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Homelessness
to Hope**

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Arden Arcade News

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Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

OCTOBER 6, 2023

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We Can Do It Together



Role models at the Aerospace Museum's "We can Do it Together" event include Karen Jones (left), Karen Mogus, Erin Donnette, Meghan Roberts, Cathy Cook, Heidi Sanborn, Rashel Cedeno de Abreu, Lauren Grindstaff and Amber Motley. The open day encourages STEAM-based education for young women.

**Story and photos
by Susan Maxwell
Skinner**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Almost 1000 teenage girls recently flocked to the Aerospace Museum of California's third annual "We Can Do It Together" open day.

Free to middle and high school students, the event aimed to introduce its visitors to STEAM (science,

technology, engineering, art and math) careers. One attraction was the opportunity to meet role models who have succeeded in STEAM fields. Architects, pilots and women making waves in energy, medicine, dentistry and construction discussed their careers.

The teens had free range of museum exhibits, including artifacts from aviation's early years. They also got handy with STEAM-based

activities like Alka Seltzer rocket art, making wind turbines and designing their own space craft.

"Our 'We Can Do It Together' events take Rosie the Riveter as an example of what was achieved by women during WW 11," explained Aerospace Museum Advancement Director Karen Jones. "Rosie was all about strength, determination and breaking the mold. We want

girls to know they can be anything they want to be. The sky is their limit – and beyond. We want them to aim high and dream big."

Event sponsors included: Aerojet Rocketdyne; Boeing; Girl Scouts; Carmichael Kiwanis, San Juan and Twin Rivers School Districts; SAFE Credit Union; SMUD. Learn about Aerospace Museum events at www.aerospaceCA.org ★

Nature on Parade



Nature educator Gabe Kerschner will bring a menagerie of animal ambassadors to interact with kids to the NatureFest event at Effie Yeaw Nature Center on October 8. A red-tailed hawk Tawny will be among visiting critters.

**Story and photo
by Susan Maxwell
Skinner**

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Birds, reptiles and

marsupials will be among educators during the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's NatureFest event. The October 8 event is the center's

largest educational open day of the year.

Among visiting presenters will be Gabe Kerschner, who runs an animal sanctuary

in Placer County. His rescued animals are stars of hundreds of school programs. They include an alligator, a

Continued on Page 10

Secured Property Tax Bills Mailed This Month

**Sacramento County
News Release**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County will mail about 481,774 secured property tax bills which are payable beginning November 1, 2023. These tax bills are mailed only once a year; however, property owners may pay their bills in two installment payments:

The first installment payment is due on November 1, 2023. Payments will be accepted without penalty until 5 p.m. on December 11, 2023; The second installment payment is due on February 1, 2024. Payments will be accepted without penalty until 5 p.m. on April 10, 2024; Both installments may be paid when the first installment is due. A reminder notice will not be mailed for the second installment.

Taxpayers may sign up for online e-mail notifications for annual secured property tax bills and reminders before delinquent dates. Choose "e-Subscribe for property tax payment notifications" to receive these notifications.

Payments can be made online via credit card or electronic check. Taxpayers may print tax bill installment payment stubs to mail in with their payments. Taxpayers may also pay by credit card or electronic check over the telephone at (844) 430-2823. There is a convenience fee for credit and debit cards. Electronic checks are free.

Payment can be made in person at the Sacramento County Tax Collector's Office at 700 H Street, Room 1710, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. In-person payments can be paid via cash, check, credit card, debit card or money order. A convenience fee will apply for credit card and debit card transactions.

Payments can be sent via mail to P.O. Box 508, Sacramento, CA 95812-0508. The Tax Collector accepts and processes payments based on the postmark date. Payments

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Keep Your Pets Safe During a Disaster



These seven steps can help ensure that all family members – including our beloved pets—are ready to face an emergency together. MPG Stock Photo

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - As September unfolds, it's not only a time when the seasons begin to change, but also a poignant reminder that preparedness is a vital aspect of responsible pet ownership. September, designated as National Preparedness Month, serves as a timely prompt to underscore the importance of preparing for emergencies that can impact our furry companions. While many of us diligently stock up on emergency supplies and develop evacuation plans for our families, it's equally crucial to extend this preparedness to our beloved pets. After all, they are not just animals, but cherished members of our households, relying on us for their safety and well-being when unforeseen disasters strike.

- Pet parents should follow seven quick steps to ensure their pet's safety during an emergency:
- (1) Ensure your pet can be identified by both a microchip and collar ID tag, and that contact information is up-to-date. Pet owners can talk to their current veterinarians about microchipping their pets, or they can visit a clinic hosted by Bradshaw Animal Shelter;
 - (2) Prepare a "Pet Emergency Go-Kit" of pet supplies and make sure it is readily accessible in an emergency;
 - (3) Display a pet rescue decal on your front door or window to let first responders know there is a pet in the house. Include your veterinarian's contact information.
 - (4) Learn where your pet likes to hide in your house when frightened. Finding your pet quickly will help you evacuate faster;
 - (5) Identify a location to take your pet if you need to leave your immediate area. Keep in mind that disaster shelters for people may not be open to pets. Scout hotels and motels with pet-friendly policies in advance and ask relatives or friends if they could house you and your pet;
 - (6) Carry pictures of your pet in the event of separation. Pictures should be high-resolution and well-lit so that your pet is easily identifiable;
 - (7) If you need to evacuate, consider taking a pet carrier or crate for transport and safe-keeping.
- These seven steps can help ensure that all family members – including our beloved pets—are ready to face an emergency together. Families looking to learn more about disaster preparedness and safety for family members both two- and four-legged can visit the Ready Campaign website. ★

SAFE CU Appoints New SVP of Information Technology

SAFE Credit Union

FOLSOM, CA (MPG) - Experienced IT professional Michelle Bradshaw joins SAFE CU as Senior Vice President, Information Technology.

With over 27 years of technology leadership experience, Bradshaw most recently served as SVP, Enterprise Product Management for Global Credit Union, one of the nation's largest credit unions with over 750,000 members.

"This position plays a vital role in executing our business strategy," says SAFE EVP and Chief Technology Officer, Michael McCarthy. "After an extensive search, I am pleased we have found a true leader in the field who can drive our increasingly complex IT needs as SAFE grows and expands our digital capabilities."

As part of a corporate reorganization effort announced in January, Bradshaw will lead several key teams including Core Applications, IT Operations, and Business Transformation.

