



**Construction Begins Soon  
SMF Closes Hourly Parking Lot**  
PAGE 11

**October Harvest Events Announced**  
PAGE 4



# Citrus Heights Messenger

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**SEE INSIDE**

**VOTING HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN**



PAGE 4

**BLANKETS FOR KIDS READIES FOR HOLIDAY**



PAGE 3

**AMAZON FRESH MOVES CLOSER TO OPENING**



PAGE 2

## Every Minute Matters



Metro Fire and Sacramento County representatives, along with various hospital staff across the county, pose for a group photo. Photo by Annie Kerr

By Annie Kerr

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County is making tremendous progress in its goal to achieve a shorter ambulance patient offload time (APOT), according to county officials.

APOT is defined as “the time between when an ambulance arrives at a hospital and when the patient is transferred to an emergency department for care. The time does not stop recording until the emergency department fully assumes responsibility of care for the patient,” according to Sacramento County Public Health officials. On Oct. 3, Sacramento



District 5 Supervisor Pat Hume makes remarks on the progress Sacramento County has made in its ambulance patient offload time reduction. Photo by Annie Kerr

County Public Health hosted the second Ambulance Patient Offload Time Summit, following the first summit on Feb. 13. The reason for these meetings is the 2023 passage of Assembly Bill 40,

which stated that local emergency medical services (EMS) agencies needed to establish an off-load threshold that did not exceed 30 minutes and required a report to the California Emergency Medical Services Authority by July 1 of this year. Additionally, the bill mandated that hospitals submit ambulance patient offload time plans to the authority by Sept. 1 of this year.

The Oct. 3 meeting highlighted the region’s overall performance, celebrated the successes of the county, showed status reports and enhancements, and included presentations from regional hospital representatives who explained

*Continued on page 3*

## National Teen Driver Safety Week

City of Citrus Heights News Release

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** -National Teen Driver Safety Week is Oct. 20 to Oct. 26. During this week, the Citrus Heights Police Department encourages parents and caregivers to talk with their teens about following the rules of the road and how safe driving can help save lives.

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for teens (15- to 18-years-old) in the United States. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were 2,514 people killed in crashes involving a teen driver in 2022. In California, young drivers were involved in nearly 12 percent of all fatal crashes in 2022, despite accounting for only five percent of all licensed drivers in the U.S.

The Citrus Heights Police Department reminds parents and caregivers to discuss the dangers of risky driving behaviors, such as speeding, texting while driving and not wearing a seatbelt. Teens should also understand the serious dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

“Parents and caregivers play a huge part in keeping teens safe on the road,” Citrus Heights Police Department Sgt. Kane Kissam said. “Having these meaningful conversations, setting rules and being a role model for safe driving can help teens make better choices when they’re driving.”

The Citrus Heights Police Department offers the following tips to parents and guardians for starting conversations about safe driving with teens:

Provisional Driver’s License: Learn about California’s provisional licensing law, which places restrictions on passengers and driving at night during the first year they have a license.

Lead by example: Have driving sessions with your teen. Tell, and also show, your teen how to drive safely.

Set ground rules: Be firm on rules such as no phone use, eliminating distractions by friends, always following the speed limit and always buckling up. Create a parent-teen driving contract to outline specific driving guidelines.

Sober driving: Emphasize the importance of never driving impaired or riding with someone who has been driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ★

## City to Test Solar Powered Streetlights

By Thomas J. Sullivan

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - The City of Citrus Heights General Services Department is building the first of three new solar powered streetlights to help enhance public safety near the Sunrise Tech Center.

Notice of the project was provided to members of Citrus Heights Neighborhood Area 7, 8, 9 – CHASEN in a Sept. 27 email by the Citrus Heights General Services Department.

A concrete foundation for one of the new solar powered streetlights was poured on Sept. 28 by the contractor, Bear Electrical Solutions, on the southwest corner of Oak Avenue and Canelo Hills Drive.

The new streetlight will be built in the back of the Sunrise Tech Center campus not far from its fenced-in children’s play



Pictured here is a general sample of what a typical solar powered streetlight looks like. Each solar powered streetlight operates individually, with a solar panel providing the power for the street light fixture. Photo courtesy of the City of Citrus Heights

area. The pilot/test project to evaluate the overall effectiveness of different solar powered streetlight designs is in three different locations in the city, said

Marisa Brown, the city’s communications officer.

