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Father's Day!**



# Grapevine Independent

VOLUME 58 • ISSUE 24 PROUDLY SERVING RANCHO CORDOVA & SACRAMENTO COUNTY SINCE 1968 JUNE 14, 2024

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## Business Expo, Job Fair Features Local Vendors

*KP International Market Sponsors Event*



Local residents and job seekers enjoy a beautiful day while engaging with local business and potential employers. Photo courtesy of Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce

**MPG Staff**

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Support local business!

Join the Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce at the 2024 Business Expo & Job Fair on June 20.

Sponsored by KP International Market, the Rancho Cordova Area Chamber's 13th annual Business to Community Expo & 3rd Expo Job Fair will have more than 65 vendor booths.

Approximately 550 anticipated guests will converge on the Rancho Cordova City Hall North Area

parking lot to share information and learn about the fantastic businesses serving our community.

"The 'Job Fair' is now a critical component of the Expo. Connecting employers to potential employees has been quite successful and we are taking it to a new level this year," said Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Diann H. Rogers.

Everything from financial services to health care, hotels and restaurants to information on energy efficiency and IT rescue services are here in the Rancho Cordova region. Guests can enter contests, pick up information

on special events, find out how to set up an app, collect a giveaway or two, and even have the chance to win some prizes.

Area restaurants and caterers will offer an assortment of food samplings. Some very cool vehicles will be on display, according to chamber representatives.

Sponsored by KP International Market, the Business Expo & Job Fair presenting sponsors are Elliott Homes and Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova, together with event sponsors AKT Development, First Northern Bank, Heritage Community

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## Unsheltered Homelessness Decreases 41 Percent in Sacramento

**Sacramento City  
Express News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The number of people living outdoors in the city and county of Sacramento plunged 41 percent between 2022 and 2024, one of the largest decreases in homelessness statewide.

The biennial Point-in-Time Count released June 5 by the nonprofit Sacramento Steps Forward found that overall homelessness, including those living in emergency shelters, fell by 29 percent compared to the count two years ago.

Sacramento Steps Forward coordinates community-level efforts to end homelessness. Every two years, it recruits hundreds of volunteers to go out and count people who are unhoused throughout Sacramento County. This year's count, on Jan. 24 and 25, found 3,944 people living unsheltered, down from 6,664 people identified in the 2022 count.

The total number of unhoused people counted, including those in shelter and temporary housing, dropped by 29 percent from 9,278 to 6,615.

"These results are truly outstanding and, undeniably, reflect Sacramento city and county's 'all in' approach to addressing this crisis," said Lisa Bates, CEO of Sacramento Steps Forward.

Leaders from Sacramento city and county said the decrease in unsheltered homelessness reflected the tens of millions of dollars invested by both local governments in standing up new emergency shelter beds and permanent supportive housing units, and an increasingly coordinated response to sharing resources and responsibilities.

"There are still too many people who are homeless for us to declare victory but maybe homelessness is not so intractable after all," said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. "The 41% reduction in unsheltered homelessness is dramatic and affirms that the steady course we set seven years ago to address this state and national crisis is working."

District 2 County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy also cited the work the county has been doing, including opening two Safe Stay sleeping cabin communities in his district. A Safe Stay community now under

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## Tickets on Sale for 39th Annual Rancho Cordova Fourth of July Celebration

**Cordova Community  
Council News Release**

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Rancho Cordova Fourth of July is a two-day festival and parade celebrating the local community and the American heritage.

It is the signature event for the community and includes carnival rides, concerts, Los Moralitos Circus, cold beer and the best fireworks shows in the region, all at Hagan Community Park.

Starting at 4 p.m. July 3, celebrations will kick off with carnival rides and an 8 p.m. Queens of Motown concert. At 9:45 p.m., the night will conclude with a firework show.

The fun continues, of course, on July 4. Starting at 9 a.m., the All-America Mile Road Race will begin. Start your Fourth of July with a fun workout by running the All-America Mile. Midway into the route of the Rancho Cordova Fourth of July Parade, runners not only rule the road but also have a built-in cheering section. The



Uncle Sam participates in the Rancho Cordova Fourth of July Parade in a previous year. Photo courtesy of Cordova Community Council

All-America Mile is a one-mile flat route for runners of all ages and abilities. This year, it's all about family fun. Register for free.

At 10 a.m. July 4, the Rancho Cordova Fourth of July Parade will begin. Lather on some sunscreen, dust off the lawn chair

and head over to Coloma Road. Cordova's parade is famous for its hometown flavor. So don't be surprised if you see your next-door neighbor decked out in a wacky Uncle Sam get-up for the trip down Coloma Road.

Parade entry registration ends at midnight

on June 26. For parade inquiries, call Taylor at 916-273-5708.

At 4 p.m., the Hagan Park gates will open, once again offering carnival rides until 11 p.m. At 8 p.m., there will be the Summer Night City ABBA Tribute Concert. The grand

*Continued on page 3*



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# Mobile Integrated Health Advances

By Margaret Snider

**MATHER, CA (MPG)** - In 2010, Scott Perryman was a firefighter/paramedic for Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and was also in physician assistant school. With the swine flu pandemic of 2009-2010, he said, the medical system needed changes. By 2014, working with representatives from Cosumnes Fire, Sacramento City Fire, Metro Fire, and each of the health systems, the launch of Mobile Integrated Health seemed closer but progress was slow.

When COVID-19 hit in 2020, "There was a nursing home, their whole second floor was all COVID positive," said Perryman. "They called County Health and said, we're going to send these people, and there were over 10, to the emergency room unless you can do something for us. That would have been 10 ambulances, that would have been 10 isolation rooms. There wasn't the real capacity."

Sacramento County Public Health Officer Olivia Kasirye, M.D., was aware of Mobile Integrated Health and called up the Sac Metro Fire Chief. Within one to two weeks, Mobile Integrated Health was happening.

"We already had the framework; we just needed the red tape to be removed . . ." Perryman said. "We did thousands, tens of thousands of COVID tests in the most vulnerable of the population."

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire was quickly joined by Cosumnes Fire and Sacramento City Fire to address the problems.

During the last 20 years in Sacramento County, there has been a 67% increase in 9-1-1 calls and only a 9% increase in population size. Many 9-1-1 calls are for minor issues



From left are Firefighter/Paramedic Kendall Weld, Mobile Integrated Health Advanced Provider Kaleigh Byrnes PA-C, and Battalion Chief Scott Perryman, PA. Perryman is at the forefront of the Mobile Integrated Health movement. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

because patients cannot get an appointment with their primary physician or could not make the trip to an urgent care within their range.

The increase in 9-1-1 calls has often resulted in emergency room ambulance/patient offload delay. Ambulances and personnel can be tied up for hours waiting for a bed to open, unable to respond to other emergency calls. Mobile Integrated Health takes evaluation and treatment to the patient, when appropriate, instead of taking the patient to the emergency room.

High utilizers of 9-1-1 might only need a lift assist after falling at home but repeated falls can eventually result in injury. Perryman, now battalion chief, tells of an individual who had called 9-1-1 10 times in one

month. He was not injured but needed a lift assist because he couldn't get up.

"We found out he falls during this time of day and this time of night," Perryman said. "We just provided him with a bedside urinal, so all he had to do was just roll to the side, and not at 3 in the morning fall out of bed because he can't find his glasses and it's dark because he turned off the light and he trips over the rug that he will not get rid of because it's his favorite rug."

Virginia Wilson of Antelope was a repeat caller. She lived with her son in a second-floor apartment with no elevator.

"I'm in a wheelchair and I was on the second floor and I had to call (9-1-1) to come and get me and carry me down the stairs," Wilson said. "The little

bus, paratransit, came and got me and took me to the doctor . . . Then I had to call when I came home and (the responders) had to put me back up the stairs."

Her son has multiple sclerosis and is also in a wheelchair. Metro Fire and congressional candidate Christine Bish worked with Wilson and apartment management to help her get a first-floor apartment.

Elizabeth Rhose of North Highlands presented with another type of 9-1-1 call. She recently tried to intervene when she saw two dogs fighting and had an injury to her arm. Metro Fire responded to her 9-1-1 call and called the Mobile Integrated Health team.

"MIH just came in my apartment," Rhose said. "I didn't have to sit for six hours in the

waiting room, waiting to be stitched up, in constant pain . . . They were done within an hour or two and they just left. They even ordered my medication for me and had it delivered."

Challenges in the 9-1-1 system include an increase in opioid overdoses and calls for behavioral health issues. With Mobile Integrated Health, quick delivery of Narcan directly to the patient can save lives. Behavioral health patients can get to the correct place the first time, not preceded by a long emergency room wait.

"Last year (the pilot program) saved the system over \$2.4 million," Perryman said. "We're bringing the care to them, in their own environment, and we can do it for over 50% savings." ★

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## Anniversary Celebration for Steve Keys Coming June 29

By Mike Marando, Cordova High 1973 Alumnus

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Friends, families and teammates of Steven Michael Keys are invited on Saturday, June 29 to gather for a special, 40-year anniversary celebration of life at 5 p.m. at Mountain Mike's Pizza, 2220 Gold Springs Court, Gold River, CA.

A 1973 graduate of Cordova High School, Steve passed away on June 15, 1984, but left a lasting legacy of friendship that spanned his many years in the greater Rancho Cordova and Sacramento area.