"I'm incredibly passionate about aligning technology with business objectives and culture. I am so impressed with SAFE's commitment to their members and to engaging within



SAFE Credit Union SVP, IT Michelle Bradshaw. Courtesy photo

the communities they serve," says Bradshaw. "That strong moral compass and deeply rooted values are the foundation I look forward to building upon as SAFE aligns its IT strategy and expands into the future."

Bradshaw shares SAFE's commitment to giving back to the community through volunteer service. She is the current chair of the board of directors of Live & Learn, a Maricopa County based non-profit committed to empowering women experiencing poverty, violence, and homelessness to break the cycle through education, training, and support. Bradshaw brings her leadership and empathy to the organization with programs including bridging the digital divide and implementing neighborhood grants.

For more information about SAFE Credit Union SVP, IT Michelle Bradshaw, or to schedule an interview, contact SAFE Credit Union Vice President of Corporate Communications Micah Grant at micah.grant@safecu.org or (323) 868-9067. ★

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Matsui Announces \$3.18M for Heritage Oaks Park Improvement Project

Office of
Congresswoman
Doris Matsui

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Wednesday, September 20, 2023, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (CA-07) and the City of West Sacramento announced over \$3.18 million in federal funding for the City’s Heritage Oaks Park Improvement Project.

“The close partnership between the federal government and the City of West Sacramento is crucial to ensure we inject federal dollars directly into our community,” said Congresswoman Matsui. “Parks bring people together – they invigorate our community and enrich residents’ lives. That’s why I am proud to advocate for our cities at the federal level and ensure they get the resources they need to deliver this kind of transformative project.”

“The City’s Heritage Oaks

Park plan presents a unique opportunity to craft a park space that celebrates a rare native grove of heritage oaks while providing our residents with access to nature and wildlife as well as other recreational and educational opportunities,” said West Sacramento Mayor Martha Guerrero. “This funding will help bring that vision to reality, and we can’t thank Congresswoman Matsui enough for her leadership in delivering vital resources to the West Sacramento community.”

The City’s Heritage Oaks Park Improvement Project will bring an outdoor amphitheater, public plaza park entrance, prefabricated restroom building, interactive water feature, playground area, shade feature, fencing, walking paths with fitness stations, elevated boardwalk, BMX skills course, skate plaza, and a demonstration/community garden. This project will also include a parking

lot expansion with paving, landscaping, and the installation of benches, drinking fountain, trash receptacles, bike racks and picnic tables. These improvements will provide a variety of new outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all ages and physical abilities that will support local recreation needs and serve as a regional destination.

The funding comes from the U.S. National Park Service’s Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State and Local Assistance Program. The program provides matching grants for local and state park projects outside national park boundaries. Ranging from active recreation facilities to natural areas, funds can be used to renovate existing sites, develop new facilities, acquire land for state and local parks and promote statewide recreation planning. The total grant amount is \$3,182,700. ★



The rendering has the City of West Sacramento credit in the design

Sacramento

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Music Director

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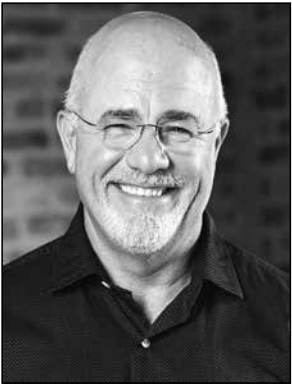
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Helping Take Care of Mom

Dear Dave,

My mother-in-law is 85, and she's had some health setbacks recently. The family got together with her, and as a group, we decided it was time to sell her property and move her into an apartment at a nice senior living facility. She should see a little over \$300,000 from the sale of her house. Aside from that, she has about \$10,000 in a savings account. The problem is, she'll only receive \$2,100 a month in Social Security, and rent at the facility is \$2,600 per month. Plus she loves making donations to charities. With interest rates where they are, is a CD ladder a good place to put the money to help her cash flow expenses in the future?

— Ed

Dear Ed,

If this were my mother-in-law, I'd want her to do better than a CD (certificate of deposit) ladder. Even with the deficit between her Social

Dave Ramsey Says

Security income and the cost of rent, she'll only need to see \$6,000 a year from the investment to make up the difference. And plus, she's 85. Even if she got nothing in terms of interest, the chances of her burning all the way through her nest egg before she dies are almost zero. I know the thought of her passing away isn't pleasant, but it's something you have to take into consideration.

As far as the charities go? Right now, she's the charity. Maybe not in the traditional sense of the word, but it's time for mom to come first. Only the strong can help the weak. I didn't let my toddlers carry our newborn. And when it comes to money, you've got to have the financial strength—the free and clear assets—to carry others. Take care of your own household first. That's her responsibility at this point.

Ed, you're not going to mess this up unless you put the money in crypto, or something stupid like that. If you want to do some high-yield savings as a part of it, that's fine. If it were me, I'd probably end up investing some of it too. Here's the thing: Overall, if you could make 8% on it, that's \$2,000 a month, and it lasts indefinitely. That's not even

touching the principal. But like I said before, even if you make nothing on it, just divide \$6,000 into \$300,000. See what I mean? It's probably going to last as long as she does.

Of course, there may be some other medical bills, and you'd probably want her to have a life other than just paying bills. That's why I'd like to see that extra \$2,000 a month happening. It would provide a little cushion. And there may be a few other little things from time to time the family would have to pick up, but that's not unusual in a situation like this.

You all can make this work for her. Just don't be super aggressive, but don't be super conservative either.

— Dave

**Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show." He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company Ramsey Solutions. ★*

SacRT Awarded \$4.4M for Infrastructure Projects

SacRT News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a total of \$4.4 million in state grant funding for three projects aimed at enhancing transportation infrastructure and addressing climate change impacts within the Sacramento region. These grants underscore SacRT's commitment to sustainable and accessible transit options across the region.

The grant awards are as follows:

Strategic Growth Council Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant - \$3.2 Million This significant grant funding will enable SacRT, in partnership with Bridge Housing, to make critical improvements to eight bus stops and fund platform modifications at the Arden/Del Paso Station on the Blue Line, ensuring that it meets the height requirements for the deployment of new low-floor light rail trains.

These enhancements will improve the overall transit experience for riders while contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, as part of the AHSC award, BRIDGE Housing will transform the vacant land and unoccupied buildings at 440 Arden Way into a vibrant mixed-use development including 124 affordable homes. The ground floor will include a commercial childcare center available to residents of the broader neighborhood, a resident services suite, community room, and a multipurpose room, surrounding a courtyard with playgrounds and community gardens.