Solar powered streetlights can be installed in any location with direct view of the sun,

eliminating the need for electric power and meter electric bills associated with it.

By consuming no  
*Continued on page 2*



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# Amazon Fresh Moves Closer to Opening Date



Amazon Fresh's Citrus Heights location is expected to open this fall.

**Story and photo by Thomas J. Sullivan**

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - Construction of Amazon Fresh, a new grocery store concept from Amazon.com, is quickly nearing completion in Sunrise Village at Madison Avenue and Sunrise Boulevard in Citrus Heights.

Exterior banner signage announces the store as coming soon, and inside, work crews could be seen building out grocery shelving and store displays.

Roseville residents were able to check out the Amazon Fresh grocery experience when their location, the first Amazon Fresh store to open in Northern California at 6780 Stanford Ranch Road, opened to the public on Aug. 22. Citrus Heights' location is scheduled to open this fall.

Amazon Fresh will anchor a 38,011-square-foot retail space at 5425 Sunrise Blvd. in the Sunrise Village shopping plaza.

The general contractor, W.L. Butler, headquartered in Redwood City, has fenced off a substantial portion of the parking lot and set up temporary mobile offices and equipment at the

job site, located to the left of Jo-Ann Fabric and Crafts as construction continues.

Amazon Retail LLC, doing business as Amazon Fresh, filed a public notice of application with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to sell alcoholic beverages at its new Citrus Heights location on May 28. Official notice of its state filing is posted outside the grocery store's main front door.

The new Amazon Fresh store in Citrus Heights will feature the company's latest brick-and-mortar design unveiled last year in select Chicago and Southern California stores. Customers can expect to find a wide selection of national brands, high-quality produce and protein, as well as Amazon's private label brands, such as Aplenty, Fresh Brand and 365 by Whole Foods Market.

For a more traditional shopping experience, customers can also enter the store through designated gates and use one of the checkout lanes staffed by Amazon store employees. When they're ready to check out, customers

then have the option to pay with cash, credit or debit card, Amazon One or the Amazon app.

In select stores where Amazon's "Just Walk Out" shopping is available, customers who opt for Just Walk Out Shopping can enter the store in three ways: they can scan the QR code in their Amazon app, use Amazon One to scan their palm to enter or insert a credit or debit card linked to their Amazon account.

"Amazon Fresh stores are designed from the ground up to offer a seamless grocery experience, either in-store or online," according to the company website. An Amazon representative was unavailable for comment about the specific retail operations features of its new Citrus Heights grocery store.

Redevelopment of the 150,000-square-foot Sunrise Village shopping center has been ongoing since the first quarter of 2021.

Sunrise Village Plaza at the corner of Madison Avenue and Sunrise Boulevard in Citrus Heights is owned by the San Francisco-based Merlone-Geier investment company. The center is undergoing a \$15- to \$20-million remodeling and expansion project, which also includes new landscaping and upgraded signage.

Moorefield Construction, a family-owned general contractor, with offices in Sacramento and Santa Ana, built out Club Studio, a new 36,152-square-foot fitness club, which opened last month. ★

# City to Test Solar Powered Streetlights



The City of Citrus Heights is building the first of three new solar powered streetlights to help enhance public safety. This photo illustrates the design proposed for Walnut Drive, just east of Auburn Blvd. Photo courtesy of the City of Citrus Heights

*Continued from page 1*

electricity and using smart power technology, new municipal solar street lighting avoids the installation cost of standard grid-powered lights and might last longer and deliver a better lighting result, according to industry representatives.

"Each location will look different as we test different types, makes and models," Brown said.

Brown provided two sample images of solar powered streetlights being tested by the city's General Services Department.

"As construction costs and electricity rates continue to rise, the engineering division is evaluating alternative options to traditional street light installations," Brown said.

"Traditional street lighting includes connection to SMUD infrastructure, installation of a new SMUD meter and meter cabinet, and trenching conduit for several hundred feet per light, to connect and power a series of streetlights," Brown added.

"To minimize both construction and electrical costs, the option of solar-powered streetlights in the city is being evaluated," Brown said.

Solar-powered lights do not require a connection to SMUD's infrastructure

or any conduit or electrical conductors between locations.

"Each solar powered streetlight would operate individually, with a solar panel providing the power for the street light fixture," Brown said.