Steve loved playing competitive softball on Friday nights in Rancho Cordova, so we'll be celebrating



Steve Keys was a talented baseball player and saw lots of success in the game. Photo courtesy of Mike Marando



Steve Keys was a graduate of Cordova High School and impacted many people during time there. Photo courtesy of Mike Marando

with stories, memories, and plenty of pizza. We'd love to hear your stories too.

Steve played for several years on various teams but blossomed into a star left fielder who helped lead Shakey's Pizza/Rancho Cordova to six consecutive league titles and two tournament champion-

ships in 1982 and 1983. Steve began his softball career with the Mills Merchants in 1978 and quickly developed into one of the team's best hitters.

Please RSVP or direct any questions to Kristina Keys at [kristinakeys78@gmail.com](mailto:kristinakeys78@gmail.com) or 310.971.5272. ★

## New Rector to Serve St. Clement's Episcopal Church

St. Clement's Episcopal Church News Release

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - St. Clement's Episcopal Church in Rancho Cordova is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. Zac Neubauer as their newest rector. Born and raised in Ohio, Zac began his ordination process in the Church of England while living in the UK and has previously served at churches in Georgia and other parts of Northern California.

Zac had served at St. Clement's as part-time, interim priest, commuting regularly from Napa while the parish looked for a full-time permanent priest. During his time as interim, it became clear that Zac and St.

Clement's were a very good fit for each other, and he was ceremonially installed as rector by Bishop Megan Traquair in February.

Zac is enthusiastic about St. Clement's and its role in the community. "I was attracted by a welcoming and diverse congregation and by the unusually strong music program. I was also impressed by their deep commitment to outreach, particularly their partnering with United Methodist Church and others in the People's Pantry and HART (The Homeless Assistance Resource Program.)" St. Clement's Senior Warden, Laura Simkins, notes: "The congregation was impressed with Zac's energy, his enthusiasm for the Episcopal Church, and with his relevant, scripture-based sermons." ★

# Micro Masterpiece Event Raises Over \$16,000

By Omella Rossi

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Rancho Cordova Arts, a nonprofit organization, has once again demonstrated its commitment to fostering creativity and education within the community through its annual Micro Masterpieces event raising more than \$16,000. Held at the MACC (Mills Station Arts & Culture Center), the heart of Rancho Cordova Arts, this fundraiser aims to provide essential art supplies to teachers and students across the region, making a significant impact on education and artistic expression.

The sixth annual Rancho Cordova Micro Masterpieces event features an array of 6x6 pieces of art, each a testament to the talent and generosity of the community in supporting art education.

"The art is all donated by the artists; they understand how important it is to have art in schools," said art director Cheryl Gleason.

With 625 pieces available for bidding, ranging from oil and acrylic paintings to collages and photography, ceramics and mosaic, there was something for every art lover. Starting at just \$20, with bid increments of \$3, the event ran from June 3 to June 8, with bidding taking place online. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to view the Micro Masterpieces in person at the MACC Gallery from June 6 to June 8.

This year, one piece went for more than \$400, making the highest amount ever attained at the event for a single piece.



Attendees contemplate the art pieces displayed at the Micro-Masterpiece event on June 8. Photo courtesy of Rick Sloan

"It was a surprise and an honor. A testament that there is a huge support base for the event and for the arts in Rancho Cordova," said artist Paula Bellacera, whose art raised the most funds.

Over the years, Rancho Cordova Arts has set ambitious fundraising goals, starting from \$7,500 and reaching \$15,000 in donations. The event has grown substantially since its inception, with the first year raising \$1,200 and subsequent years seeing significant increases in funds raised.

"We buy the supplies instead of donating the money so the supplies go exactly where we want them to go," Gleason emphasized.

The Micro Masterpieces event began as an initiative



Panels displayed the 625 art pieces showcased at the Micro-Masterpiece event. Photo courtesy of Rick Sloan

to raise funds for the MACC. Originating from a fundraiser with 6x6 panels, the event quickly gained momentum, transitioning from in-person auctions to an online platform, particularly advantageous during the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision to extend the bidding period over five days allowed for greater

participation and ultimately increased donations.

"We know this program is working because this year, the MACC had its largest student show with 552 pieces of art, which is over 100 more than last year," Gleason said. "Schools that had never participated before are now participating."

This project operates year-round with various tasks distributed across the months. In January, panels are distributed and collected until April, with photographs taken for the website. In June, the auction is launched and items are packaged. In July and August, board meetings are held to review numbers and allocated budgets. In September, teachers receive wish lists for materials, with supply orders placed in October. By December, orders are assembled, and teachers are invited to a pickup party at the end of the school year. Finally, in January, teachers start the new year with fresh supplies.

The importance of art education cannot be overstated. Studies have

shown that students with access to art education are five times less likely to drop out of school, four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievements, four times more likely to receive a bachelor's degree and 30% more inclined to pursue a professional career.

Looking ahead, Rancho Cordova Arts is expanding its initiatives to include "Teach the Teachers" workshops, aimed at equipping educators with innovative techniques to integrate art into their curriculum effectively.

"The MACC is a very special place because they are so hooked into the community," Bellacera said. "They bring the most magnificent opportunities for the public." ★

## Business Expo, Job Fair Features Local Vendors



Here is the entry way to last year's Business Expo & Job Fair. The event is popular every year. Photo courtesy of Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce

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Credit Union, Rancho Cordova FiberCity and Republic Services.

Other sponsors include Messenger Publishing Group, Russian American Media, d'primeramano Magazine, Ethno. FM, Afisha Media Group, and the Better Business Bureau of Northeast California.

This event is widely anticipated each year. Kristin Holihan, First Northern Bank, said: "We look forward to the Chamber's Business Expo; it gives us the opportunity to connect with local businesses directly face to face again."

Celia Surridge, Better Business Bureau of Northeast California, said: "The Chamber Expo is a terrific opportunity to showcase our services and programs to the business community. We are excited to be out and connecting with folks."

Greg Fox, Fox Family Heating, Air &

Solar said: "I definitely saw an uptick in business from the Expo. I plan to participate every year!"

Bee Lopez, Explore Rancho Cordova and resident, said: "The Rancho Cordova Business Expo is on my calendar every year. I enjoy checking out the new and returning vendor booths. The Chamber does a great job of promoting business in our community."

The June 20 event is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rancho Cordova City Hall's north parking lot (2729 Prospect Park Drive at the corner of White Rock just off Zinfandel and Prospect Park).

Vendor spaces are still available. Contact the Chamber at 916-273-5702 for details or go to <https://form.jotform.com/230945956123157>.

For more information about the 2024 Business Expo & Job Fair, call the chamber at 916-273-5700 or go online to [ranchocordova.org](http://ranchocordova.org) ★

## Unsheltered Homelessness Decreases 41 Percent in Sacramento

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construction on Stockton Boulevard in the city of Sacramento will include tiny homes provided to the city by the state. It will be run by the county through its partnership agreement with the city.

"It is encouraging to see positive results from the hard work we've been doing for years," Kennedy said. "The county has invested significant resources into new programs, services and shelter beds. I am proud to have many of these shelter beds in my district and more coming this year. Together, we're making a difference!"

Sacramento Steps Forward CEO Bates noted several significant factors that have helped ease the crisis of unsheltered homelessness in Sacramento, including:

Direct assistance from the state to cities, counties and Continuums of Care through the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Grant (HHAP) program. The city, county and Sacramento Steps Forward have received \$120 million in HHAP funding since 2019. HHAP currently pays



The number of people living outdoors in the city and county of Sacramento plunged 41 percent between 2022 and 2024, one of the largest decreases in homelessness statewide. Photo courtesy Pixabay

for 97% of the city's emergency shelter beds.

The partnership agreement signed by the County and City in 2022 increased street outreach to homeless encampments with teams that include county behavioral health workers.

A sizeable increase in emergency shelter and homeless housing capacity. The number of shelter and transitional housing beds in the city and county has increased by 84 percent from 2020 — to a total of 3,527 beds. The number of permanent supportive housing units has risen 30

percent, an increase of 1,001 units.

An easing of rents and the availability of apartments. Bates noted that the average apartment vacancy rate rose by 58% since 2022, with rents dipping by 3%.

The new Coordinated Access System funded by the City and County and run by Sacramento Steps Forward provides a centralized access point for shelter, housing and homelessness prevention services.

To read the full 2024 Point-In-Time Count report and view infographics, go to [www.sacstepsforward.org](http://www.sacstepsforward.org). ★

## Tickets on Sale for 39th Annual Rancho Cordova Fourth of July Celebration

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finale will be at 9:45 p.m., when the fireworks spectacular will begin.

Tickets range in price: \$5 admission when purchased online and \$10 when purchased at

the gate. Parking will be \$10 in cash only.

Make your plans now to be in Rancho Cordova for two great days of fun and excitement. Visit [ranchocordovajuly4th.com](http://ranchocordovajuly4th.com) for more information. ★

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# California Seeks a More Resilient Water Supply as Familiar Sides Battle for Access



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California is a semi-arid state in which the availability of water determines land use, and in turn shapes the economy.

That, in a nutshell, explains why Californians have been jousting over water for the state's entire 174-year history.

The decades of what some have dubbed "water wars" may be approaching a climactic point as climate change, economic evolution, stagnant population growth and environmental consciousness compel decisions on California's water future.

