the vehicle (or tow if non-operational) a few feet down the road to restart the 72 hours. This is a practice that angers residents, reduces available parking spaces, and greatly adds to the amount of blight.

So imagine my surprise when I found out recently that there is a bill (AB 516) swiftly moving through the California Legislature that would eliminate the enforcement tools Sacramento County uses to address these motorists who disregard

Orangevale Community Update

Towing Away Local Control

basic laws designed to benefit the entire community. Specifically, it removes our ability to tow a vehicle for being stationary for 72+ hours, in addition to removing our ability to tow for having 5+ parking tickets or registration that has been expired for 6+ months.

If passed, this will allow people to live in front of homes and businesses in our neighborhood, in unregistered vehicles with unpaid tickets and expired registration, for as long as they want. I am staunchly opposed to this proposal, and will be doing everything in my power to stop it.

I have heard from some constituents who tell me they believe the 72-hour window is a bit too short, and unsuspecting residents may be getting unfairly penalized. But the 72-hour parking enforcement notice is almost always triggered by a complaint from a local resident or business when cars appear abandoned or haven’t moved for an extended period of time. By the time the County responds and issues the 72-hour notice, the vehicle has already been abandoned there for days, if not weeks.

I do recognize that this bill would provide some financial relief to an individual who chronically ignores parking violations, but I strongly feel that benefit is far outweighed by the cost it has to the greater good of the community. It is extremely frustrating to get a ticket or have your

car impounded, but it is also frustrating for communities when they have to deal with increased blight.

I am also upset with the message this law would send, as it rewards people who fail to adhere to reasonable policies aimed at keeping our communities clean and safe. This is a worrying trend that is happening in California, where we seem to be rewarding bad behavior. I not only find this morally wrong, but I also believe it encourages more of this type of behavior in the future, greatly exacerbating the problem.

The AB 516 has already passed through the Assembly, but still has to be passed in the Senate, where I think it has a much harder time getting passed. I am working at getting Sacramento County to formally oppose the bill, and will be speaking with the Senators who overlap with my district about why they should oppose the bill as well. I will keep you updated later in the year when I have more information.

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@sacounty.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. ★

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Hot Fireworks Season in Store for Area

By David Dickstein

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and ... crazy bugs?

If TNT Fireworks has its way this Fourth of July, area revelers will embrace cracked creepy-crawlies as a new symbol of Americana for the nation's 243rd birthday. Crazy Bug Fountain is one of nine fireworks debuting this season by the two largest distributors of consumer fireworks.

The pyro-passionate period runs June 28 through July 4 in Sacramento County. Roseville, Rocklin and Lincoln in Placer County are also among the 295 jurisdictions that allow consumer fireworks in the Golden State.

TNT is rolling out a handful of new fountains in addition to Crazy Bug, which, despite its name, shows promise as a sane addition to your private display. Priced at \$29.99, the fun-labeled firework features a multi-effect performance of colorful sparks and crackling flowers. Rounding out TNT's newbies are crackle-charged Laser Master, \$24.99; effect-loaded Freedom, \$19.99; colorful Main Squeeze, \$14.99; whistle-happy Hot Point, \$14.99; and spaced-out USA Rocket Fountain, a buy-one-get-one for \$8.99.

Phantom Fireworks is coming out with three new fountains this season. Sold as a



State-approved fireworks of all shapes, sizes and price points are a big fund-raiser for area non-profits from June 28 through the Fourth of July. Photo: David Dickstein.

bundle for \$39.99, the trio makes up Phantom's newly branded "Super Hero Series," not to be confused with superhero The Phantom. Each has a different shape and name, and valiant sounding they are: Professor Flame, Iron Master and Majestic Lightning.

Returning from last year's impressive freshman class are Phantom's delightful Red White & Blue Jubilee (\$25.99) and long-lasting Illuminati Triangle, still a solid deal at \$39.99 with a Brew Haha or Dragon's Tears fountain thrown in. TNT's response is an exceptionally strong sophomore lineup, headlined by the dazzling Tasmanian

Cyclone (\$39.99), super-charged Wild Side (\$25.99) and intense Electrolytes (\$29.99 for two).

A third player, Discount Fireworks Superstore, will have a few stands in the area. Brands carried by DFS include Winda, Black Cat, Showtime, Brothers and Freedom.

Because state-approved consumer fireworks can only be sold in California by non-profit organizations, hundreds of the county's 501c3s are banking on big profits from pyrotechnics peddled to the patriotic and philanthropic. Volunteers will be braving the summer heat to do such good as sending kids to church

camp, suiting up youth sports teams and getting adolescents off drugs.

Working in the groups' favor this year is the day on which the Fourth of July falls. A Thursday Independence Day is a friend to the fireworks industry, contrary to a Wednesday which is traditionally a one-day holiday for America's workforce. U.S. resellers generally reported flat sales in 2018 due to the hump day holiday.

"Thursday is a great day for the Fourth of July," said Cathy Castilone, Sacramento-based vice president of American Promotional Events, the wholesale distributor for state-approved TNT fireworks. "Many people take the next day off when the fourth is on a Thursday."

The competition concurs. Jeff Kreman, Phantom's Northern California regional manager, said he expects sales to increase from last year.

"A lot of companies will give employees Friday off, and when the Fourth falls on a four-day weekend sales are good," said Kreman, also based in Sacramento.

Be sure to check local laws and take all safety measures before buying and lighting.

For stand locations, visit the websites for TNT (www.tntfireworks.com), Phantom (www.fireworks.com) and Discount Fireworks Superstore (www.dfsfireworks.com).

★

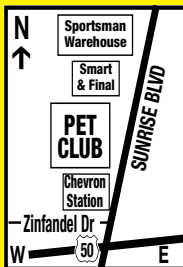


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