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BY NORRIS BURKES

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VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN



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CHP Celebrates 96 New Officers



A graduate is being officially pinned by a family member. CHP Courtesy Photo

By Debra Dingman
MPG Editor

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Many people spend years begrudging the California Highway Patrol because

they were pulled over by a CHP Officer for some reason they did not feel was warranted. But after attending one of the graduations at the California Highway Patrol Academy

in Sacramento, one might easily hold feelings of respect and honor instead.

Every facet of the program was succinctly orchestrated from being directed where to park

to lining up to enter the event. Guests were greeted professionally with a genuine smile by blue-shirted cadets. Hundreds of family members waited in
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SacRT Holding Two Hiring Events in January

SacRT News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is hosting two in-person hiring events specifically to help bring onboard more bus drivers and fill other essential positions. SacRT offers extremely generous and competitive benefits for medical, dental, paid sick leave, retirement, and tuition reimbursement. Also, signing bonuses are available for bus drivers.

Hiring Event Details:
Thursday, January 11, 2024, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday, January 19, 2024 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location:
SacRT Auditorium
1400 29th St.,
Sacramento, CA

(Accessible by bus routes 38, 67, and 68, light rail to the 29th Street Station, and SmARTRide)

SacRT is hiring for several bus driver positions, including full-time and part-time positions, and will provide paid training and assistance with obtaining necessary permits and commercial driver licenses (CDL).

Some of SacRT's open positions include:

- Bus Operators
- Paratransit Operator
- Paratransit Dispatcher
- Rail Maintenance Worker
- Safety Specialist
- Security Operations Center Specialist
- Transit Ambassador

Candidates should bring a valid ID and employment history (last 10 years of work).

SacRT is offering free rides for candidates attending the hiring event; they simply need to print or screenshot the free ride flyer.

Learn more about the hiring events at sacrt.com/hiringevents. ★

Meet Parks Commissioner Joe Flores

Interview by Kristina Rogers,
photos by Joe Flores

Recently, I sat down with Joe Flores at Barrio Café to learn about his position.

What is the role of a parks commissioner?

"I am a liaison between neighbors, the city council office, and the parks department. I am the unfiltered voice for these groups. I assist in creating events and advocating on behalf of all three. We have over 230 public parks across the city. Each has different neighborhood groups and park stewards with whom I communicate.

I meet with eleven other park commissioners once a month at City Hall. Most of our time is behind the scenes, meeting folks for coffee chats and community events. That's where the true work happens."

How did you become a parks commissioner?

"District 7 Council Member Rick Jennings appointed me. There is a stipend to attend monthly meetings, but it's a volunteer position. The term is four years, and I'm in my second year."

How have you partnered with the community?

"Last September, I put



Joe Flores in William Land Park.

together a tree-planting event in William Land Park. We had 20 trees to plant. I first contacted the Land Park Community Association to see if they would partner with me. Then, I got volunteers from a local high school and city college. When there are trees to plant in a park on a lovely day, the answer is usually yes, but I still must ask. Together, many hands

make light work!"
What kind of projects are you working on this year?

"In January, I am working with the South Pocket Homeowners Association to plant ten trees in Marriott Park. Later, I plan to help a neighborhood group near Cervantes Park create a native plant garden. Later this year, the Del Rio Trail will have a

ribbon cutting. I am talking with Rick Jennings and several neighborhood associations to celebrate the moment.

Finally, each parks commissioner hosts 916 Day every September. I'm still trying to figure out what to do for it this year. If you have any ideas, I'm all ears."

Why do you volunteer?
Continued on Page 2

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Meet Parks Commissioner Joe Flores

Public Health Awarded Grant for Child Safety Seat Education



A tree is lowered into a hole at William Land Park with young volunteers at the ready.