A new study, conducted by researchers at three University of California campuses, projects that a combination of factors will reduce California's water supply by up to 9 million acre-feet a year — roughly the equivalent of all non-agricultural human use. They include effects of climate change, new regulations to stem the over-draft of underground water, reducing Colorado River diversions and increasing environmental flows, especially those through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

In an average year, around 200 million acre-feet of water fall on the state as rain or snow. Evaporation and percolation take most of it, leaving about 80 million acre-feet to be divided up among three major uses. Agricultural irrigation and environmental flows to

the ocean are roughly equal at around 35 million acre-feet while residential, commercial and industrial users take the remainder.

The latter is not only the smallest of the three uses but has been remarkably stable — even declining somewhat, despite decades of high population growth — thanks to intensive conservation programs.

Although water officials constantly beseech Californians to limit their personal consumption of water, the real conflict in recent years, particularly during periods of drought, has pitted agricultural interests against environmentalists over the flows needed to nurture fish and other wildlife.

Environmentalists have pressed state water officials, particularly the Water Resources Control Board, to compel farmers to reduce diversions from rivers to enhance flows. Agriculture is also being squeezed by new restrictions on tapping aquifers via wells. Moreover, California's largest-in-the-nation agricultural sector has also been shifting from seasonal crops to nuts, grapes and other permanent, high-value products, which need year-round watering.

"Good management and policy for this situation requires organized serious attention and consistent long-term policy, without complacency or panic," the UC study concludes.

The new study bolsters a 2022 policy paper issued by the Newsom administration calling for 4 million acre-feet of new water storage, another 1.3 million in savings through conservation and reuse of wastewater, and new supplies from desalination and other processes.

The study also arrives as legislation that would set new

targets for increased water supply, Senate Bill 366, makes its way through the Capitol with broad support from water interests of all varieties.

It's one thing to point out that California faces a potential water supply crisis and should be earnestly trying to avoid the effects, but actually doing something confronts two steep hurdles: the glacial pace of water projects of any kind, and unresolved conflict over water rights, some of which date back to the state's founding in 1850.

The Sites Reservoir exemplifies the former. The western Sacramento Valley project, which would add 1.5 million acre-feet of off-stream storage, has moved closer to reality in recent years after seven decades of sitting on the shelf. Ditto for the long-planned canal or tunnel that would bypass the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The notion of a comprehensive, long-range program making California's uncertain water supply more resilient sounds great, and the clock is ticking. However, it assumes that officialdom has the legal authority to make it happen.

Until and unless the issue of water rights is resolved, the much-discussed reallocation of supplies — more for environmental flows and less for agriculture — will remain stalled.

*Dan Walters is one of most widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. He began covering California politics in 1975, just as Jerry Brown began his first stint as governor, and began writing his column in 1981. He has been at CalMatters since 2017. ★*



Think, Pray and Find Your Calling

Dear Dave,

My husband and I have been very blessed financially over the course of our lives. We make a little over \$200,000 a year combined, and we currently have a net worth of around \$4 million. But what do you do when you're not motivated by that kind of thing anymore? How do you find and live out God's purpose for your life, when you've already had a better life than you ever expected?

—Amanda

Dear Amanda

I can't tell you what your calling is, but I can say this. There's a lot of fulfillment and joy to be found when you're doing something that serves the people and things in your life that matter most.

If you've studied psychology a bit, you may remember something called Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Basically, it says once your physiological and safety needs have been

## Dave Ramsey Says

met, you begin to feel the need to find other things to motivate you. It sounds like you're both hard-working, performance-driven people. I am, too. And people like us get our relaxation, and even fulfillment, away from work in different ways than most people.

If I were in your shoes, I'd start trying to think about ways you can serve other people or causes you care about. Maybe there were dreams you had a long time ago, and you put them aside for your career. What really speaks to you right now, at this stage of your life? For you, if you have kids in the house, it might mean becoming a stay-at-home mom and really pouring yourself into them. It might mean starting an animal shelter, or providing meals for people who are homebound. Everyone has dreams, and everyone's dreams are different.

It sounds like you've been thinking about this for a while, so here's my advice to you. Take a day, or even a weekend, all to yourself. Get away from everything and everyone—and all outside distractions—and think about your future self. Bring along things to eat and drink, a bunch of notepads, pencils and a

Bible. Then, before you do anything else, take a deep breath, relax and pray.

From that point on, be completely honest with God and with yourself. Open up your heart and mind to things you care about and all the possibilities. You have to have a goal that's worthy in mind, and that's the one thing that's missing. But a time of thoughtful prayer—and yes, even daydreaming—may just put you closer to an answer than you've ever been before.

Congratulations on your success, Amanda. You and your husband truly have been blessed. But now, it may be the time to become a blessing to others!

—Dave

*Dave Ramsey is an eight-time No. 1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★*

# LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

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## Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

### The Battle Inside You

Part 2

In the last column, I discussed the negative emotions of anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, superiority, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, and ego. This column and the next, will look at the positive emotions of joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.

Within each of us is the battle between positive and negative forces. We have the power to pick which force dominates. It is normal to feel conflicts. The character of a person is determined by the decisions we ultimately make, not the internal battles we experience.

Positive energy creates more happiness, attracts good things, and draws other positive people to you. Since you do have a choice, why not choose the good feelings?

You can find joy by paying attention to all the good that exists. Even when the world appears to be filled with turmoil, there is still a lot of good many people overlook. Don't immerse yourself in the negative. Overexposure to negative news and people will smother your joy.

Finding joy takes more effort than finding problems. If you habitually take the path of least resistance, joy will be elusive. People are not joyous by accident, they consciously choose it. It's hard to stay full of joy if you spend a lot of time with those who aren't.

Although most people want peace and serenity, they ironically embrace conflict. They seek out problems in every situation. You can't feel at peace when you have constant conflict. So instead of looking for problems, seek solutions.

There is a solution for every problem. Just the realization of this should provide some peace and relaxation. Being at ease enables you to more readily identify solutions. As you become adept at solving problems, you take them more in stride. As a result, you feel more peaceful.

Love is touted as an elusive emotion that has the potential to solve all of mankind's problems. The fact is, there are people you don't like and there are those who don't like you. Even so, it's important to be able to love yourself. This means you are happy with who you are and constantly strive to improve.

When you feel good about yourself, you are more likely to treat others well. Individuals who are mean, typically are not happy with who they are. Although love won't solve all problems, it will make life much more pleasant.

Hope keeps you going when the going gets tough. If you give up hope, you prevent yourself from solving problems. Hope works best when you take a proactive approach. Those who sit and wait, are not proponents of hope.

Happy people are always filled with hope. They smile, laugh, and are pleasant to be around. People who drag themselves around, don't have hope. Hope is a cause, not a result. Action is what makes hope work. Hope for what you want. Then take the necessary steps to get it.

Self-confident people exhibit humility. They don't have to prove anything, nor do they attempt to boost their own stature by putting others down. Humble people are content with who they are. They have no need to boast.

Humility is a quality that makes one comfortable to be around. No one likes to associate with an egocentric person. Those with humility always take an interest in others. Additionally, they are always respectful and considerate.

The next column will continue with kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.

*NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit [www.BryanGolden.com](http://www.BryanGolden.com) or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at [bryan@columnist.com](mailto:bryan@columnist.com) or write him c/o this paper. ©2024 Bryan Golden ★*

## Social Security Matters

### Social Security's "Guaranteed" Annual Cost-of-living Adjustment (COLA)



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I've been reading a lot lately about speculation on what next year's benefit increase will be, and it seems like most of the experts are suggesting a range of 2.5% to 3%. My neighbor says don't worry about it, because there will always be some level of increase come January. It's guaranteed, right? **Signed: Retired But Questioning**

**Dear Retired:** You've brought up a common belief about the annual Social Security COLA, one that we hear often. Let's start with some background. Each year's COLA results from comparing the third quarter average Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) each year to the same average from the preceding year. The result of dividing the current year's average by

the previous year's average produces the COLA for the following year. For 2024's adjustment, the 2023 third-quarter average was 301.2 and the comparable figure for 2022 was 291.9, producing the 3.2% benefit addition.

It's not always the case that the year-to-year CPI calculation produces a positive result, as was the case three times so far this century. As recently as 2016, for example, the 2015 third-quarter average was 233.3 and the comparable figure for 2014 was 234.2, producing a negative change. Fortunately for beneficiaries, Social Security law prohibits a negative COLA, so the negative result was ruled out and the COLA for 2016 was zero.

So, the rumor that there will always be a benefit increase in January is untrue, although having only three zero COLA years since the start of automated adjustments in 1974 leads folks to assume there will always be a boost in the new year. The size of the adjustment fluctuates with economic cycles and has ranged from a high of 14.3 percent in 1980 to 0.3% in 2017 (excluding,

of course, the zero years). Incidentally, the historical average since automatic COLAs began is 3.8%, so the 2024 adjustment of 3.2% isn't that far from the average.

Social Security's rules are myriad and often confusing, but no question is too simple to be asked. The AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service is available, at no charge, to answer all your Social Security questions, via email at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org) or call 1.888.750.2622. *This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). ★*

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## And Another Thing

*I hope, you too, have found a peaceful place*

By Bob McGarvey

Most of the schools are completed for the school year, and summer vacations are really into spring. I know that some schools, like most of the schools in the Elk Grove United School District, are in year round school tracks. The students in the Robert J. McGarvey Elementary School are in four tracks, and they like the vacation time they receive when they are off track. Depending on which track, the elementary schools in Elk Grove start their school year in the middle of July. Their high schools go to regular school year times because of competition with other high schools in other school districts.