To evaluate the reliability, cost, maintenance needs and light output over time, three distinct types of solar-powered streetlights are currently in process for installation throughout the city.

The other two locations are at Desimone Lane, just east of Auburn Boulevard, and at Walnut Drive, just east of Auburn Boulevard.

"The three locations will be installed in the next few months and then evaluated over the coming year," Brown said.

The city will evaluate and review installation, maintenance costs, battery replacement costs and frequency, the ease of installation, and light reliability during all times of the year, including clear and cloudy conditions.

"After evaluation is completed, the city will determine if expanding the program is cost-effective and warranted," Brown added.

For information about the project, contact the city General Services Department at 916-727-4770. ★

**KP International MARKET**  
 FOOD COURT NOW OPEN  
 10971 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
 916.853.8000  
 Market: 7 Days, 8am - 9pm  
 Food Court: 7 Days, 11am - 7:30pm  
 Korean, Mex, Viet: 7:30pm last call  
 Chinese, Japanese: 8:00pm last call

**K-POP BOY GROUP CONCERT**  
 10/12/24 . SAT. 3 PM @ KP MARKET PARKING LOT  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
 ADMISSION STARTS AT 1:00 PM

**BE:MAX**

**WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS**

**USDA CHOICE** Beef London Broil / Top Round Roast \$4.99/lb  
**BONUS BUY** Beef T-Bone Steak \$5.99/lb  
**GREAT VALUE** Beef Porterhouse Steak \$6.49/lb  
**CHICKEN** Chicken Breast Tenders 2.5/lbs Bag \$8.99  
**Country Style** Pork Loin Ribs - Bails \$2.99  
**Pork** Pork St. Louis Ribs - Single Pack \$3.99  
**Lamb** American Lamb "Grain Finished" \$9.99  
**Chicken** Boneless/Skinless Chicken Breasts \$2.49  
**Lamb** Lamb Loin Chops \$9.99  
**Pork** Pork Loin Chops Bone In \$2.69

**FRESH PRODUCE**

Red Potato 99¢/lb  
 Sweet Mini Pepper 1 lb \$2.59  
 Jalapeno Pepper 79¢/lb  
 Red Yam (garnet) 99¢/lb  
 Seafood Mushroom 150 g 79¢  
 Golden Kiwi 2 for \$3  
 Pomegranate \$1.59/lb  
 Kabocha 79¢/lb

**AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY**

Progresso Bread Crumbs 2 kinds 15 oz 99¢/ea  
 ABC Jelly Straws 3L7 oz \$7.99/ea  
 Snowman Ice Pop 5 pcs 18.9 L oz 99¢/ea  
 Cracker Jack Original 8.5 oz \$2.99/ea  
 Wild Harvest Pomegranate Juice 32 L oz \$2.99/ea

**ASIAN GROCERY**

Lee Kum Kee Sriracha Mayo 15 L oz \$4.99/ea  
 ABC Jelly Straws 3L7 oz \$7.99/ea  
 Dried Taro Leaves 3.5 - 4 oz \$2.99/ea  
 Reno Liver Spread 9 oz \$4.99/ea  
 Bamboo Tree Coconut Water, Box 1 liter \$1.99/ea, \$2.49/ea

**EUROPEAN GROCERY**

Red Label Loose Leaf Black Tea 900 gr \$9.99/ea  
 Dania Assorted Soft Candy 850 gr \$5.99/ea  
 Verus Zucchini Covlar 310 gr \$2.99/ea  
 Green Peas (petits pois) 24 oz \$2.99/ea  
 Mid East 100's Honey Comb 400 gr \$6.99/ea

**KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY**

Prinfun Soybean Paste 2 kinds 4.4 lb \$6.99/ea  
 Milky Chu Chu Bar 2 kinds 25.07 oz \$1.99/ea  
 Jin Ramen Mid & Spicy 4 x 160 g \$2.99/ea  
 Oen Ssik & Mena Tea 1.5 liters \$1.99/ea  
 Rice Snack Bean Paste 2 kinds 475 g \$4.99/ea  
 Kabbu Bed \$2.49/ea  
 Shinjiken Tonkatsu & Sushi Sauce 510 g \$3.99/ea  
 Kadaya Roasted Sesame Oil 56 oz \$15.99/ea