Continued from Page 1
 “My parents were in public service, and my dad was in law enforcement. My grandparents owned a Mexican restaurant for over thirty years. My great-grandparents were also business owners. Public service is deep in my blood. I take my son to events so he will be the next generation. It’s the literal planting of seeds where your work will outlive you. When I advocate for youth, their wins feel like my wins. You become a family by teaming up and putting in sweat equity together. That’s

what keeps me going as a volunteer.”
Who would be a good fit for the Parks Commissioner role?
 “A social person who likes to volunteer and interact with their community. Someone who wants to make a positive impact and can navigate government systems. This is hard work. There will be many “no’s,” but it takes someone to celebrate the “yeses” and allow them to grow. It seems thankless and challenging, but when you see the smiles, it’s all worth it.
 For example, I

spotted graffiti on a sign in a Pocket-Greenhaven park. It was a holiday weekend and there were no city services, so I went and scrubbed the graffiti off. Some pickleballers and Girl Scouts noticed me and stopped to help. It was that spirit of volunteerism that kept me energized. It was a great example of community ownership in the park. It only takes one person to “spark” and activate others. As parks commissioner, you get to be that spark.”
 People can reach out to Joe Flores at acatl2000@gmail.com. ★

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - In our continued effort to enhance child safety on the road, Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) has once again joined forces with partner agency Mercy San Juan to continue the successful car seat safety program. Aimed at educating parents and caregivers on the proper installation and use of child safety seats, this initiative is made possible through a \$78,546 grant generously provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).
 The grant, which funds an array of community outreach events, prioritizes education classes and training sessions tailored to underserved and refugee communities. The comprehensive car seat safety program encompasses various components, all designed to empower parents and caregivers with the knowledge and resources needed to ensure the safety of their little ones as they travel.
Key features of the program include:
 -Child Safety Seat Inspection Events and Education Classes: The initiative will host events dedicated to inspecting child safety seats and providing educational classes to parents and caregivers.
 -Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Training and Recertification Courses: To bolster expertise in child passenger safety, the program will offer training and recertification courses for Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

-No-Cost Child Safety Seats for Families in Need: Families facing financial constraints will have access to child safety seats at no cost, ensuring that economic barriers do not compromise the safety of children.
 -Community Outreach Efforts in Underserved Communities: Collaborating with local organizations, the program will actively engage in community outreach efforts to promote car seat safety in underserved areas.
 Dr. Kasirye, the Sacramento County Public Health Officer, highlighted the essential role of OTS grant funding in assisting families, caregivers, and education professionals in ensuring children’s safety. Emphasizing that safeguarding children is a collective priority, “Properly secured car seats are pivotal in preventing harm to children in the unfortunate event of a crash,” states Kasirye.
 Sacramento County residents interested in learning more about the program can contact Riley Stoltenburg at StoltenburgR@saccounty.gov or call (916) 875-6094.
 The funding for this critical program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
 Sacramento County remains committed to ensuring the safety of its youngest residents through proactive community engagement and education on proper car seat usage. ★



Parks Commissioner Joe Flores got volunteers from a local high school and Sac City College to help plant trees at William Land Park.

PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDED GRANT FOR CHILD SAFETY SEAT EDUCATION

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) has once again joined forces with partner agency Mercy San Juan to continue the successful car seat safety program. Photo courtesy of SCPH

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CHP Celebrates 96 New Officers

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anticipation.

Upon entering the huge gymnasium with rows and rows of seats, one saw an entire wall of 4 x 8-foot photos of pictures—each portraying a different division of the service including SWAT Team, Mounted Horse Patrol, Academy Instruction, Road Patrol, Air Operations, Motor Officer, Motorcycle and Bicycle Patrols. What they didn't show was task force members, Headquarters and Division Personnel uniformed and Nonuniformed, Dispatchers, Auto Theft Task Forces, Commercial Enforcement Personnel, K-9s and more.

"There have been thousands of officers in this place," said Jim Ward, a retired CHP Officer who lives in Dixon. "But, it is far from routine. This is extraordinary. You are seeing less than 3-percent of those who actually apply." Ward served for 16 years on the Santa Ana freeway before moving to northern California duties.

Soon after the families and friends were seated, nearly 100 men and women marched into the California Highway Patrol Academy graduation ceremony with eyes straight ahead and showing serious faces wearing the traditional CHP uniform symbolizing authority and professionalism: the camel-colored pants, olive green jacket, and the cream-colored Trooper hat.