My wife and I like to go to state parks, and our favorite is Clear Lake State Park in Lake county. We have been going there for a long time. There have been both good and bad times. Good fishing and swimming on vacation, and we also had a few times when we had to leave as quickly as possible because of fires in that area. We have been fortunate and we left when we needed to do so.

There have been many opportunities for us to learn about the native people who were the Pomo people who lived there. There is a visitors center there which is run by volunteers on weekends. It has information about the Pomo people, about the wild life in the area, and information about Mt. Konocti, which is a volcano. As I said there are many things to enjoy there.

There were some articles which said there may be some problems in the lake this year because of algae which may be

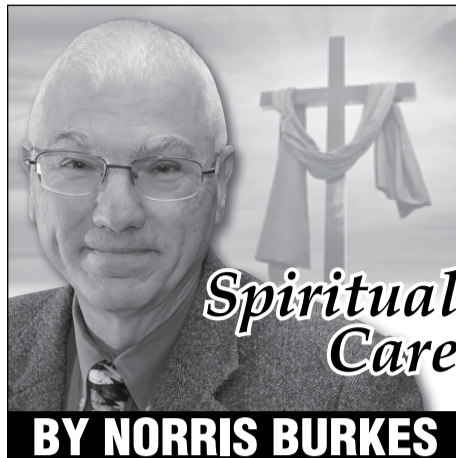
unhealthy or even toxic. We went there this week, and we didn't find the problems like that. We didn't go all around the lake, but where we were was safe. Like many places in California in which people have found their own vacation place, I hope, you too, have found a peaceful place.

Our Mayor David Sander has been able to bring the National League of Cities Conference to Rancho Cordova. Before we became a city, many people thought that Rancho Cordova would never have anything like the leadership that is going on in our city today. I will be talking about that NLC Conference that will be happening during the week. Being President of the NLC is something which David has been able to show the nation what a great city we have.

People are looking for a nice cool location in our city when the temperatures go over one hundred degrees. Many people are able to beat the heat by taking a dive in the new Cordova Community Pool. It is located at the Hagan Community Park. As was said by the Cordova Recreation & Park District, "The Cordova Community Pool Replacement project includes two new pools and a pool facility building. The competitive pool includes a one meter diving board, eight deep water swimming lanes, and two warm-up/cool-down lanes." There were many, many people who were looking forward to the community pool, and now they have one. I hope you will have an opportunity to check out our fantastic community pool.

From Bob McGarvey, God bless, and see you next time. ★

## A Recovering Christian and the Catholic Church



BY NORRIS BURKES

ByDane Dowell

In my teens, I grew up in the Methodist church. I sang in choir, played handbells, joined the youth group and sat on the finance committee. I was a "Christian."

In my 20s, I moved to Denver and started traveling the world. Experiencing other cultures, I began to question my faith. I learned to embrace my authentic self and rewrite my beliefs according to my lived experience. I called myself a "former Christian."

In my 30s, I began a spiritual journey learning to acknowledge my inner light. Organized religion seemed to emphasize the external God. Through my spiritual studies, I began to also see our inner divinity. Christians believe God is Love.

Though not necessarily aligned with any one faith, I believe Love is God. Given my upbringing, I began to use the term "recovering Christian."

Now in my 40's (all of two months), I took a trip last month to Honduras with Chispa Project, and I am now calling myself a "catholic." Not Catholic like the religion, but rather catholic in the true meaning of the word: the universal, undivided church.

The mission of Chispa Project is to partner with schools throughout Honduras to install libraries and bring books into classrooms.

Books empower kids with words. Children learn to tell stories. They read about different subjects. They learn critical thinking and engage their imaginations. Mostly run by Hondurans, the project is occasionally assisted by groups of volunteers who help local staff inaugurate a new school library.

In April, I joined the Chispa Project along with almost 20 other volunteers for one week. I met up with the group at the newly modernized Comayagua International Airport. We were an odd-looking bunch, but I was curious to hear everyone's story.

After two hours of driving through lush green hills, we arrived at our destination close to Lago Yojoa. Honduras is a beautiful country where plants thrive, and life cannot help but burst forth everywhere. It felt symbolic of the abounding presence of life I hoped to experience that week in Honduras.

Gathered in a circle, we introduced ourselves. Within minutes, it became clear that we were a diverse group—diverse in terms of hometowns, ages, jobs, faith, sexualities, political ideologies and our lived experiences.

Back home, it would have been easy to draw lines and self-segregate. Instead, in Honduras, we spent a week volunteering together, and what a beautiful week it was.

I painted walls with Robert from Colorado, stickered books with Melissa from Florida, assembled bookshelves with Bob from South Carolina and organized classroom activities with Marianne from Tennessee. Throughout the week, I was afforded glimpses into the lives of more than 20 unique individuals.

Yes, we were incredibly different. Yet as volunteers, we became united in our actions as one collective family. There were many moments of levity and laughter and moments of sincere depth. Spending a week with these people, I came to see how we are all more alike than we are different. We all had an inner light: the Christ within.

In the rural countryside of Honduras, I was reminded of a line from the Apostle's Creed:

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church..." Truly, that week kindness and generosity united us all; we were each connected by the spirit of love. Though a stranger in foreign lands, I found a family; though a "recovering Christian" among diverse beliefs, I found a new home in the "catholic church." ★

*I've asked Dane Dowell to guest-write my column today because Dane recently volunteered for Chispa Project. He is a life coach who loves to explore the confluence of spirituality, psychology and culture. He is also the author of an upcoming book, "The Light That Beckons." Based in Denver, he's often on adventures exploring the world. You can learn more about him at www.danedowell.com.*

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<p><b>ST. CLEMENT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b>                  www.saint-clements.com                  2376 Zinfandel Drive (916)-635-5282                  Sunday Worship at 10am                  Kids' Sunday School During Service                  The Episcopal Church Welcomes You!</p>	

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# Council Shares Economic Development Strategic Plan

By Omella Rossi

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Officials engaged in a pivotal discussion with TIP Strategies, Inc., a consultancy firm specializing in economic development, during a June 3 Rancho Cordova City Council special meeting.

Led by senior partner Jeff Marcel, along with senior consultant Jenn Todd-Goynes and consultant Victoria Wilson, TIP Strategies aims to boost economic, financial and social prosperity within the Rancho Cordova community through the Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) implementation. This year-long process is poised to guide the city of Rancho Cordovas

economic development over the next three years.

The meeting focused on sharing preliminary findings, introducing guiding principles and goal areas, and soliciting feedback from City Council to refine the strategic approach. With a focus on bolstering the city's economy and ensuring long-term sustainability, the plan sets forth clear metrics and actionable recommendations. In crafting the strategic plan, community input from meetings, focus groups and surveys offered a grassroots perspective, in addition to data analysis and insights from industry expertise.

"Preliminary findings reveal that Rancho Cordova has experienced

rapid growth since 2010, primarily driven by domestic migration but this growth rate may be slowing," Todd-Goynes said.

"Despite housing affordability compared to neighboring communities, Rancho Cordova sees a higher proportion of cost burdened homeowners, reaching 27%," Todd-Goynes said.

Regarding industry sector employment, the city demonstrates strengths in finance, insurance and regional and corporate operations, along with robust employment in healthcare, construction and transportation sectors.

"Commuter data highlights a housing opportunity with around 54,000 workers commuting into Rancho Cordova and 29,000

commuting out," consultant Wilson said.

Key assets identified within Rancho Cordova include its community spirit, diverse population, regional job center status, favorable business climate and affordable housing. Challenges included underutilized office spaces, lack of a central downtown or community space area, and a disconnect between living and working areas requiring targeted solutions.

The proposed framework for the strategic plan emphasizes three guiding principles: economic resilience, meaning a community can bounce back from challenges such as

COVID-19; manageable sustainable growth for the economy and population; and inclusivity across three goal areas: business development, placemaking and real estate, and workforce and talent enhancement.

"Stakeholder engagement and data analysis will remain ongoing as the project advances," said Todd-Goynes about the project's next steps. "Council updates and steering committee meetings will continue throughout this phase of gathering information and insights.

Discussions throughout the meeting also focused on potential ways to promote inclusive and sustainable growth by increasing tax revenues and job creation within the community. ★

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**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE**

creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Raymond Kent Shebelut, aka Raymond K. Shebelut aka Raymond Shebelut.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Kent Shebelut, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Kent Shebelut be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows July 16, 2024, 1:30 p.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826. Zoom Telepresence: <https://saccourt-ca.gov.zoomgov.com/join/9129129> Meeting: 161 3352 9231

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the

court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Daniel K. Marvin, Law offices of Sherwood & Marvin, 1025 North Demaree Street / P.O. Box 7208, Visalia, CA 93290; 559-733-3900  
 Publish: June 14, 21, 28, 2024  
 SHEBELUT 6-28-24

the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows July 17, 2024, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

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The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: David R. Morris Esq, 5137 Golden Foothill Parkway, Suite 110, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762; 916-789-9810  
 Publish: June 14, 21, 28, 2024  
 COLLINS 6-28-24

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

*Para más información sobre esta reunión pública, y cómo este cambio impactará su factura, llame al 1-800-999-4033.*

**NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC FORUM (Public Participation Hearing)**  
**Golden State Water Company's Request to Increase Water Rates**  
**ARDEN CORDOVA SERVICE AREA**  
**APPLICATION 23-08-010**

**How can I participate?**  
 Golden State Water Company (GSWC) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) would like to hear from you. You are invited to participate in a Public Forum, also called a Public Participation Hearing (PPH), about GSWC's general rate case (GRC) application.