Caltrans Climate Adaptation Planning Grant - \$730,209 In a collaborative effort with the City of Sacramento and SacRT funds were secured to address the impacts of climate change. The project involves a comprehensive multi-hazard risk assessment of transportation systems, the development of adaptation solutions, and the creation of a prioritized list of transit projects using a multi-criteria analysis.

Ultimately, this initiative will lead to the integration of climate change adaptation strategies into the capital improvement process, providing both the City and SacRT with actionable efforts to reduce climate change impacts on our transportation infrastructure.

Caltrans Climate Adaptation Grant - \$470,000 SacRT, in partnership with the City of Elk Grove, has received funding to further plan and conceptual design for extending the Blue Line light rail and/or bus rapid transit from the city of Sacramento to the city of Elk Grove. This project encompasses an existing conditions report, alignment and station location recommendations, ridership projections, technical analysis, traffic modeling, and station area plans.

The collaboration, supported by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), will engage various stakeholders and involve extensive community participation, ensuring that the project aligns with the needs and aspirations of the community.

"These grants mark a significant milestone in our efforts to enhance transit accessibility, increase housing and reduce our region's carbon footprint," said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. "We are committed to delivering sustainable and innovative solutions that will not only improve transit services but also contribute to a greener and more resilient future for the Sacramento region."

SacRT is the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Outstanding Public Transportation System of the Year award recipient in North America for accomplishment and innovations in public transportation, the 2022 and 2019 national TSA Gold Standard Security Award recipient for the highest standard of excellence, and the 2021 and 2020 national APTA Rail Safety Gold Award recipient for its multi-faceted and innovative approach to reducing crime and fare evasion. SacRT operates approximately 82 bus routes (fixed-route, dial-a-ride and

microtransit); 43 miles of light rail serving 53 stations; and ADA paratransit services all within a 440-square mile service area throughout Sacramento County, which includes service in the cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom and Rancho Cordova. April 1, 2023, marks SacRT's 50th anniversary of operation, celebrating our five decades of historic milestones.

"The City of Elk Grove annexed its transit services with SacRT in 2021 to improve regional connectivity and to expand a high-capacity transit solution into the city of Elk Grove," said Elk Grove Mayor and SacRT Director Bobbie Singh-Allen. "As Elk Grove grows with more mixed-use higher density housing projects, I am excited to see the partnership with SacRT ensure efficient and reliable transit is being incorporated."

"As the region prepares for the impacts of climate change, I am thrilled the City of Sacramento and SacRT are partnering on adaptation and resiliency solutions," said SacRT Vice Chair and Sacramento City Councilmember Rick Jennings. "These funds will reduce climate change impacts on our transportation systems and promote health, safety and mobility."

"BRIDGE Housing is proud to partner with SacRT on 440 Arden Way," said BRIDGE Housing President & CEO Ken Lombard. "This high-impact investment supports our shared goal of bringing this community alive with 124 affordable homes and supportive services near high-quality transportation, education, and jobs to support our residents and their neighbors to thrive."

These grants showcase the dedication of SacRT and its many partners in making transit more efficient, accessible, and environmentally responsible. SacRT is excited to embark on these transformative projects and looks forward to working closely with the community to bring these initiatives to fruition.

For more information about these projects, visit www.sacrt.com/apps/projects/. ★

Oriental Fruit Flies Detected in Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture, have initiated an extensive survey and eradication plan in response to the detection of nine male oriental fruit flies (OFF), *Bactrocera dorsalis*, near the city of Rancho Cordova and the American River Parkway in Sacramento County.

The initial detection was confirmed on Sept. 12, 2023. The detections were made as part of our coordinated pest prevention system that protects our agriculture and natural resources from invasive species, with early detection as a key component to successfully eradicating an infestation before it can become established.

The extensive survey, also known as a delimitation survey, consists of multiple oriental fruit fly traps at prescribed densities going out 4.5 miles in each direction from the oriental fruit fly detection sites. These nine OFF will trigger a quarantine, which will be announced shortly by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Following the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), agricultural officials use "male attractant" technique as the mainstay of the eradication effort for this invasive species. This approach has successfully eliminated dozens of fruit fly infestations in California. Trained workers squirt a small patch of fruit fly attractant mixed with a very small dose of Spinosad, a natural pesticide made by a soil bacterium and approved for use on organic crops, approximately 8-10 feet off the ground on street



Bactrocera dorsalis, the oriental fruit fly, can enter the state by "hitchhiking" in fruits and vegetables brought back illegally by travelers. Photo Courtesy of Martin Hauser/California Department of Food and Agriculture

trees and similar surfaces; male fruit flies are attracted to the mixture and perish after consuming it. The male attractant treatment program is being carried out over an area that extends 1.5 miles from each site where the oriental fruit flies were trapped.

While fruit flies and other invasive species that threaten California's crops and natural environment are sometimes detected in agricultural areas, the vast majority are found in urban and suburban communities. The most common pathway for these pests to enter the state is by "hitchhiking" in fruits and vegetables brought back illegally by travelers as they return from infested regions of the world or from packages of home-grown produce sent to California. Help protect California's agricultural and natural resources; please don't pack a pest when traveling or mailing packages.

"Invasive non-native fruit flies are serious pests for California's agricultural industry and backyard gardens," said Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner Chris Flores. "These recent detections remind us that we need to remain vigilant in protecting our agricultural and natural resources. When traveling abroad or mailing packages to California, we urge the public not to bring back or ship fruits and vegetables as they

are pathways for oriental fruit flies and other invasive species entering our state."

The oriental fruit fly is known to target over 230 different fruit, vegetable and plant commodities. Important California crops at risk include grapes, pome and stone fruits, citrus, dates, avocados, tomatoes and peppers. Damage occurs when the female fruit fly lays her eggs inside the fruit. The eggs hatch into maggots, which tunnel through the flesh of the fruit, making it unfit for consumption.

The oriental fruit fly is widespread throughout much of the mainland of southern Asia and neighboring islands, including Sri Lanka and Taiwan, and it has invaded other areas, most notably Africa and Hawaii.

Federal, State and County agricultural officials work year-round, 365 days a year, to prevent, deter, detect, and eliminate the threat of invasive species and diseases that can damage or destroy our agricultural products and natural environment. The efforts are aimed at keeping California's natural environment and food supply plentiful, safe and pest-free.

Residents with questions about the project may call the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner's office at 916-875-6603 or the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899. ★

Secured Property Tax Bills Mailed This Month

Continued from Page 1

may not be credited to the tax bill for several business days depending upon the volume of payments received, whether payments were submitted with the correct payment stubs, and/or whether envelopes were postmarked by the delinquent date.