**HOUSEWARES**

BIGEN SPEEDY HAIR COLOR (REFILL ONLY) \$5.99/ea  
 KAIZEN WOK PAN 20 CM \$14.99/ea  
 MODAMODA SHAMPOO 300 G \$29.99/ea  
 ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL \$39.99/ea  
 ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (4.5 L) \$49.99/ea  
 ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (3 L) \$54.99/ea  
 ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (5.5 L) \$59.99/ea

**FROZEN & FISH DEPT**

Swiss Roll Cake 2 kinds 200 g \$3.99/ea  
 Columbus Pastrami \$12.09/ea  
 Kretschmar Ham off the Bone \$6.19/ea  
 Green Olives Stuffed w/ Feta \$8.09/ea  
 Kalamata Olives with Garlic & Pepper \$6.39/ea

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 09 - OCTOBER 15, 2024.

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 09 - OCTOBER 15, 2024.

# Sacramento Blankets for Kids Readies for Holiday



Kindergarteners are giddy with their blankets and Beanie Babies from Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids. Photo courtesy of Claire Gliddon

By Claire Gliddon, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Got Beanie Babies?

Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids (SBSK) is asking for donations of new or "almost new" Beanie Babies all year long. Every September, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids picks as many of the lowest-income elementary schools they can and finds out how many kindergarteners they have.

Volunteers make double fleece blankets (about 40" x 60") and a little fleece pouch with a Beanie Baby in it to go with each blanket for its Kindergarten Project. Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids gives blankets and fleece pouches to the children right before Christmas break. Some of the kindergarteners live in cars or in places without heat and this is all they get for Christmas.

The gifts are very popular with the teachers and the children.

This is Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids' 11th year for the

Kindergarten Project and the volunteers hope to continue doing it as long as they can get Beanie Babies. In 2023, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids gave out more than 2,394 blankets and Beanie Babies for its Kindergarten Project!

Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids is always looking for more volunteers to make blankets year round for children in need. Like to knit, crochet, sew, quilt, make no-sew blankets and have run out of people to make gifts for? We're looking for you.

If you would like more information about Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids, go to [www.sacblankets4kids.com](http://www.sacblankets4kids.com) and sign in. There is no pressure, no timelines, no meetings, just others who enjoy crocheting, knitting, quilting, sewing, making no-sew blankets and helping many children at the same time.

Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids is a nonprofit organization that serves children in need from infants to 18-year-olds. While the volunteers help all year long, the Kindergarten Project is their "special" project of the year. ★

# Every Minute Matters

## Shorter Ambulance Wait Times Reported



Dale Ainsworth, PhD, an assistant professor at Sacramento State University, gives a presentation concerning changes in company culture. Photo by Annie Kerr

*Continued from page 1*  
how they were making the changes and improvements.

According to Sacramento County public information officer Casey Camacho, Sacramento County entered 2024 with a 64-minute offload time, which was the worst in the state. Sacramento County managed to decrease that to 39 minutes halfway through September. The California Emergency Medical Services Commission received a county progress report on Sept. 19, which highlighted Sacramento County as having the most improved APOT times statewide.

The summit opened and closed with remarks from Greg Kann MD, the Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SCEMSA) Medical Director.

Kann acknowledged how the county has made a "phenomenal change" in the decrease in its offload times. He noted that the number of patients has stayed consistent, even with the changes in the way the hospitals are operating.

"Our hospital partners are doing the things they need to do," Kann said.

Beyond decreasing offload time, Kann said, Sacramento County is working to use telemedicine to "offload low acuity patient volumes," meaning telemedicine could help the less-severe medical cases, taking down the volume of ambulance offloads.

"The folks down in Elk Grove and Galt have really doubled down on their commitment to making telemedicine work," Kann said.

Next, Sac Metro Fire EMS Director Jon Rudnicki spoke primarily about how the patient is always the priority. Rudnicki showed two videos of two different patients whose lives were saved due to the speed and timing of the process of Sacramento emergency medical services, one being a toddler who was revived.

Rudnicki ended with a challenge to his fellow emergency medical services workers: "Why would we not aim for greater? Why should we settle for the benchmark?"

Following Rudnicki were presentations from both Mercy San Juan officials and Kaiser Roseville officials, who spoke about effective changes they made to bring their ambulance patient offload time down.