These Public Forums are part of the proceeding that will be documented and placed into the formal record so the CPUC can make a decision about GSWC's request. You can make comments and raise concerns to the CPUC Administrative Law Judge overseeing this application.

You can also provide written public comments at any time during the proceeding at [apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2308010](https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2308010).

**Where and when will these Public Forums be held?**  
 The virtual hearings can be viewed by internet, or listened to by phone, with the information below. If you wish to make a public comment, please participate by phone using the phone number below, press \*1, unmute your phone and provide your name when prompted.

Date	Time	Details
June 24, 2024	6:00pm	Phone number: 800-857-1917 Passcode: 6032788# Dial *1 if you wish to make a comment Webcast: <a href="https://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/">www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/</a>

For updates and additional information, please visit: [www.cpuc.ca.gov/pph](https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/pph).

**Please note:** If you need a language interpreter, please contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office using the contact information at the end of this notice at least five business days before the public forum.

**Why am I receiving this notice?**  
 On August 14, 2023, GSWC filed its GRC application (A.23-08-010) with the CPUC. In this application, GSWC is requesting to consolidate its Arden Cordova and Clearlake Customer Service Areas under a new Northern Region consolidated rate structure for both its residential and nonresidential customers.

The table below shows the annual changes in the revenue requirement requested by GSWC. It includes both the requested amount for the consolidated Northern Region (if approved) and for the stand-alone Arden Cordova area (if the consolidation is not approved).

	Increase 2025	Increase 2026	Increase 2027	Total Increase
Northern Consolidated	\$4,199,100 21.39%	\$1,683,600 6.95%	\$1,834,200 6.97%	\$7,716,900 35.31%
Arden Cordova	\$3,545,000 21.13%	\$1,375,300 6.66%	\$1,487,700 6.64%	\$6,407,885 34.42%

If the CPUC approves this application, GSWC will recover forecasted costs in rates over a three-year period beginning January 1, 2025. This will impact your bill.

**Why is GSWC requesting this rate increase?**  
 The purpose of this GRC is for GSWC to cover its anticipated costs from 2025 through 2027 for:

- Improvements to the water supply system
- Depreciation
- Federal income tax
- Property taxes
- Allocated General Office and district office expenses

**How could this affect my monthly bill?**  
**Consolidated Rate Structure Bill Impact**  
 Under GSWC's proposal to consolidate rates in the Arden Cordova and Clearlake service areas, the effect to the average residential customer in Arden Cordova with a 5/8 x 3/4" meter using 11 Ccf (1 Ccf = 748 gallons) would see a monthly bill increase of \$8.04 (or 23.38%), from \$34.39 to \$42.43 in 2025, \$3.40 (or 8.01%), from \$42.43 to \$45.83 in 2026, and \$3.69 (or 8.05%), from \$45.83 to \$49.52 in 2027, **excluding any applicable surcharges or credits.**

**Stand-alone Bill Impact**  
 If the proposed application is approved by the CPUC but the consolidated rate structure is denied, the average residential customer with a 5/8 x 3/4" meter using 11 Ccf would see a monthly bill increase of \$6.69 (or 19.45%), from \$34.39 to \$41.08 in 2025, \$2.78 (or 6.77%), from \$41.08 to \$43.86 in 2026, and \$2.98 (or 6.79%), from \$43.86 to \$46.84 in 2027, **excluding any applicable surcharges or credits.**

The table below shows the proposed revenue increases by customer class for Arden Cordova if GSWC's consolidated request is not approved:

Proposed Revenue Increases (Dollars in Thousands)					
Description	Present Revenue	2025 Increase	2026 Increase	2027 Increase	Total Increase
Customer Class	\$	\$ %	\$ %	\$ %	\$ %
Residential	7,284.1	1,293.8 17.8%	581.1 6.8%	626.0 6.8%	2,500.9 31.4%
Commercial	6,614.7	1,579.4 23.9%	577.6 6.8%	629.3 6.7%	2,786.3 37.4%
Industrial	9.9	2.1 21.4%	0.8 6.9%	0.9 6.7%	3.8 35.0%
Public Authority	381.7	90.0 23.6%	32.2 6.8%	33.9 6.7%	156.1 37.1%
Irrigation	2,123.4	500.6 23.6%	183.5 6.8%	197.6 6.7%	881.7 37.1%
Resale	0.0	0.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%
Contract	0.0	0.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%
Other	0.0	0.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%
Private Fire	342.3	79.0 23.1%	0.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%	79.4 23.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,756.3</b>	<b>3,545.0 21.1%</b>	<b>1,375.3 6.7%</b>	<b>1,487.7 6.6%</b>	<b>6,407.9 34.4%</b>

**How does the rest of the process work?**  
 This application has been assigned to a CPUC Administrative Law Judge who will consider proposals and evidence presented during the formal hearing process. The Administrative Law Judge will issue a proposed decision that may adopt GSWC's application, modify it, or deny it. Any CPUC Commissioner may sponsor an alternate decision with a different outcome. The proposed decision, and any alternate decisions, will be discussed and voted upon by the CPUC Commissioners at a public CPUC Voting Meeting.

Parties to the proceeding may review GSWC's application, including the Public Advocates Office, which is an independent consumer advocate within the CPUC that represents customers to obtain the lowest possible rate for service consistent with reliable and safe service levels. For more information about the Public Advocates Office, please call 1-415-703-1584, email [PublicAdvocatesOffice@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:PublicAdvocatesOffice@cpuc.ca.gov), or visit [PublicAdvocates.cpuc.ca.gov](https://www.PublicAdvocates.cpuc.ca.gov).

Your participation by providing your thoughts on GSWC's request can help the CPUC make an informed decision. Please visit [apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2308010](https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2308010) to submit a comment about this proceeding on the CPUC Docket Card. Here you can also view documents and other public comments related to this proceeding.

**Where can I get more information?**  
**Contact Golden State Water**  
**Phone:** 24-hour Customer Service Center 1-800-999-4033 (toll-free) or TTY 1-877-933-9533  
**Email:** [customerservice@gswater.com](mailto:customerservice@gswater.com)  
**Mail:** 630 East Foothill Boulevard, Attn: Regulatory Affairs Dept., San Dimas, CA 91773


A copy of GSWC's application and related exhibits are available at [www.gswater.com/2025-27rates](https://www.gswater.com/2025-27rates).

**Contact the CPUC**  
 If you have questions about CPUC processes, you may contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office at:  
**Phone:** 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free)  
**Email:** [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)  
**Mail:** CPUC Public Advisor's Office, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

Please reference **Application 23-08-010** in any communications you have with the CPUC regarding this matter.

CNSB # 3822065 Grapevine Independent Voice 6-14 and 6-21-2024

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

  
**CORDOVA RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT**  
**DISTRICT FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS**

The Board of Directors of the Cordova Recreation and Park District will conduct a public hearing to revise the District Fee Schedule, per the provisions of CA Government Code 66018. The District will amend, through Resolution, user fees and fees for service based on the cost of providing the service, which will include direct, indirect, and capital costs. No fee shall exceed the costs reasonably borne by the District in providing the service (Gov. Code 61123).

The Fee Schedule is needed for the performance of various District services and use of District properties. After evaluating costs to provide services, analysis of revenue generated in each program area, and use of District properties, fees may be adjusted, added or eliminated from the Fee Schedule.

The proposed amendments to the Fee Schedule are on the agenda to be adopted by the Board of Directors at a Regular meeting held at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2024** at 11070 White Rock Road, Suite 130, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

All interested persons are notified to attend this meeting and express their opinions regarding the increase, decrease, or omission of any item(s) from the Fee Schedule. Any person wishing to testify may appear and be heard and/or may file a written statement with the Clerk of the Board at any time before or during the Public Hearing: [djones@cordovarpd.gov](mailto:djones@cordovarpd.gov).

The Draft Fee Schedule is available for public inspection online at [www.cordovarpd.gov](https://www.cordovarpd.gov) through the Public Hearing on June 19, 2024. The proposed date for the adjusted fees to take effect is September 1, 2024.

Signed,  
 Patrick Larkin  
 General Manager  
 May 23, 2024

Grapevine Independent Voice 6-7 6-14-2024

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## Walkers' Safety, Traffic Flow Addressed

By Omella Rossi

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Items discussed at the June 3 Rancho Cordova City Council regular meeting included the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety and traffic flow. Changes proposed to three streets, Las Casas Way, Pericles Drive and Pistachio Drive, are expected to be completed by summer 2025.

"We sent out ballots and received greater than 25% response rate and two-thirds of those gave us the green light to make those changes," said City Manager Micah Runner.

"If someone is interested in doing something in their neighborhood, it is an open process. Just contact us in public works and we will set you on that process," said Mayor David M. Sander, Ph.D. about the program.

Micah gave additional information for those interested in submitting a claim: "What would initiate the process is a petition that you can find on our website. Get 10 signatures from your nearby neighbors and that starts the process."

Another item discussed and adopted was the site acquisition for the Mather Veterans Village, 70 units of multifamily apartments for homeless and disabled veterans.

"I got a lot of questions about this project at the Memorial Day celebration," Sander said. "People are very appreciative for the city's efforts and they are looking forward to the next steps as we continue to provide housing for the homeless veterans."

Resident Jessa Rego spoke in support of the project, highlighting how this has been an issue for a long time, and also expressed some concerns:

"This project is a federal-city relationship, we have been trying to talk to Ami Bera about our issues (Islamic community) for eight months, our residents are freaking out," Rego said. "I am in support of it but you need to think about the city to federal relationship."