Commissioner Sean Duryee opened the ceremony and spoke about CHP training which is revered worldwide and consists of a regulated system of academics, exercise, diet, and self-discipline. Those honored had just completed the 6-month live-in Academy where their commitment meant missed birthdays, anniversaries, births of children, and holidays.

He told how they would receive their badge number and badge stating they would stay with them for life and talked about what each point of the star represents: character, integrity, judgment, loyalty, courtesy, honor, and knowledge.

"You've earned the right to wear it," he said. "That badge belongs to the people behind you. That badge represents the trust they have in you." He also spoke to the graduates about their futures. "The tragedies of others will become your daily routine. You will show empathy, take time to listen, give a shoulder to cry on, and show compassion.

Don't ever become cocky or arrogant. The moment you stop learning and growing, you start limiting your future."

Keynote speaker Barbara Rooney, California Office of Traffic Safety Director shared the wide variety of backgrounds that the graduates came from. There were a couple musicians, EMTs, and firefighters.

"Almost all branches of the military are represented here and 1st to 3rd and even 4th generations of officers in the family. There was a pre-school teacher, marathon runner, private pilot, computer engineer, and even a juggler," she said. "Ten have received the Governor's Medal of Honor."

She reminded them they were all joining a 100-year-old agency created in 1929 to provide uniform traffic law enforcement throughout California, assuring the safe, convenient and efficient transportation of people and goods on its highway system.

"Now, there are 7,000 uniform personnel in our state with 40 million people," she said congratulating them.

The governor added his remarks through a televised message.

"I'm adding my voice to the chorus who honors you," said Governor Gavin Newsom. "We have the 5th largest law enforcement agency in the country and you have earned our respect and trust. We extend our gratitude, thanks, and welcome."

A video presentation of the extensive training followed and the audience saw situational experiences where cadets were drilled on how to fight criminals and save lives.

Special recognitions were given for class officers, marksmanship, outstanding athlete, and most inspirational cadet. Afterwards,

they lined in front of the buildings for the official 'badge pinning' while taking photos with proud spouses and family members. They will earn a generous base salary of \$109,248 during their first year plus full health and dental benefits for themselves and their families.

The ceremony is one of three per year and was closed with the entire graduating class reciting the Code of Honor with raised right hands swearing that they "would lay down their life rather than swerve from the line of duty."

Watch Soon

The CHP has just released to the public an inside look at its live-in training facility with this month's programming of the new reality series, Cadets. Premiering Jan. 17 on the CHP's YouTube page, the nine-part docuseries focuses on a cadet class navigating the six-month journey through the CHP Academy on the way to becoming officers.

The release of Cadets is part of the CHP's ongoing, multi-year recruitment campaign to recruit and hire 1,000 officers. A trailer for the series, produced entirely by CHP staff, is available online.

"Cadets is not just a series; it's a testament to the CHP's commitment to excellence, diversity, and the relentless pursuit of transforming individuals from all walks of life into dedicated officers ready to serve the community," said the Commissioner Duryee. "We are excited to offer a start-to-finish look inside our Academy as future law enforcement officers are brought to life."

Viewers will "ride along" with nine cadets as they overcome physical and mental adversity throughout the journey to earning their badge and becoming a CHP officer. The audience will also hear firsthand from the cadets as they speak candidly about their experience.

"By sharing their experiences, in their own words, we hope to inspire more service-minded individuals to follow in their footsteps and join us for a rewarding career in law enforcement," added Commissioner Duryee. ★



The large photos of various roles of CHP officers were displayed from chin-lift bars in the gymnasium. Cadets, on their way to meals, are required to do chin ups before and after eating. Photo by Debra Dingman



Filing into their graduation ceremony, new CHP Officers were captured in photos by hundreds of proud families. Photo by Debra Dingman



The newest graduating class of the California Highway Patrol at last week's Sacramento ceremony. CHP Courtesy Photo



Each CHP graduating class is immortalized on the walls of the Academy making an impressive display throughout the entire facility. Photo by Debra Dingman

(916) 947-9403
EastSacChamber@aol.com
www.EastSacChamber.org

PLANNING COMMITTEE
Planning Committee
Tuesday, January 16, 2024
(9:30 AM - 10:30 AM)
Join the committee and be part of welcoming the new members, connecting new members with our events and other members, improve the memberships, & create new ideas of show to grow the Chamber
3027 I Street
Event Contact: Andrea Crettol
treasurer@eastsacchamber.org

Business After Hours
MIXER
5:30-7PM
January Chamber Mixer
Thursday, January 18, 2024
(5:30 PM - 7:00 PM)
Location: The Closet Trading Company
478 Howe Ave

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BY NORRIS BURKES

Grammar Police Issue Citation

want to scream, “Really? Is there a purpose for drunk drivers, tornadoes or incompetent medicine? I haven’t found it.”