Kimberly Adams and Chris Britton of Kaiser Roseville highlighted their strategy,

which included creating an APOT task force and utilizing hospital hallways to serve patients. According to Britton, Kaiser Roseville is the second busiest emergency room in the state, and they see around 144,000 patients in a year, with 10-15,000 seen each month. Adams referred to APOT as a "team sport," and Britton cited "such good collaboration" as one of their successes.

Amelia Hart of Mercy San Juan was inspired by what Kaiser Roseville was doing and said her team took similar steps. According to Hart, Mercy San Juan receives the most ambulances in Sacramento County, so it was a large effort to bring ambulance patient offload time down.

"Everyone is aligned and invested in this," Hart said.

District 5 Supervisor Pat Hume briefly spoke about the progress that the county is making and applauded the dramatic change in ambulance patient offload time.

"The energy in this room is palpable compared to where we were in February," Hume said, stressing the "magnitude, the importance, the impact" of what emergency medical services workers are doing.

Next, Sacramento State assistant professor Dale Ainsworth, PhD, gave insight into how changes in processes, especially in an organization, can be difficult and gave tips on how to make them "stick."

Sacramento County Behavioral Health Director Ryan Quist touched on more changes the county is facing regarding Senate Bill 43, which changes who can be on involuntary hold in an emergency room, another factor in determining ambulance patient offload time.

Ending the summit were speakers from the Growth Factory, an innovation team helping Sacramento County find creative ways to make changes to ambulance patient offload time. Monique Brown of the Growth Factory said they are working on a database called At Orchid, which will boost hospitals' ability to track data and timing of emergency room patients.

Kann reiterated a final point: "patient safety is our Number One priority."

For more information about the Sacramento County Department of Emergency Medical Services Agency, visit <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/pub/ems/Pages/EMS-Home.aspx>. ★

# LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

Find out what's happening in your local area at...

**CITRUSHEIGHTSMESSENGER.COM**

ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

## VOTE EARLY! AVOID LINES



November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election Vote Early and Vote by Mail.

**All voters will be mailed a ballot**

- You should have received your official ballot in the mail.

**You can return your ballot starting October 7<sup>th</sup>**

- By mail, no postage necessary
- At a Ballot Drop Box
- At a Vote Center (starting October 26<sup>th</sup>)

You can find a full list of Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote Center locations in your County Voter Information Guide, in your mail ballot packet, or at [www.elections.saccounty.gov](http://www.elections.saccounty.gov)

**Vote Early! Vote by Mail.**

**My Voter Portal (MVP)**

My Voter Portal is a convenient way to:

- Check your registration status
- View your political party preference
- View your County Voter Information guide in English, Chinese, Spanish, or Vietnamese
- Update your language preference if other than English
- Track your Vote by Mail ballot status
- Access your Remote Accessible Vote by Mail ballot
- Locate Official Ballot Drop Boxes or Vote Centers near you
- View voting history

Scan the QR code or visit [myvoterportal.saccounty.gov](http://myvoterportal.saccounty.gov).

# October Harvest Events Announced

**Office of District 3 Supervisor  
Rich Desmond News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - With Halloween right around the corner, I wanted to share some of the fun

activities for kids and adults going on this month throughout District 3. I have also included some friendly reminders to help keep your kids safe this year. Have a safe and Happy Halloween! ★

## Fall District 3 Events

### Oct. 12 – Fall Festival

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Location: Arden Park, 1000 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento  
Host: Arden Park Recreation & Park District

### Oct. 14 to 16 – Rocky's Hallo-WEEK Trick or Treat

Time: 5 to 6 p.m.  
Locations:  
Oct. 14 - Gum Ranch Park (5600 Tuckeroo Way)  
Oct. 15 - Montview Park (4401 Minnesota Ave.)  
Oct. 16 - Miller Park (8480 Sunset Ave.)  
Host: Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District

### Oct. 25 – Trunk or Treat

Time: 5 to 7 p.m.  
Location: Arden Park, 1000 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento  
Host: Arden Park Recreation & Park District

### Oct. 26 – Halloween in the Park

Time: 4 to 7 p.m.  
Location: Deterding Park, 1415 Rushden Drive, Sacramento  
Host: Arden Manor Recreation & Park District

### Oct. 26 – Pumpkins and Planes

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Location: Aerospace Museum of California, 3200 Freedom Park Drive, McClellan  
Host: Aerospace Museum of California

### Oct. 26 – Howe Park's Frightfully Fun Carnival

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.  
Location: Howe Park, 2201 Cottage Way, Sacramento  
Host: Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District

### Oct. 29 – Halloween Dance

Time: 1:15 to 3:45 p.m.  
Location: Gibbons Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael  
Host: Mission Oaks Recreation & Park District

### Make Every Halloween A Treat, Not A Trick

Inspect – All treats for tampering.  
Be Alert – While driving or Trick-or-Treating.  
See and Be Seen – Use reflective tape and flashlights.  
Keep Pets Safe – Bring them indoors with I.D. collar and current license tags.