City Council also approved Runner's proposed plan to establish a council policy mandating a citywide leadership perspective, aiming to ensure equitable representation and resource allocation across the community. This comes following a workshop on March 21 set up by the City Council focusing on the city's future, values and governance, particularly amidst transition to by-district elections.

"I feel like this is the right step to take. When we get our new people in the next two election cycles, it will help them establish continuity in our city's leadership," said Councilmember Garret Gatewood when discussing the plan's approval.

"I read the visioning report, and I would like to point out how much it talks about diversity and how this relates to my other comments here today," said Rego regarding the Islamic community of Rancho Cordova.

Rego was referring to comments that she

made during the meeting's public comment portion.

During the meeting's public comment portion, some Rancho Cordova residents passionately voiced their concerns regarding the ongoing conflicts in Palestine. They expressed disappointment with the council's response to the issue and urged for decisive action.

Rego advocated for a ceasefire resolution proposed by the Islamic community of Rancho Cordova, inviting council to engage in discussions and seek education on the matter. Amora Perez urged divestment from Israel in response to ongoing conflicts in Palestine, saying she has been met with no timely response by City Council.

"If our efforts are not taken seriously, this City Hall will look like the one in Sacramento in a very short time," said Amora, referring to the pro-Palestinian protests that occurred in March at the Sacramento City Council. "As we look to you, our city leaders, we are watching you very closely and we will wait to see where your priorities lie."

Fauziya Faruk from the American Islamic Relations highlighted the impact of the Palestinian conflict on the community, urging solidarity and advocacy for a ceasefire.

Sarah Al Zanoon, a civil servant who works in Rancho Cordova, echoed calls for a ceasefire and divestment in weapons manufacturers, noting that Aerojet, a company specialized in aerospace and defense technology, is based in Rancho Cordova.

In other public comments, Cordova Garden Elementary Principal John Bliss expressed gratitude for the funding and support received for the spring service day to beautify the campus. He highlighted the school's rebranding as Cordova Gardens Academy of Arts and Science for the 2024-25 school year, showcasing the institution's dedication to integrating art, science and technology into every grade level with innovative hands-on learning.

"Our name will be the highlight of the work that is being done as we enter a new chapter in our school's history to continue providing meaningful education for students in Rancho Cordova," Bliss said.

City Councilmember Linda Budge highlighted events such as Movies in the Park, happening every Friday night in June.

Council members also requested that they convene annually in January to reaffirm the policy, make necessary updates and conduct a goal-setting session to ensure continued success in the future.

Council members' requests for future agenda items include a commitment to pursuing grants and funding opportunities, and bringing forward an analysis on how those funds can be used for enhanced infrastructure projects in Rancho Cordova.

"We want to make sure we are doing everything in our power to go after whatever the city needs to be able to fund what it's trying to get," Gatewood said. ★

## News to Know: The Most Popular Veterans Benefits Don't Expire



Paul Lawrence served at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs from 2018 to 2021. Photo courtesy of Paul Lawrence

By Dr. Paul Lawrence

While some people may think that the veterans benefits they have earned from military service could evaporate or disappear, this is inaccurate. The most popular veteran benefits have no expiration date. You can apply at any point and are not time-bound.

The three most popular veterans' benefits are disability compensation, home loan guaranty and education/G.I. Bill.

For these benefits, there are important dates to remember. If you miss those dates, you may be inconvenienced but these benefits are still available, providing you qualify.

Disability compensation is a tax-free monthly payment based on an injury or disability that occurred during service. A veteran completes an application, referred to as a claim. Accompanying this claim is information about their service and medical conditions. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) evaluates the claim and grants or denies benefits.

A disability compensation claim can be filed as early as 180 days prior to completion of active duty and throughout

the remainder of a veteran's life. In short, there is no expiration date for disability compensation.

Many veterans file multiple claims throughout their lives as new conditions are identified or previously identified conditions worsen. This is called a claim for an increase. There is no limit on how often this can be done.

There are two important dates to keep in mind relative to disability compensation. The first concerns the Intent to File. In advance of actually applying for disability compensation, you can complete an Intent to File form. This tells the VA that you will file in the next year and preserves the effective day (i.e., the date on which benefits will begin).

For example, a veteran completes an Intent to File form establishing Feb. 1, 2024, as his/her effective date. After collecting all the needed information and forms, benefits are granted on Dec. 1, 2024. The first payment would include a retroactive payment reflecting the intent to file date of Feb. 1.

You can get assistance with your VA claim for no cost from an accredited representative such as your county veterans service officer or an accredited veteran's service organization, such as the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans or the VFW.

Home Loan Guaranty allows veterans to purchase a home with no money down. This is a tremendous advantage over our civilian counterparts, who must save for a down payment prior to purchasing a home. Subject

to restrictions, this can even be used to purchase a mobile home or farm residence.

There is no time restriction on this benefit. It can be used repeatedly by veterans as they move and purchase new homes.

Education/G.I. Bill benefits are significant for veterans. Serve for three years and you can earn four years of free college. It can also be used for high-tech apprenticeships, advanced Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math training, and credentials and certificates.

In 2017, a new law, often known as the Forever G.I. Bill, was introduced. If your service ended on or after Jan. 1, 2013, this benefit will never expire.

If your service ended prior to Jan. 1, 2013, you still could qualify for the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill or the Montgomery G.I. Bill for active duty or reservists. Each of these has an expiration date, so check those dates carefully at VA.gov.

Veterans' benefits are an important part of the rewards for military service and you can apply at VA.gov. The best time to learn about your benefits is well before applying for them. But remember, it's never too late to start and some of the most popular veterans benefits never expire.

Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D., served as Under Secretary for Benefits at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs from May 2018 to January 2021. He is the author of "Veterans Benefits for You: Get what You Deserve," published in 2023. ★

## Retire Flags with Dignity at SAFE Credit Union

SAFE Credit Union News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - To celebrate Flag Day, SAFE Credit Union will provide flag retirement bins at all its branches in the Sacramento area and its headquarters in Folsom now through Saturday, June 29 for people to bring weathered and damaged flags. At the end of the month, the bins will be collected and the flags properly retired.

"Our branches are honored to be able to provide this service," says Janine Southwick, SAFE Credit Union's vice president Retail Branches. "It's another way we can connect with our members and a unique way to show we honor the national symbol."

SAFE's heritage stretches back to 1940 when it started as a credit union serving Army Air Corps personnel at what would later become McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento. Today, SAFE has many employees and members who are active National Guard and reservists, veterans, and families and loved ones of active and retired military.

The flag retirement initiative is being led by a new employee resource group at SAFE focused on employees with military connections called Veterans and Loved Ones Resource (VALOR).

"Flag Day is an opportunity to reflect on the significance of the American flag and what it represents: unity, freedom, and the enduring spirit of our nation," says Loan



Tyler Batista, relationship officer at the SAFE North Natomas branch, poses next to the in-branch bin for retired flags. Photo courtesy of SAFE Credit Union

Servicing Manager Yvette Tibbs, who leads VALOR. "The flag is a powerful symbol of our shared values and the sacrifices made to uphold them."

People are encouraged to bring flags ready for retirement to SAFE branches this month or they can find other flag retirement services with Scouting and veterans' groups. For more information regarding proper American flag etiquette, visit the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) website.

Participating Branches:  
Antelope Branch, 7887 Walerga Road  
Citrus Heights Branch, 7475 Madison Ave.  
East Elk Grove Branch, 9312 Elk Grove Blvd.  
East Sacramento Branch, 6341 Folsom Blvd.  
El Camino Branch, 3560 El Camino Ave.  
Folsom Branch, 2740 Bidwell St.  
Granite Bay Branch, 8789 Auburn Folsom Road  
Hazel Branch, 5261 Hazel

K Street Branch, 2901 K St. in Sacramento

Laguna Branch, 9162 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove

Land Park Branch, 4700 Freeport Blvd.

Lincoln Branch, 111 Ferrari Ranch Road

North Natomas Branch, 2761 Del Paso Road

Rancho Cordova Branch, 12519 Folsom Blvd.

Rocklin Branch, 6190 Stanford Ranch Road

Roseville Branch, 121 N. Sunrise Ave.

Sunrise Branch, 7601 Sunrise Blvd.

Watt Branch, 4636 Watt Ave. in North Highlands

West Roseville Branch, 1541 Blue Oaks Blvd.

West Sacramento Branch, 2105 Town Center Plaza

For more information about the flag retirement bins, contact Senior Communications and Design Specialist Susan Burns at Susan.Burns@safecu.org or (916) 212-0485. ★

## Birds Test Positive for West Nile Virus



Lab director Sarah Wheeler tests a dead bird for signs of disease. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District

Sacramento Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - On June 10, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District confirmed that the first mosquito sample of the season has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). The mosquito sample was collected from the city of Sacramento, in the area of south Land Park in close proximity to the first positive bird reported last week. "As we expected, the very warm weather we've had recently increased the number of mosquitoes and accelerated virus activity," said Gary Goodman, District Manager. "It's important for residents to take these findings seriously and do everything they can to protect themselves," added Goodman. As part of the laboratory results received today, two dead birds also tested positive for the disease. Other counties throughout the state have also started to report West Nile virus activity. Last year in California, there were 433 confirmed human cases of the disease, including 19 fatalities.