Property tax law (Prop 8) requires that parcels be assessed at their factored Prop 13 value, or their fair market value (as of January 1, 2023, property tax lien date), whichever is less.

A rising real estate market can cause higher-than-expected increases in a parcel's annual tax bill if that parcel was in Prop 8 status last year. However, the assessed value of any parcel cannot increase beyond that parcel's factored Prop 13 level. The 2% inflation cap applies only to Prop 13 assessments. It does not apply to Prop 8 assessments, which by law must track the property's market value until it reaches the Prop 13 factored value.

Find assessed values on the Assessor's website under "Assessed Value Lookup," including this year's value and the factored Prop 13 value for

comparison. If a taxpayer has evidence that their assessed value as of January 1, 2023, was less than that shown on this year's (2023-2024) tax bill, they should:

Visit the Assessor's Website; Call the Assessor's Office at (916) 875-0700; or Email the Assessor's Office at Assessor@SacCounty.gov

Taxpayers may obtain current-year tax bill information, copies of property tax bills, direct levy information, delinquent prior-year tax information, and amounts due through the Sacramento County Online Property Tax Bill Information System, searching by APN or address. Find a QR Code on your tax bill payment stub for use with smartphones to connect to our website.

Sacramento County also has a 24-hour/7-day-a-week Automated Property Tax Information Line that provides information on tax subjects and access to detailed billing and payment information. Tax specialists are available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Reach the system and tax specialists by calling (916) 874-6622.

If you own property and

do not receive a tax bill by October 15, 2023, you may obtain tax bill copies, property tax information and payment stubs (coupons) on the Tax Collector's website. Revenue & Tax Code 2610.5 "Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the property owner of the liability to pay taxes in a timely manner or give the Tax Collector reason to cancel penalties imposed for late payment."

Even if your tax bill is being paid by a lending institution (mortgage company), state law requires that a copy of the tax bill be sent to the property owner; all property owners should receive either the original tax bill or an "Owner's Information Copy." It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep their mailing address current with the Assessor's Office. To update your mailing address, please contact the Assessor's Office in writing at 3636 American River Drive, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95864 or via email at Assessor@sacounty.gov. Please make sure you include a parcel number and phone number with all correspondence. ★

ABOUT TOWN

In September, the Midtown Farmers Market Celebrates Farm-to-Fork Month

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Always in Farm-to-Fork style and celebrating the 10th season of the popular and thriving Midtown Farmers Market, the Midtown Association has plans for deliciously fun activations in September with more than 200 vendors along with special demos, activities, enhanced Second Saturday programming sponsored by Five Star Bank, and more. Plus, voting is nearing the end for the 2023 America's Farmers Market Celebration competition with the Midtown Farmers Market currently in the lead for first place in California (4th in the Pacific Region and 29th in the nation). Market enthusiasts are encouraged to cast their vote for the Midtown Farmers Market now through September 18 via this link.

Proudly presented by Sutter Health and always bursting with fresh fruit, produce, gourmet or locally made products and artisan goods, the open-air market is available year-round with spring/summer hours in effect from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October. In September, activities at the Midtown Farmers Market will highlight market vendors every weekend, have a special live art demonstration on Second Saturday and spotlight Library Card Sign-Up Month with two visits from the Sacramento Public Library plus offer a special Kids' Story Time on the last Saturday of the month.

A schedule of just some of the fun and free activations and demonstrations happening in September at the Midtown Farmers Market includes the following:

Saturday, September 30:
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. – On-site
sponsor promotions and give-
aways from Sac Republic
FC in Producers Plaza
and SMUD in the Market
Square (while supplies
last)

10 a.m. and 12 p.m.
– Pl is offering a curd
making demonstration on
Savory Street

10 a.m. – In celebration of Library Card Sign-Up Month, a special Kids' Story Time is provided by Bookhaus in the Market Square

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Live music by DJ Bimes
in the Market Square

Owned and managed by the Midtown Association, the Midtown Farmers Market continues to grow and evolve to reflect the dynamic and eclectic tastes of the surrounding neighborhood. Spanning five city blocks, the Midtown Farmers Market lies in the heart of Midtown at 20th & K Streets. More detailed information about the Midtown Farmers Market plus a regularly updated market map are available at www.midtownfarmers-marketsac.com.

In addition to offering numerous public transportation options, Midtown Sacramento is walkable and bike/scooter/car-share friendly with plenty of parking available in nearby garages plus various lots throughout Midtown. Also, a complimentary bike valet is available at the Midtown Farmers Market through September courtesy of Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA). For additional transportation information, visit www.midtownsacramento.com.

easeintomidtown.com.
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Midtown Association:
The mission of the Midtown Association (MA) is to create a center for culture, creativity, and vibrancy in Sacramento's urban core. For more information about MA, call 916-442-1500 or visit www.exploremidtown.org.

Old Sacramento Waterfront's K Street Activated

With fun & free entertainment and pop-ups on weekends through september.

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. (August 31, 2023) – As part of a new pilot program, Downtown Sacramento Partnership is pleased to announce K Street at the Old Sacramento Waterfront will be car-free to allow for fun and free activations on the historic street on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through September. Building on the success of other slow streets programs such as Al Fresco dining, Old Sacramento Waterfront is opening the space from Second to Front Streets for pedestrians, bicyclists, and shaded areas to sit so the community can watch or play games such as checkers and corn hole, and enjoy live music performed by talented local musicians.

“One of the highlights of the past few years is that cities all over the world, including Sacramento, have had opportunities to experiment with recalibrating our public realm to best serve the people who enjoy them,” said Scott Ford, Economic Development Director of Downtown Sacramento Partnership. “This pilot program prioritizes the pedestrian and creates a dynamic central plaza in the heart of Old Sacramento Waterfront, enhancing our guest experience while providing an opportunity to enjoy active transportation from DOCO to the Sacramento River.”

By opening K Street for entertainment and pop-ups, an opportunity is created that provides the community to experience Sacramento's original commercial district in an entirely new way. In addition, Old Sacramento Waterfront merchants have an opportunity to utilize the space to connect with customers as they enjoy a lively atmosphere. As an example, Stage Nine Entertainment is planning to activate K Street for a 30th Anniversary weekend celebration on the final weekend of the month.

This new activation is made possible from funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) designated by the City of Sacramento to install removable street bollards which provide enhanced pedestrian safety and help create additional space for passive recreation and social collisions for residents and visitors alike.