# Social Security Matters

## Will my Wife's Survivor Benefits be Less if she Claimed Her Social Security Early?



**By Russell Gloor,  
AMAC Certified Social  
Security Advisor**

**Dear Rusty:** I claimed Social Security at 70. My wife claimed her own SS at 62, and her earnings were significantly lower than mine. I understand my wife will be eligible to claim my benefit if I pass before she does, but will Social Security reduce that benefit because she didn't wait until age 65 to claim hers? **Signed: Concerned Husband**

**Dear Concerned:** Your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse will be based on two things:

- Her age when she claims her survivor benefit,
- The amount you were receiving at your death.

If she has reached her own Full Retirement Age (FRA) when she claims

her surviving spouse benefit, she will get 100% of the amount you were receiving when you died (instead of her own smaller SS retirement amount). However, if she claims her survivor benefit at any time before her full retirement age, it will be reduced for claiming the survivor benefit early.

Thus, when your wife claimed her own Social Security retirement benefit (in her case, age 62) doesn't matter and doesn't affect her potential surviving spouse benefit - what matters is her age when she claims her survivor benefit. If she claims before reaching her own FRA, her survivor benefit will be reduced according to the number of months before her FRA that the survivor benefit is claimed. That reduction would be about 4.75% for each year earlier than her FRA she claims it. But if she claims her surviving spouse benefit at or after she reaches her full retirement age, she will get the amount you were receiving at your death, instead of her own smaller age 62 Social

Security retirement benefit amount. FYI, your wife's full retirement age is somewhere between 66 and 67, depending on the year she was born (born in 1960 or later, her FRA is age 67).

And, just for clarity, your wife's payment as your surviving spouse will consist of her own SS retirement benefit plus an auxiliary amount to bring her monthly payment up to what she is entitled to as your surviving spouse.

*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) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.* ★

# Presidential General Election Update

## Voting has Officially Begun

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) has begun delivering Vote by Mail (VBM) ballots to the U.S. Postal Service for distribution to all currently registered voters in the County for the Nov. 5 Presidential General Election.

Secure early ballot retrieval begins this week. Voters may use any Ballot Drop Box throughout the County to return their ballot. Voter Registration and Elections has a drive-through Ballot Drop Box in the Election's Office parking lot at 7000 65th St., Sacramento. This Ballot Drop Box is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week until 8 p.m. on Election Night.

Voters are encouraged to return their ballots early and sign their pink VBM envelope in order for their ballot to be counted. Information on the days and hours of operation for Ballot Drop Boxes or upcoming Vote Centers is available on the Voter Registration and Elections website at <https://www.elections.saccounty.gov> or use the direct links in the Key Election Dates below. No postage is necessary for voters returning their ballots by U.S. Mail using

the pink Vote by Mail envelope. For more information, contact Voter Registration and Elections at (916) 875-6451, email [voterinfo@saccounty.gov](mailto:voterinfo@saccounty.gov), or use the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone).

### Key Election Dates

Monday, Oct. 21: Close of voter registration for this election. Voter registration forms must be postmarked by this date or delivered to the VRE Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento 95823 by 5:00 p.m. Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov)

Tuesday, Oct. 22: Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) begins

Saturday, Oct. 26: 11 Day Vote Centers open

Tuesday, Oct. 29: Last day a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot can be mailed to you. After this date, VBM ballots are only available at the VRE Office or Vote Centers

Saturday, Nov. 2: All Vote Centers open throughout the County

Tuesday, Nov. 5: Election Day ★

# Admit One



You land up in a hospital and you feel like you are in a maze. Do you have the correct information when you go in? Did you know that communication breakdowns in hospitals in the U.S. leads to hundreds of deaths? Never happen to you? Let's face it, in the trauma of being admitted, patients and family can easily become confused by the tons of information and instructions from these strangers. That's why **Kati Kleber, BSN, RC, and CCRN** and nationally certified critical care nurse in the neurosciences pulled together information you need to know before it all comes crashing down and you become one of those victims. It's called **"Admit One"** with what you must know when going to the hospital, but no one actually tells you. From CNN to Dr. Oz **Kati** shared the insider information with me on **POPPOFF**.