I think it’s better to tell the grief-stricken person, “God is here. I am here. We will walk through this together.”

2. “They are in a better place.”

If you heard that after losing a son or daughter, wouldn’t you want to ask, “Why is that better than being with me?” Or maybe you’d be ready to conclude, “Then I want to go there too!”

Maybe a better response would be, “Tell me about what you believe happens after this life.”

3. “I know how you feel.” I actually heard a woman say while commiserating with a new widower, “I know it’s not the same thing, but I lost a dog once.”

It’s better to say, “I can’t know how you feel, but I’d love to hear what she meant to you.”

4. “God won’t give you more burdens than you can handle.”

Just one big problem with that comfort grammar – The Bible doesn’t say that!

The phrase is a poor paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 10:13 which is more accurately paraphrased as “God will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to escape.”

The verse refers to the temptation to steal, lie or cheat. It has nothing to do with the number of tragedies we experience. This misquote will often burden people with a message that God “gives” them calamities.

People who use this comfort grammar aren’t

really trying to comfort the bereaved. They are trying to wrap the tragedy into a neat box so they can assure themselves that it won’t happen to them.

The truth is that comforting grieving people has nothing to do with saying the correct thing. It has nothing to do with your thoughts and prayers. Instead, it has everything to do with being present to those who hurt.

That’s why I’m leaving you with this better alternative.

Don’t speak. Just do. Avoid the halfhearted offer, “If there is anything I can do, just ask.”

Don’t make them ask. Just do.

At my father’s funeral, my sister made a sign-up list for those who said, “If there’s anything I can do....”

“Yes,” she said. “Here’s our volunteer sign-up list.”

Using the list, people agreed to answer phones, drive relatives to the airport or bring meals. One man agreed to mow my mother’s lawn for a year.

Not everyone will know what to say to the anguished, so my best advice when you find yourself at a loss for words is this:

“Say little. Do much.”

The doing will say more than you can ever imagine.

Send Chispa Project denotations, grammar corrections or comments to 10556 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602 or by email comment@thechaplain.net or at (843) 608-9715. For more on how to comfort the grieving, check out my books on my website at www.thechaplain.net. ★

Sacramento County Chair and Vice Chair Elected

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The annual vote to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors was held on the Tuesday, Jan. 9 meeting. This year’s elected Chair is Supervisor Patrick Kennedy of District 2, and Supervisor Phil Serna of District 1 was elected Vice Chair.

“I am honored to serve as the 2024 Chair of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors,” said Kennedy. “It is a privilege to serve the residents of our county in this capacity, and I am ready to take up the responsibilities that come with this role. I am

committed to working collaboratively with my fellow supervisors and community stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. I look forward to a productive and successful year.”

Board Chair responsibilities include the following:

- Presides over the Board meetings; the Vice Chairperson assumes the role in the Chairperson’s absence or inability to act. If the Chair and Vice Chair are absent or unable to preside, the members present will select a member present to act as temporary Chairperson.

- Acts on procedural matters or questions.

- Recognizes a member of

the board desiring to speak on an item.

- Is entitled to vote on all matters before the Board, participate in discussion relating to any matter, make motions without relinquishing the Chair, and second any motion without relinquishing the Chair.

- Sits on other boards/commissions as a representative of the County of Sacramento and is the point of contact for questions from the public regarding the meetings (i.e., coordination of resolutions/presentations and general questions not specific to a district, etc.).

- The Chair and Vice Chair serve annual terms.

★

5 Over 50 Volunteer Award Nominations Open

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County is celebrating individuals who are 50 years of age and older who dedicate their time, energy, and passion to making our community a better place. The Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission is now taking applications for its 5 Over 50 Volunteer Award.