The program would not be possible without the support of the City of Sacramento and the Department of Public Works, a national leader in dynamic, curbside management and efficient mobility solutions through www.SacPark.org.

For more information about the Old Sacramento Waterfront please visit www.OldSacramento.com and for more about the Downtown Sacramento Partnership, visit www.DowntownSac.org.

Sacramento Area Museums Showcase Region's Farm-to-Fork Roots All Year Long

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (August 28, 2023) – The Greater Sacramento region is rich with popular museums and destinations that offer diverse and enriching experiences for individuals, families, residents, and visitors alike. Given the critically important role agriculture continues to play in the region, many local museums offer special exhibits, experiences and activations that highlight ever-enduring Farm-to-Fork connections. A sampling of some of the Farm-to-Fork offerings at local museums includes the following:

California Agriculture Museum – Woodland is home to an entire museum focused on agriculture, filled with a unique collection of harvesters, wheel and crawler-type tractors, combines, trucks, art, artifacts, rotating interactive exhibits and much more. In all, the museum tells the history of Farm-to-Fork, dating back to the Gold Rush era and how the industry evolved from horse drawn to steam driven to fuel powered machines to harvest and transport California's bounty.

California State Railroad Museum & Foundation – A Fruit Growers Express refrigerated rail car is on permanent display inside the Museum's Roundhouse. Museum visitors can explore this historic rail car and exhibit, "Farm to Fork: A Public History," and learn about how refrigerated rail cars enabled California farmers, growers, and producers send farm-to-fork freshness all over the country. Visitors can step inside the historic Fruit Growers Express rail car to see how the ice-cooled rail cars transported produce and built an agricultural system that exports more wealth than the California Gold Rush. Plus, the popular weekend excursion train, Sacramento Southern Railroad – currently on pause due to an important rail repair project – runs on the historic Walnut Grove Branch Line. This rail line transported pears, asparagus, celery, seeds, and other products from the Delta communities to markets nationwide.

Sacramento Children's Museum – Young visitors hungry to learn about fresh food have a variety of options at the Children's Museum, including at the miniature Leo's Market and Leo's Food Court (a miniature market of food carts), about bees and honey with the in-house beehive, and an interactive train table highlighting Sacramento's agricultural landscape in miniature, complete with mini livestock. Plus, the Children's Museum will be at the Farm-to-Fork Festival (September 22-23) sharing vegetable stamp printing with visitors.

SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity – MOSAC’s interactive exhibits bring the story of water to life, demonstrating how our region is working together to conserve this natural resource for now and future generations. The “Water Challenge” exhibit lets museum visitors actively shape a watershed’s flow, create a tune for saving water at home, and choose between local or non-local foods to buy based on how everyday decisions impact conservation efforts — all while learning about the environmental footprint along the way.

Utility Exploration Center – The City of Roseville’s Utility

Exploration Center (UEC) is a testament to the region's commitment to sustainable living and resource conservation. Nestled in the heart of a region renowned for its Farm-to-Fork movement, the UEC acts as an educational hub, encouraging residents and visitors alike to delve into the intricacies of energy and water conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable practices. By fostering an understanding of how we use and preserve resources, the UEC underscores the importance of our agricultural roots.

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, “like” them on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SacMuseums, follow them on Instagram and Twitter @SacMuseums or visit the user-friendly website at www.SacMuseums.org.

Friends of Sutter's Fort Announces Exciting Line-Up of Special Events and Activations

Happening this Fall
SACRAMENTO, Calif.
— Friends of Sutter's Fort, in partnership with Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, is proud to present a series of family-friendly events and activations this fall highlighted by holiday themed movies, an all-ages concert, and adventurous self-guided evening tours by flashlight or lantern light.

A schedule of fall activities presented by Friends of Sutter's Fort includes the following:

Films with Friends
on Saturday Evenings,
October 21 and December 2
Continuing a series

of popular “Films with Friends” outdoor movie screenings, two holiday-themed movies will be shown on the exterior wall of Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park at 26th & I Streets. Movies include Disney’s “Coco” on October 21 and “Elf” on December 21. Movie-goers are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs, and friendly dogs (on leash) are welcome; no alcohol is allowed. Movie-goers can also choose to support Friends of Sutter’s Fort by purchasing a Film with Friends Fun Pack for \$50 with all proceeds benefiting efforts to bring more community events and activations to Sutter’s Fort. Friends Fun Packs are available to order in advance at www.suttersfort.org and on-site at the event (if and while supplies last). For more information about Films with Friends, please visit www.suttersfort.org/event/films-with-friends.

**Sunset & Strings
Jamboree on Thursday
Evening, October 26 at
6:30 p.m.**

Featuring the Rock Bottom Boys – performing for the first time within Sacramento city limits – the community can experience and enjoy and all-ages musical event with energizing three-part harmonies, homespun vocal styling, boot stomping music, and well-seasoned showmanship. This live musical event is a fundraiser to support future field trips and educational opportunities at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. For tickets to Sunset & Strings Jamboree, please visit <http://suttersfort.ticketspice.com/sunset-strings-jamboree>.

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Why Aren't Kids in School?

Support Your Library at 2-Day Community Book Sale

Soaring chronic absenteeism in California schools is at ‘pivotal moment’

BY CAROLYN JONES,
CalMatters.org

As a new school year gets underway in California, districts are desperately trying to lure thousands of missing, tardy and truant students back to the classroom in what many view as a pivotal moment for education in California.

In 2021-22, 30% of students in California’s public schools were chronically absent, an all-time high and more than three times the pre-pandemic rate. Advocates fear that unless schools can reverse the trend, so many students will fall behind that they may never catch up.

“This is a crisis, and it’s not going to change until we do everything we can to get kids back in school 100%,” said Heather Hough, director of Policy Analysis for California Education. “What we all fear is that this will become the new normal.... It is hard to overstate the importance of this issue, and it is absolutely a pivotal moment.”

Before the pandemic, about 10% of students in California’s public schools missed at least 10% (or 18 days) in a school year, which the state defines as chronically absent. But COVID-related school closures, remote learning and quarantines have created a new habit for millions of families: optional, not

mandatory, daily school attendance.

Even though California law requires all children ages 6 through 18 to attend school every day, nearly 2 million students were chronically absent in 2021-22, the most recent year data is available. Nearly every group of students had high rates of absenteeism, but the highest rates were among kindergartners. Kindergartners who are Black, Pacific Islander or have disabilities all had rates of 50% or higher.