The detection of this recent WNV activity is evidence that the disease is

present, and the public should take proper precautions to stay protected. "Summer is around the corner and as more people enjoy outdoor activities, it's important to remember that the best protection against mosquito bites is an effective insect repellent," said Goodman. Residents are also encouraged to report dead birds, neglected pools and other mosquito problems.

As a response to the finding of WNV, the district will increase its mosquito trapping and monitoring in the area to find sources where mosquitoes may be breeding. Targeted ground spraying may also be conducted to rapidly decrease the numbers of adult mosquitoes.

For current information about District activities, please visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net. Residents may also subscribe to mailing lists to receive email notifications for upcoming mosquito treatments by zip code. To sign up, go to Spray Notifications on the website.

2024 West Nile virus activity update:

Sacramento County: 3 dead birds and 1 mosquito sample have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Yolo County: No activity has been registered so far. ★



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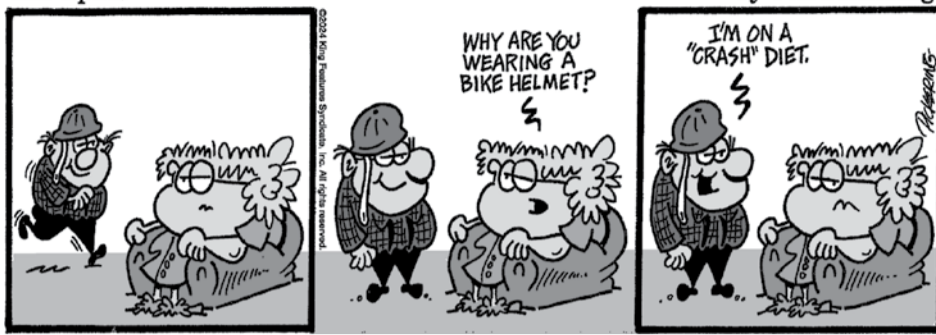
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by Jeff Pickering



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by Dave T. Phipps



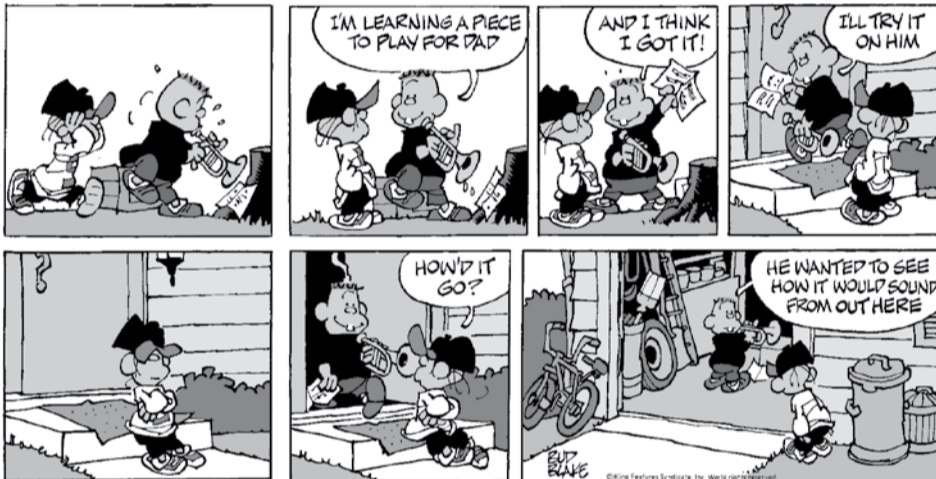
## Out on a Limb

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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Molten rock in earth's crust
- Scarlett Johansson's 2013 voice only role
- Jezebel's idol
- Not silently
- Pro vote
- Italian bowling
- Proclaimed as true without proof
- Rob Manfred's org.
- Savory taste sensation
- \*Tom Cruise's 1986 blockbuster
- \*It featured the song "What Was I Made For?"
- Wrath, e.g.
- Milton Bradley's "The Game of..."
- General Post Office
- A woodwind
- Group of trained professionals, pl.
- Icy precipitation
- Concert units
- Charles Dickens' Heep
- Scandinavian capital
- Rebroadcast
- Khrushchev's domain, acr.
- \*"What the gang did in 1988's "A Fish Called Wanda"
- Exploding star
- Clarified butter
- Airport surface
- Highway hauler
- Breed
- Miss Muffet's repast
- Not flow
- \*Tim Burton's 1989 and 1992 title character
- \*It featured the song "Summer Lovin'"
- Popular fashion magazine
- Road in Rome
- Comment to the audience
- Deposit the ashes
- Giant Hall-of-Famer Mel \_\_\_\_\_
- Canine skin infection
- Humble and docile
- Name badges, acr.
- Streamlined

**DOWN**

- Bonkers
- Sir Mix \_\_\_\_\_
- Kind of boots in the '60s
- One M in MMR vaccine
- Slowly and gracefully, in music
- Mass number
- Snake-like reef dweller
- Teacher of Torah
- \*\*"Oppenheimer" subject
- Popular smoothie berry
- Pinnacle
- Hula dancer's neckpiece
- B in FBI
- Open up
- Half of NFL
- a.k.a. Hansen's disease
- \*1990 Swayze/Moore blockbuster
- Trattoria staple
- Petroleum tanker
- \*It premiered in the U.K. on 6/6/76, with The
- Chemical cure
- Revered Hindu
- Drawing support

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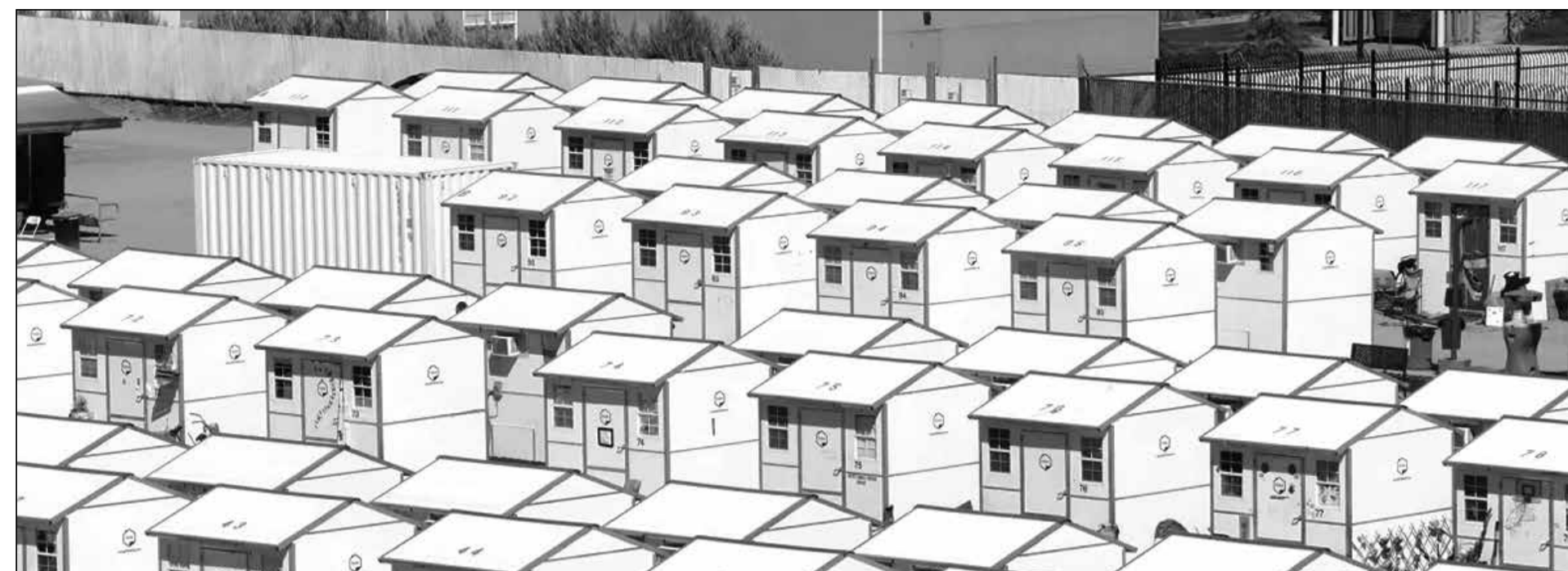
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# Newsom Promised 1,200 Tiny Homes for Homeless. A Year Later, None Have Opened



An emergency non-congregate housing site in Chico on Sept. 6, 2023. Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

By Marisa Kendall  
CALMatters.org

In March 2023, Gov. Gavin Newsom stood before a crowd in Sacramento's Cal Expo event center and made a promise: He'd send 1,200 tiny homes to shelter homeless residents in the capital city and three other places throughout the state.

The move was part of Newsom's push to improve the homelessness crisis by quickly moving people out of encampments and into more stable environments. But more than a year later, none of those tiny homes have welcomed a single resident. Only about 150 have even been purchased.

Irontown Modular, one of six vendors the state chose to supply the tiny homes in Sacramento, San Jose, Los Angeles and San Diego County, is "absolutely shocked" that they've received no orders, said Kam Valgardson, general manager of the Utah-based company.

"The big problem is that the homeless people aren't getting served," Valgardson said. "I can complain as a business, but these homeless people are getting no support, no relief. The money's been promised, but something's broken in the process and nobody's placing orders."

There have been multiple delays and about-faces, over everything from the way the state is funding the units to the ability of local cities and counties to find places to put them. The state has suggested the delays are the fault of local governments. But tiny homes have failed to materialize even when local leaders moved quickly to approve a project site.