Nominees must be 50 years of age or older, actively involved in volunteer work, and residents of Sacramento County. If you know someone who meets the criteria and has made an impact in Sacramento County, nominate them for the 5 Over 50 Volunteer Award. Learn more about the application process and access the form by visiting the

Adult and Aging Commission page. Two letters of reference are required. The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 9.

The 5 Over 50 Awards will be presented on May 21 during a Sacramento County Board of Supervisors meeting. The award is presented in May to coincide with Older Americans Month. Five nominees will receive the award, with one person selected from each district within Sacramento County.

Sacramento County’s Adult and Aging Commission members look forward to celebrating the winners. The 5 Over 50 Award not only recognizes these individuals for their hard work but also celebrates their impact in making Sacramento County a great place to live. ★

SHORT-TERM STAYS FOR SENIORS

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Did you know we offer short-term stays for seniors? Whether you are heading off on a much-needed vacation or your loved one needs to recuperate after a hospital stay, we can help. We can meet your loved one where they are, whether they need around-the-clock care or are ready to enjoy all that our vibrant community has to offer, from book clubs to fitness classes to fantastic dining.

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ABOUT TOWN

Curtis Park Book Club with Crawford's Books Feb. 13, Mar. 12, Apr. 9

Curtis Park Book Club is back for 2024!

Join Track 7 Brewing Company and Crawford's Books every second Tuesday of the month in the Curtis Park taproom for Book Club! Crawford's Books will be leading the discussion.

Track 7 Brewing Company is located at Track 7 Brewing Co. - Curtis Park, 3747 W. Pacific Ave, Ste F, Sacramento, CA 95820

The event dates and times are: Feb 13, 2024 at 07:00 pm (Tue), Mar 12, 2024 at 07:00 pm (Tue), Apr 9, 2024 at 07:00 pm (Tue).

Questions? Contact Crawford's Books at sue@crawfordbooks.net

Your Elks 6 Lodge needs your help!

Help is needed in the office from 9 - 3 Monday through Friday to answer phones, sell event tickets etc.

We also need help in the Rental office to answer the phone.

If you can lend a hand even if it is half a day or one day per week, please contact me and I will get your information to the appropriate person.

For questions or to volunteer call or send text message to Sue Hill 215-327-7712.

Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink Open Nov. 8 - Jan. 15

Sharpen your skates and perfect your triple axel—the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink returns to the heart of the city on November 8! Feel a chill blow down K street as you approach Ali Youssefi Square and be teleported into a winter wonderland at the ice rink.

Regular Hours

Tuesday – Thursday 2 – 9 PM, Friday – Sunday 10 AM – 10 PM, Closed Mondays except for holidays.

Special Events

Dec. 9 – Xfinity Free Skate

Dec. 10 – Crafting Kindness

Dec. 16 – Silent Disco Ugly Sweater Party

Dec. 17 – First Step Communities Donation

Jan. 7 – Crafting Kindness

Tickets are available at the entrance to the rink when you arrive to skate.

For more info about holiday hours and scheduled events, visit www.godowntownsac.com/events/signature-events/ice-rink/

Breakfast With Santa at the Elks Lodge Dec. 17

Two of the best kept secrets in Sacramento are at Elks Lodge 6.

The first secret is they have a wonderful breakfast every Sunday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Keep it a secret from the kids, but Santa will be there on Saturday, December 17th.

The breakfast will be closed on December 24th and 31st for the holidays.

The breakfast starts with a wonderful omelet bar. The rest of the menu includes: pancakes, french toast, waffles, and biscuits and gravy. There is also potatoes, sausage, bacon, and of course either orange or tomato juice. Don't forget the coffee! All of that for \$15, and children under 10 are half price. That price includes tax and tip [donations to the Purple Pig are encouraged].

That second best secret is the Elks have an indoor swimming pool and athletic facilities with handball courts. While you are there you can have a tour of the facilities.

The Elks Lodge 6 is at 6446 Riverside Blvd.