Students’ specific reasons for missing school are varied. Lack of transportation is among the most common reasons, but sometimes students have to look after younger siblings or go to work. In some cases, students stay home because they’re being bullied or don’t like their teachers. After COVID, some parents have become overly cautious about sending their children to school with minor ailments.

Absenteeism has myriad negative impacts. For students, they’re more likely to fall behind academically, drop out and not graduate. For schools, lower attendance means less revenue from the state, which bases its funding on how many students show up every day. For teachers, poor attendance means half-empty classrooms, with some students who are

weeks or months behind their peers.

There are legal implications, as well. In extreme cases, local district attorneys can get involved, citing and fining parents or students who persistently flout the mandatory attendance law.

Alarmed at the extent of the crisis, the Legislature is intervening. The Assembly recently asked Hough’s organization, Policy Analysis for California Education, to study the issue and come up with recommendations.

The findings could lead to legislation that would address the issue directly. A few possibilities include increased accountability at the local level, such as offering districts more incentives to get students back in class; better data collection; and broader efforts to make school a more attractive place for students to be.

In response to the pandemic, the state has already invested billions in initiatives aimed at boosting student engagement.

For starters, health standards need to change, she said. Schools should promote better preventative care for students, but also convince parents that COVID is no longer a public health emergency and children should not miss school “for every sniffle or tummy ache.”

Friends of The Arden-Dimick Library News Release

ARDEN, CA (MPG) - The Friends of Arden-Dimick Library are holding a two-day Community Book Sale on Friday, October 20, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. At our bag sale on Saturday, 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., \$6 gets you a standard sized grocery bag of books (larger bags are more). You’re encouraged to bring your own grocery bags. Cash, credit or debit cards accepted. All sales will

be held in the Community Room at the Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Avenue. Funds from this sale will be used for Arden-Dimick library programs.

As the leaves begin to fall and the sun sets earlier, it’s the perfect time to curl up with a mystery, a biography or travel book or read to children. We’ve got lots of reading material for both adults and children, and this sale is an excellent opportunity to stock up at low prices. We also have DVDs, CDs and a large collection of sheet music if you prefer those.

Friends of the Library

receive a 20% discount (except during the Bag Sale on Saturday, October 21). Membership information will be available at the sale for those who are not members of the Friends of the Library and wish to join or renew their membership.

The Friends of the Arden-Dimick Library is a volunteer community-based organization. Its dual mission is to advocate for the Library and to provide funding for books, materials, programs and library activities primarily through selling donated books.

New Guidance Available for COVID Vaccines

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - In response to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 virus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued new guidance for vaccines. Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines have been phased out, making way for an updated vaccine that offers enhanced protection against the prevalent Omicron variants.

Who Should Get the Updated COVID-19 Vaccine?

The CDC strongly recommends that every individual aged 6 months and older receive the updated COVID-19 vaccine. This inclusive approach ensures that a broad spectrum of the population is shielded from the ever-evolving virus.

The updated COVID-19 vaccine will soon be accessible to the public and available to most people at no cost. For those without insurance, a network of pharmacies, select health care centers, and clinics operated by Sacramento County Public Health will offer

the vaccine. This approach ensures that no one is left behind, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Individuals with private health insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare coverage are encouraged to visit a pharmacy or their doctor’s office to receive their updated COVID-19 vaccine. This streamlined process allows those with insurance to efficiently access the vaccine through existing healthcare channels.

To stay updated on the latest information regarding the availability and distribution of the updated COVID-19 vaccine, visit the Public Health website. We will provide valuable resources, including links to the MyTurn platform and information on nearby clinics.

The updated COVID-19 vaccine is a continued resource in safeguarding public health against the Omicron variants. By ensuring accessibility to all, regardless of insurance or immigration status, we aim to create a safer, healthier community for everyone. Stay informed, stay protected, and let us move forward together in the fight against COVID-19.

Nation’s Finest Educational Program to Help Veterans in Need

Nation’s Finest News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Veterans’ advocates and community leaders joined together at the California State Capitol on September 12, 2023, to launch a 3-month campaign by Nation’s Finest to raise awareness about programs and services to help Veterans in need.

Coinciding with National Suicide Prevention Month, the community outreach program aims to shine a light on the alarming statistics impacting Veterans – from mental health and high suicide rates to homelessness and unemployment -- and help connect Veterans and their families to resources that honor their service and ensure their care and success.

“The suicide rate among Veterans remains high, with approximately 17 Veterans committing suicide each day, and on any given night, over 40,000 Veterans don’t have a place to call home in our country,” said Chris Johnson, President & CEO, Nation’s Finest. “As a nation, we can and should do better to honor those who have sacrificed and served, which is why we are launching this program to raise greater awareness and help connect Veterans to the help and services they need.”

Through Veteran’s Day, Nation’s Finest will host a series of community awareness events in California, Arizona, and Nevada, that bring together community leaders, Veterans’ advocates, and community partners to ensure Veterans and their families have access to services,



Sacramento area recipients of Nation’s Finest 50 Local Heroes included (front, left to right) Steve Reed, Don Harper, Kia Phillips, Michael Harris, Preston Sharp and Gail Belmont. Back: Stephen Hernandez, Nation’s Finest site director and Chris Johnson, Nation’s Finest President & CEO. Photo by Tracy Atkins/Nation’s Finest

programs, and the care available to them. Each event will feature a Nation’s Finest mobile service unit staffed by trained professionals to assist Veterans, as well as community partner booths to provide educational information about available services. On display will be a powerful storytelling exhibition honoring Veteran heroes for making a difference in the lives of Veterans. At each event, Nation’s Finest will present special awards to local Veterans who have gone above the call of duty to help Veterans and their families in their local communities.

During a ceremony on the west steps of the Capitol, seven local Veteran heroes from Northern California were honored for their service. Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg joined

Nation’s Finest to present special medallions to them for their work. A special storytelling exhibition featured their stories and that of other Veteran heroes, which will also be on display through September 30th in the window fronts of the historic Weinstocks Building in downtown Sacramento located at 1130 K Street.

“These local heroes exemplify the spirit of our community and continue to answer the call of duty in helping those who have served access mental and behavioral health care, including housing stability, employment and suicide prevention services,” said Mayor Steinberg. “I applaud the efforts of Nation’s Finest in launching this important program and so many

other Veteran organizations, community partners, and advocates, who work tirelessly to ensure our Veterans can get the care they need and deserve.”