In some cases, it's difficult to know exactly what's holding up these projects. Communications involving the governor's office are exempt from the California Public Records Act. Multiple requests by CalMatters for emails between the governor's office and the cities and counties slated to receive the tiny homes were denied.

The state has started construction at the Sacramento tiny home

site, and has made funding available to the other three cities and counties to buy their own tiny homes — delivering on its promise, Monica Hassan, deputy director of the state's Department of General Services, said in an email to CalMatters. That bolsters the state's "already substantial efforts to help tackle the homelessness crisis," she said.

"Focusing solely on timelines diminishes the hard work of numerous individuals dedicated to providing much-needed housing," she said.

## BRINGING TINY HOMES TO CALIFORNIA

The governor set up a big to-do when he made his tiny home promise in March of last year. He had sample tiny homes set up in the Cal Expo event center to use as a backdrop as he spoke. Local officials, including Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, flanked him to show their support and gratitude.

The venue also was strategically chosen — Sacramento planned to set up its allotted 350 tiny homes right there, a Cal Expo.

The plan was simple: The state would buy the tiny homes. The California National Guard would help prepare and deliver them, "free of charge and ready for occupancy." Los Angeles was promised 500 tiny homes, Sacramento 350, San Jose 200 and San Diego County 150.

In October 2023, Newsom's office gave its first concrete update: It revealed the six companies it contracted with to supply the tiny homes. They ranged from Pallet, a Washington-based company that specializes in sheltering unhoused people and already has multiple sites up and running in California; to AMEG, a company based outside of Sacramento that does disaster recovery and modular home building, but hasn't built a community for homeless residents before.

But the project's parameters changed. Instead of buying and delivering the units, the state decided to send several of the

cities cash grants and let them order the tiny homes themselves. In San Jose, this left the city on the hook for more money than anticipated. The state awarded the city \$13.3 million. Building the planned tiny homes for 200 people will cost \$22.7 million, according to Mayor Mahan.

The mayor said San Jose told the state it would rather get tiny homes with en-suite bathrooms, which are more expensive. But, Mahan said, San Jose was willing to cover the cost difference.

Instead, Newsom's administration decided to provide cash grants in place of fully built tiny homes. It's more efficient, Hassan said.

San Jose plans to open its tiny home site by July 2025.

"This is a solution that even under this timeframe is significantly faster and lower cost than many alternatives," Mahan said. "And we're grateful for the support, and when unexpected things come up, we just roll with the punches."

Finding space to put these tiny homes — which is the responsibility of local cities and counties — also proved challenging. Plans to place Sacramento's tiny homes at Cal Expo, where Newsom made his splashy announcement last year, fell apart. Instead, the state intends to set up 175 tiny homes on Stockton Boulevard. The county plans to install the remaining 175 on Watt Avenue.

In March, a year after Newsom named San Diego County as one of the tiny home recipients, the County Board of Supervisors finally approved a location for the project in Spring Valley. But there's still a lot to do. The county has to test the soil and make sure the site is safe. After that, officials plan to start getting community feedback on the planned project. The county has not yet bought the tiny homes or set an opening date.

"Like every other homelessness policy solution, local governments are fundamentally the drivers and fundamentally the implementers," said Jason Elliott, Newsom's deputy chief of staff.

"What the state has done is provide billions of dollars in new investment, dozens and dozens of bills to cut red tape and a policy framework that pushes for faster action to resolve unsheltered encampments. But as we have seen time and time again in California, local commitment and partnership is the other side of that coin."

San Jose, in contrast to San Diego County, approved plans to set up tiny homes at the Cerone bus yard back in October. Even so, the state didn't send San Jose a grant agreement until March, Mahan said.

Of the four communities promised tiny homes, the state has made the most progress in Sacramento. In late January and early February, the state bought 155 units from BOSS, a tiny home company based in Montebello in Southern California. Those units, most of which are 70 square feet, have been built and are ready to ship to Stockton Avenue, said Kris Van Giesen, senior vice president of community development.

After a brief delay due to rain, a contractor hired by the state has started building out the infrastructure at the Stockton Avenue site, Hassan said. It's slated to open this fall.

In Los Angeles, city officials still haven't finalized locations for their tiny homes.

"The city has been working diligently to evaluate potential sites, coordinate relevant departments and prepare plans that will be submitted to the state by the end of May," Gabby Maarse, a spokesperson for the mayor's office, said in an email.

## NO ONE IS ORDERING TINY HOMES

Another big selling point of Newsom's plan: His administration opened up the contracts so that other cities and counties (in addition to the chosen four) could use their own money to buy tiny homes from the six approved vendors, without going through a time-consuming and bureaucratic request for proposal process.

That move was supposed to help get more tiny homes

deployed quickly, and therefore, move more people out of encampments. But CalMatters spoke with all six approved vendors, and none have received any orders through that process.

Several companies said a handful of cities have reached out and expressed interest. But without cash from the state, many are finding it hard to pull the trigger.

"A lot of these cities are struggling to find the funding they need," said Amy King, founder and CEO of Pallet.

The cheapest Pallet tiny home approved by the state contract sells for \$18,900. Add an en suite bathroom, and the price jumps to \$55,350. That's still considerably cheaper than other housing options.

Other companies said the state hasn't done as much as it could to promote the effort. There's no website that lists the vendors covered by the state contracts, the available models and price comparisons, said Anmol Mehra, co-founder of Plugin House, an Austin-based modular home company and one of the six approved vendors.

And the state insists on approving any promotional materials the vendors put out on their own, Valgardson said. After his company, Irontown Modular, accidentally posted marketing materials online prematurely, the state made them take the materials down and get approval. It took almost two months to get the green light, Valgardson said.

The tiny home companies said they had to jump through myriad hoops to secure the state contracts. Several said they had to design new products specifically to meet the state's strict requirements for everything from vapor-resistant light fixtures to emergency exit lighting. It took months and cost tens of thousands of dollars, Valgardson said.

David Baldwin, owner of AMEG, expected orders to start rolling in by December of last year. It's "a little bit frustrating," he said.

"We're ready to go," he said. "We have people chomping at the bit that want to go help." ★

# Invasive Fruit Fly Quarantine Lifted in Sacramento County

Sacramento County  
News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Thanks to the cooperation and diligence of county residents and the local agriculture department, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), working in coordination with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner, declared the end of the Oriental fruit fly quarantine in Sacramento County following the eradication of the invasive pest.

The declaration comes nearly eight months after

we first detected populations of the Oriental fruit fly in the area and established a quarantine encompassing parts of Rancho Cordova, and the communities of La Riviera, Carmichael, Fair Oaks and Gold River.

During the quarantine, crops that are hosts for the invasive pest — which include more than 300 varieties, such as citrus and other fruits, nuts, vegetables and berries — were not allowed to be moved from the properties where they were grown. Commercial crops were required to meet stringent treatment or processing standards before being harvested or moved.

As the temperatures rise



**Invasive fruit fly.** Photo courtesy of Martin Hauser/California Department of Food and Agriculture

and vacationers ramp up their travel plans, residents are urged to refrain from bringing back potentially infested produce from their trips. While at home, we encourage residents to stay vigilant for signs of invasive pests.

To help prevent any future introductions of invasive species, residents should follow these guidelines:

Cooperate with the agriculture department and allow them access to your garden to place

traps, inspect plants, conduct necessary treatments or remove potentially infested produce.

Determine if your property is located within an active quarantine area by visiting CAFruitFly.com.

Buy fruit trees and vegetable plants from licensed California nurseries. Purchasing agricultural goods from uncertified sources can spread invasive pests. Source your plants locally and responsibly. To find a licensed nursery near you, visit California Department of Food and Agriculture's Directory of Licensed Nurseries.

Inspect your garden for signs of invasive fruit flies or maggots and report any

findings to the agriculture department.

When entering the United States from another country, avoid bringing agricultural products, including fruits or vegetables. Help us protect our agricultural and natural resources and California's unique biodiversity from invasive fruit flies: Don't pack a pest when traveling or mailing/receiving packages.

To learn more about invasive species and how to protect the county's fruits and vegetables, visit California Department of Food and Agriculture's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division at [www.cdffa.gov/plant](http://www.cdffa.gov/plant). ★

# Fire Damages Industrial Complex



A fire the night of June 6 went through an industrial complex's roof on the 11300 block of Folsom Boulevard in Rancho Cordova, according to Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District officials. Photo Courtesy of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

By Omella Rossi

**RANCHO CORDOVA (MPG)** - A fierce fire tore through an industrial complex on the 11300 block of Folsom Boulevard the night of June 6, leaving the building shrouded in smoke well into the morning of June 7. The incident, centered at the intersection of Folsom Boulevard and Mercantile Drive, prompted rapid response from the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District.

First reports of the fire came in about 11 p.m. June 6, with firefighters working swiftly to contain the blaze within 40 minutes. They encountered entry challenges, requiring them to cut through multiple roll-up doors to gain access.

The severity of the situation, and

concerns caused by spot fires flying onto neighboring buildings and vegetation, led authorities to issue a second alarm for additional support, with three units ultimately deployed to tackle the fire.

The blaze went through the complex's roof, which did not have a sprinkler system in place, according to Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District officials, contributing to the rapid spread of the flames. The fire district said half a dozen businesses were impacted by the fire.

Among the businesses hardest hit were a magic shop, a truck accessories store and a distribution center for Tahoe Blue Vodka. Despite the extensive damage, no injuries were reported and authorities are still conducting investigations into the cause of the fire. ★

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