Elk's Lodge Calendar of Events Elk's Lodge Sunday Breakfast

Every Sunday 8:30am - 11am
Bring your friends and family
\$15 tax included
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Made to order Omelets or eggs any way you want. Bacon, sausage, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, waffles, coffee large parties should call for reservations

Guest are VERY welcome!

Water Aerobics, Monday 10 am, Wednesday 2 pm

Yoga, Monday 12 pm, Wednesday 3:30 pm

Lodge members free.

Martial Arts, Monday 5 pm

Pickleball, Mon & Wed 9 am-12 pm, Thu 4:30-7:30 pm, Sun 4-7 pm

To sign-up or confirm schedule, join playtimescheduler.com

Improv Night, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 pm

See above and elks6.net for weekly menu.

Karaoke

Thursday 7 pm Saturday 7:30pm

Friday Happy Hour Friday 4-7 pm

Land Park Softball

Softball is back in Land Park and will now be a part of the Land Park Pacific Little League organization. LPPLL has been a pillar in our community since 1954 and is welcoming softball under their umbrella this SPRING!

Early Bird Registration is NOW OPEN!

Visit lppll.com/ registration to register and learn more.

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 Discounted Admission Rates

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.

For those interested in visiting inside Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (that is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily), all Fort admission fees will be waived for the duration of a major roof replacement and seismic stabilization project that is currently underway. Visitors can observe the rehabilitation project firsthand and tour the Central Building, which remains open.

Friends of Sutter's Fort is a 501c3 charitable foundation. As a state park cooperating association, we collaborate with California State Parks at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park to preserve and protect historic structures, and artifacts, and to engage visitors of all ages. For more information, please visit www.sutters-fort.org

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Online ticket sales will be available soon, watch for the announcement.

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Families are encouraged to come and meet The Easter Bunny for the 2nd Annual Bunny on the Green. It is free to visit the Bunny and take photos. There will also be a children's Easter Bonnet contest and putting activities. Guests can purchase food and mimosa's for the adults. More details to come soon.



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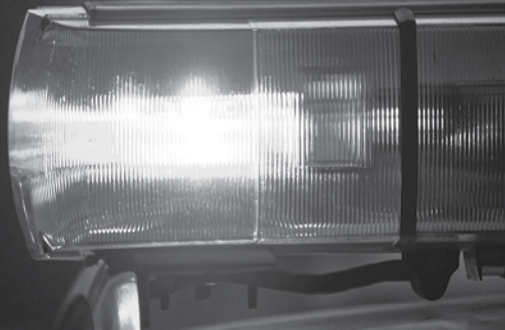
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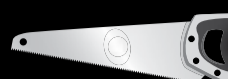
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Volunteer with Cats Care



Sacramento River Cats News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Volunteer at Yolo Food Bank! Help distribute fresh groceries to our community members! Most of the food distributions operate as a drive-thru where participants receive food without leaving their cars. Here's where you

come in... Sorting, Packing, and Clean-up: Volunteers will help unload boxes of food from pallets and sort them into categories of produce, dairy, meat, etc. Once the food has been sorted and inspected, volunteers will pack various items into bags and load the clients' vehicles. Once the last client

has gone through the line, volunteers will also help clean up and break down the event. Volunteer Date/Time: Friday, January 26. 8:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Location: Alyce Norman, 1200 Anna St., West Sacramento, CA 95605 You will need to create an account to secure your spot! Go to <https://yolofoodbank.galaxydigital.com/> to create an account with Yolo Food Bank.

If you are having trouble finding the event or registering, feel free to reach out to Ashley Magdaleno at amagdaleno@rivercats.com or call 916-376-4853. We can't wait to see you all there!

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Midway Antique Mall Says Goodbye

Story and photo by Tamara Warta

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Time is about to move on from a retail location that has enjoyed a long nostalgic pause with the Sacramento community. Midway Antique Mall, which has been selling retro finds to antique lovers since 2006, will close its doors on January 21, 2024.

The 30,000 square foot antique mall, which is located at 5130 Madison Ave, is owned and run by Mark and Ann Saunders. Meeting with Mark in one of Midway's staged mid-century rooms feels like coming home for a chat with a cherished grandparent, complete with a record softly playing throughout the mall and the couple's 6 lb yorkie named Ike at his post by the cash registers.