Sacramento area recipients of the Nation’s Finest 50 Local Heroes Award include Gail Belmont, Don Harper, Kia Phillips, Steve Reed, Preston Sharp, Julie Baumgarten, and Michael Harris. Their personal stories, along with all the Nation’s Finest awardees, are featured in the exhibition and on the Nation’s Finest website at www.NationsFinest.org, along with information about the Community Outreach Program.

Harris, a U.S. Army Veteran and Sacramento native credits the work of

Nation’s Finest and the support he received at Mather Veterans Village for helping change his life during vulnerable times, saying, “It was a life-changing experience to be so humbled to have to ask for help with you are vulnerable and broke. They helped lift me up and gave me a chance.” Today, Michael helps other Veterans, particularly those facing homelessness. He is also Chair of the California Black Agriculture Working Group, where he is dedicated to bringing equity to Black agricultural producers.

The Nation’s Finest Community Outreach Program is funded through the support of many community partners, including Verizon (presenting partner), U.S. Veterans Affairs,

Safeway, the Land of the Free Foundation, Comcast, Turton Commercial Real Estate, Enterprise Community Partners, and the Charles M. Shulz Museum, among others.

“Verizon is honored to join together with so many community partners in supporting Nation’s Finest and their mission help Veterans in need,” said Sophia Garcia, Director, External Affairs & Local Engagement at Verizon. “Verizon is committed to helping Veterans and their families with access to smart technologies that improve connectivity to the programs, services, and care available to them. It’s through community partnerships like this that we can work together to make a difference.”

This year marks 50 years since Nation’s Finest was founded to support Veterans returning from the Vietnam War by providing critical housing, health, and employment support to ensure Veterans reach their full potential. During the past five decades, the programs and impact of Nation’s Finest has continued to grow, having served 150,000+ veterans and providing \$275 million in direct services in 31 locations in California, Arizona, and Nevada, as well as through national services. Additionally, through its mobile service unit program, Nation’s Finest can reach thousands more Veterans each year, who lack access to care by bringing resources directly to them, particularly those living in rural areas

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. "Planted" customer
6. Pie and mode connection (2 words)
9. *Atomic ____ unit
13. Salk's conquest
14. Beesly of "The Office"
15. Secret storage
16. Crème de la crème
17. Flow alternative
18. a.k.a. vampire
19. "Any substance in chemistry"
21. *Periodic table entry
23. Douse or soak
24. Pavarotti's song
25. Between Big and Wolf
28. Mattress description
30. *Positively charged particle
35. Elevator manufacturing giant
37. Horselfy
39. Rabbit trap
40. Sure or uh-huh
41. Saintly rings
43. North Sea feeder
44. Flax flower genus
46. Shrirel, as in plant
47. Like undesirable row
48. Related on mother's side
50. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
52. Porky's home
53. Practice in the ring
55. Burmese neighbor
57. "Core of an atom"
61. *C
64. Theater guide
65. Org. that gets parents involved in school
67. Sign up again
69. Supernatural being
70. Three, to Caesar
71. Grouchy Muppet
72. European sea eagles
73. News channel acronym
74. Liable to cry

DOWN

1. Health resort in Baden-Baden, e.g.
2. River islet
3. Hip bones
4. To-do enumerations
5. Bingo and keno
6. Initiator
7. *Chemistry classroom
8. Fly in ____, or a reminder of the past
9. Hat-tipper's word
10. Highest point
11. Splints site
12. Assigned spot
15. Rids of obstruction
20. Period in history
22. Mouth piece
24. Designer's studio
25. *-Mariotte Law
26. Dined at home
27. Late Princess of Wales
29. Defect
31. Two halves of two
32. Discussion intended to produce agreement
33. Galactic path
34. Demanding attention
36. Like a barred door
38. *Aurum, in English
42. Type of grave marker
45. It loves company?
49. PC "brain"
51. Limited in scope
54. Gelatin
56. Like one with high BMI
57. Artist's model, sometimes
58. Application utilizer
59. Keep it up?
60. TV classic " ____ Make a Deal"
61. Jealous biblical brother
62. Fairy-tale opening
63. Less than average tide
66. *Sn, or stannum, on periodic table
68. Like dry humor

CROSSWORD

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A Journey from Homelessness to Hope and Stability

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Amelia reaches to gently pet the fluffing feathers of her baby parrot Sunshine. Her brilliant orange, yellow and green feathers puff up in happiness as she moves her head around, signaling her content. Amelia maneuvers around her one-bedroom cottage in a push wheelchair. Her bedroom has enough room for a twin bed, Sunshine's cage and perch and a vanity that is strewn with makeup and lotions. The living room has a couch, a kitchen table and a corner shelf filled with paints, brushes, and a few painted canvases. Every canvas has a flower scape – beautiful colors and symmetry. The bathroom is also covered in painted canvases – except for the shower, which is filled with a shower chair to accommodate Ameila's needs.

Quinn Cottages is tucked away on a forgotten street just north of downtown Sacramento, between Women's Empowerment and the North A Street shelter. It is fully fenced and secure, but when you walk into the unassuming community, the colorful bungalows are beautiful and eye-catching. Flowerpots and windchimes cover tiny porches and patches of grass. Residents lounge around in the communal spaces – one person totes a laundry basket to the machines near the front of the compound. Another puts a dollar into a soda machine. A small black dog barks protectively at each person who walks by while perched on his owner's lap.

The cottages are clustered in a series of small neighborhoods, each oriented around a shared common space. The perimeter is fenced, monitored with a security system, and has controlled front gate access. A central community building houses a computer room, a library/small conference room, a multipurpose room, and a community kitchen. Residents participate in a rigorous and comprehensive two-year program from which they graduate. The campus is funded through Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), which is partially

funded by Sacramento County, and operated by Mercy Housing.

To qualify for a referral to Quinn Cottages, residents must have a disability – either physically or mentally. In Ameila's case, she is mostly wheelchair-bound – from a car accident that nearly took her life, but instead, drastically changed everything about her and her future.

Ameila came to Sacramento when she was 15 – placed out of San Francisco into a group home for foster children. Ameila is a self-described jack of all trades. She was a singer, a bartender – she loved to goldmine. “I gave those boys a run for their money! I always find gold.” Her favorite spot is up near Bear River.

She had a dream to be on American Idol – a beautiful singing voice, only heard now in saved files on her phone. Ameila was going to school to be a nurse – until her life was turned upside down. Nearly three years ago, Amelia was driving in a convertible BMW when she was hit by a tow truck. The accident was horrific – part of the windshield frame went into her forehead; her windpipe was crushed and her spine fractured. First responders performed a tracheotomy just to help her breathe. She lay in the hospital, in a coma for days. While in a coma, Amelia suffered two strokes, leaving the left side of her body weak. Doctors planned to take her off life-support, but a friend insisted she would get better and wake up. And she did wake up – but she was severely injured, permanently.

The singing voice she once had was forever damaged, the left side of her body was weak and useless, and her legs were unable to hold up her body. She needed full-time care. She lived with her father, whom she had been caretaking for before the accident. They hired an in-home caretaker for Amelia, but after they started abusing her, Amelia fired the caretaker. Amelia, without a job, insurance money to fall back on, and no trust in other people, became homeless.

Amelia was able to get into a shelter quickly – her various disabilities made her highly vulnerable outside. But an empty promise from

a boyfriend to move into a hotel, causing her to self-exit the shelter, again left her on the streets with few resources and nowhere to go.

Amelia's situation represents the greatest fear – many people are just one major life curveball away from homelessness. Disabled, homeless and desperate, Amelia used drugs to numb the pain of her accident – physically, emotionally, and mentally. Drugs were her escape from the nightmare her life had become, but also the deep scars of her upbringing. A mother who never loved her, children who had been put into the system and dream after dream shattered through bad decisions and bad relationships.

Six months ago, Amelia went into the Salvation Army shelter – again, a chance to shelter safely while pursuing recovery and stability. But Amelia knew she blew it again when they found drugs on her person. She was exited from the shelter for violating the rules. She moved out onto the American River Parkway. It was there she met Jenny, an outreach worker with Community HealthWorks, formerly Sacramento Covered. Jenny and her colleagues do outreach and engagement to unhoused people, specifically on the Parkway – a priority funded by the Board of Supervisors to help alleviate the burden on both the campers and the environment.

Considering Amelia's history and disabilities, Jenny worked with Amelia on an application for Quinn Cottages. It took nearly six months of consistent work with Amelia, following up on her application, making sure she had all her documents in place and getting adequate health care for treatment of her injuries before a bungalow opened up at Quinn Cottages.

Before Amelia could move in, she suffered another injury – a broken foot. The day that Community HealthWorks workers came to move her out of her tent and into her own apartment – they had to lift her out of her tent because she couldn't move. It truly does take a village of compassionate, dedicated people to help the most vulnerable.

Amelia sits, grateful and peaceful as she looks around her cottage. “It is safe and secure here. There are rules and structure. People can't just come in here without permission.” She puts around the compound in a power wheelchair. Her friend Larry, also in a power wheelchair, challenges her to a friendly race. They zip ahead, laughing.

She is clean and sober – knowing that she cannot succeed here if she uses. She wants to go to art school and maybe teach others how to paint. Maybe it will bring them the same peace it brings her. She enjoys cooking for herself and getting together with the other residents of Quinn Cottages. “We're a community.” Her sister comes and visits her every week. Amelia is only 49 years old – despite her disabilities, she has so much life ahead of her. She is ready to make the most of it.



★ Amelia and her brightly colored, feathered friend, Sunshine, make the best of their lives thanks to the support they get at Quinn Cottages. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County.



★ Art helps Amelia in keeping a good spirit after a horrific accident left her disabled, homeless and desperate. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County.

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Museum members \$29

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Day of \$60

Nature on Parade

Continued from Page 1
lemur, a kangaroo and a kinkajou. NatureFest supporters will also view a more regional menagerie: this could include a skunk, a raccoon and an opossum and raptors.

NorCalBats, an organization that rescues and rehabilitates bats will bring wee flying mammals and discuss their benefits to the environment. A bee keeper will exhibit a hive with its industrious inhabitants. Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary will have rescued native species on display and Miridae Nursery will offer native plants for purchase.

Save the Snakes, a nonprofit that champions one of nature's most misunderstood species, will offer slithering gopher and king snakes for supervised handling. Volunteers from Sacramento Splash will detail microscopic species found in wetlands.

Resident Nature Center animals – including Einstein the tortoise and several crowd-pleasing raptors – will also interact with visitors. Deer and wild turkey sightings are likely on hosted walks through the center's 100-acre wildlife preserve.

The Nature Center

is a hub for Native American studies. Maidu skill demonstrations will include basketry and tule doll-making.

Kids' games will be offered, and youth groups are welcome at the event. Snacks can be purchased from food trucks.

NatureFest runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Effie Yeaw Nature Center (Ancil Hoffman Park). General admission is \$7; \$3 for children aged ages 3 to 11. Parking is free. Presale tickets are available online. For more information visit www.sacnaturecenter.net

Metro-PAC Endorses Steve Hansen for Mayor



Steve Hansen, 2024 candidate for City of Sacramento Mayor. Photo courtesy of T-Rock Communications

By Traci Rockefeller Cusack, T-Rock Communications

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (Metro-PAC) announced on September 22, 2023, their strong endorsement of Steve Hansen for Mayor in the City of Sacramento's 2024 mayoral race.

With deep experience as a former Sacramento City Councilmember, Hansen is best suited to move the City of Sacramento forward. Hansen is committed to focusing on meaningful change to combat the homeless crisis through partnering with Sacramento County on mental health services, enhancing public safety, proposing bold steps to increase housing stock, with an overall approach of dignity and respect for all. For the people of Sacramento and the business community, the clear choice is Hansen who has years of experience

in City Hall, effectively working with the public and private sectors to create meaningful economic opportunity for the people of Sacramento.

"The City of Sacramento is at a tipping point. We can look around and see that what we are doing is not working. We need a bold leader who is willing to partner with all parties to address the challenges, motivate others to engage, and put a strategy together to move our city in a new direction," said Chelsea Minor, Chair of the Metro-PAC. "Steve has always been a champion of economic growth, recruiting and retaining businesses and helping our region prosper. He is the leader we need to take our City in a new direction."

With a win rate of 87% in the 2022 election cycle, the Metro-PAC is a known game changer in the momentum of local elections.

Formed in 1985, the Metro-PAC elevates the policies of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of

Commerce, the voice for business in the six-county region, whose members drive the economy of the capital region forward and provide jobs for more than 100,000 community members.

In the last four years, the Metro Chamber has been the leading voice for small business in ensuring businesses had the funding, resources, and advocacy needed to survive the pandemic and come out stronger.

Core to that strategy is endorsing candidates for state and local office through the Metro-PAC that understand both the unique needs and impact of our small businesses on both our economy and cultural fabric.

The Metro-PAC endorses candidates that understand and value the important role of our business community and actively seek to engage and partner with them during their terms.

For a complete list of Metro-PAC endorsements, please see www.metrochamber.org.

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