"I think the customers will miss Ike more than me and Ann," jokes Saunders, as he reflects upon the start of Midway while surrounded by the various rooms displaying their huge accomplishment.

With a passion for antiques since the early 1990s, the Saunders were regular dealers at the old Antique Plaza in Rancho Cordova. After being in the court reporting business for over 30 years, they decided to shutter their deposition reporting firm and become full time antique retailers following Antique Plaza's closure.

"We decided to open our own little weekend store, maybe 2500 square feet," recalls Saunders. Soon, they started getting calls from other dealers, ending up with approximately 100 inquiries into their new business that was intended to be small and simple.

"Ann and I sat down and said, well....okay! And we decided to open Midway."

The business started in the building that is now occupied by Green Acres, and moved to their current location in 2008. And, seemingly from the moment it began, Midway has been anything but small in the world of antiques. Prior to the pandemic, the mall was open 7 days a week, 10am-6pm, with both of the Saunders present everyday. Keeping Midway open has always been a team effort - although Mark lovingly gives most of the credit to Ann.

"My job is to keep our booths stocked, help dealers move in, deal with customers, and calendar coverage," says Saunders. "Ann, on the other hand, is the business manager and financial officer. She - by herself - handles all the paperwork... she has done an incredible job for one person. Without Ann, this never would have happened. If something had happened to her, Midway would've closed the next day. Without her - the rules she created, the financial management - there's no way I could

do it by myself. Ann gets 100 percent credit for Midway beginning and being maintained."

Post-pandemic, Midway changed their business model and is now closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays - it gave the Saunders some time to rest while also, surprisingly, improving their business. Sales went up, utility costs went down, and other antique shops up and down California followed suit.

Midway has long been an example to others when it comes to how to showcase antiques the right way, and outside of their throngs of loyal customers, the mall has gotten to be the background for many a photo shoot. It has become the holiday tradition of many couples and families to come sit in the shop's staged 1950s "Dean Martin room" and nab the perfect vintage holiday card photo.

When HBO came knocking, Midway also got to serve as a movie set for a Carol Burnett documentary.

"It was amazing how those movie cameras can take one of these rooms and make it look like a house," said Saunders. Both he and Ann got to enjoy the film's premiere at Sacramento's Crest theater and had fun spotting one of their kitchen sets.

When speaking about the photoshoots and documentary, Saunders reflects, "No other mall does anything like that. A lot of customers say It's just a museum trip back



Mark, Ike, and Ann Saunders in front of an original vintage jukebox at Midway Antique Mall.

in time."

While Mark Saunders clearly has a joy for his antiques - especially for the mall's mid-1950s to 1960s pieces, he is also a serious businessman. During its run, Midway rarely had a spot for a new dealer, and when it did, it would be gone within a week.

"We are very strict on who we let in here. All of our stuff has to be at least 30 years old - no new, no reproductions, no made in China."

Midway currently has 250 dealer spaces, 160 dealer showcases, and as high as 120 dealers selling at the mall. With Midway closing, Saunders couldn't provide a definitive answer

as to where all of its current dealers will go.

"It's kind of an end of an era. There will never be another Midway," says Saunders. "We have customers from all over the world... Ann and I are kind of unusual dealers. Most want to buy and sell - we care where the stuff goes. Most is priced not to sell until I find the right home."

Antiquing is not an easy game. Midcentury antiques in particular are getting harder to find because parents are passing away and children are keeping them within the family. And, for the Saunders, Midway is staying within the family as well. They declined offers to sell Midway,

with Mark instead saying, "Midway is Mark and Ann. We birthed Midway and we will lay it to rest."

"For the most part, all of the dealers are great people," said Saunders. "It's just been fun, but after 35 years in court reporting and 19 years here, I'm out of gas."

When asked what he will do now that he's retiring, the 74-year-old mentions his excitement for playing with his classic 1955 Chevy and 1962 Rambler. But, with a smile, it is clear that something else will take number one spot in the coming days.

"Ann and I are going to start dating again." ★

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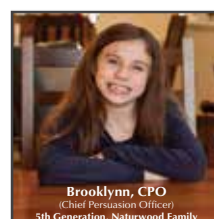
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