**1. BRING A LIST OF HOME MEDICATIONS.** Know what medications you take on a regular basis. When you are admitted someone will ask you to provide a list of your med and will put them in your chart. Your attending doctor will decide which to keep you on in the hospital. On this one, I asked Kati if it's a good idea to have a list of vitamins and herbs you take, and she said absolutely because of interactions.

**2. MAKE A LIST OF HEALTH CARE TEAM MEMBERS.** An extensive team of health professionals will come and go from your room. It's hard to tell which is which ... doc, nurse, consultant etc. You and your support person will want to write down who is who, along with their instructions.

**3. KNOW YOUR CODE.** Your code status informs staff what to do if you stop breathing or your heart stops. Patients without chronic health issues who aren't nearing the end of their life may want health professionals to do everything to revive them. Others with terminal diagnosis or advanced age may choose not to be revived. This is called DNR or Do Not Resuscitate.

**4. ASSIGN A SPOKESPERSON.** Identify someone the hospital staff can call when changes occur. It is important this person can be easily reached and that you trust.

**5. WRITE DOWN QUESTIONS AS YOU THINK OF THEM.** Except for nurses, most team members stop by your room once a day, review your care plan, and make adjustments. It's not easy to remember all your questions.

**6. ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF.** Let the nurse know of any changes in your condition so the information can be relayed to your health care team. Also, if for any reason, you are not happy with a member of your health care team, let your nurse know that you'd like to speak with a nurse manager.

**7. LEAVE THE EQUIPMENT TO THE EXPERTS.** Hospitals are full of elaborate, high-tech equipment. If any equipment becomes dislodged, always alert a nurse. Unfortunately, incidents have occurred where patients or family inflict irreparable harm when trying to fix things themselves.

That's just the tip of the iceberg, lots more in **"Admit One."**

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# California's Expensive Explosion of Real Estate Fraud Hits Home



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Rana Robillard came very close this year to losing her life's savings and with it her dream home, when she wired nearly \$400,000 to an internet scammer.

Robillard, ironically, is an experienced veteran of the Bay Area technology industry, but when she received what she thought was a request for her down payment on a home in Orinda, she sent the money, only to learn that she had been tricked.

"That's when I went into a full panic," Robillard, 55, told CNBC, the cable channel devoted to financial matters, which chronicled her terrifying experience.

Robillard was not alone in being victimized.

The real estate industry has fully embraced online transactions, thus eliminating the hassle of having buyers, sellers, real estate agents, mortgage lenders and title company employees shuffle through dozens of paper documents that must be signed or initialed to complete transactions.

It's made the process of buying and selling houses much more convenient, but it's also given scammers an opening for fraud that has cost home buyers many millions of dollars.

The request for down

payment that Robillard received was virtually identical to the many email messages she had exchanged and, in fact, was the only bogus one, which is why scammers have been so successful.

Cyber crooks have mastered the dark art of mimicking legitimate messages, complete with the real names of title company employees and authentic-looking logos, and artificial intelligence could make their scams even more successful in the future.

FBI data, CNBC reported, reveal that real estate fraud involving bogus emails has risen from less than \$9 million in 2015 to \$446.1 million in 2022.

A study of real estate fraud commissioned by Anidjar and Levine, a Florida law firm, found that California's 1,583 cases in 2023 far surpassed those of any other state, as did its \$24.8 million in losses.

Robillard is one of the lucky victims. She quickly reported her loss and her \$398,359.5 was tracked through several banks as the thieves shifted it around to avoid detection. Five months later, after CNBC began making inquiries, she received \$150,000 from one bank and then the remaining nearly \$250,000 from another.

Robillard contacted CNBC about her case both to help her recover the money and bring more attention to the real estate fraud explosion.

"This is not what I thought my public representation would look like, which is that I've lost all this money," Robillard told

CNBC. "If it helps other people, I'm happy to do it, even though it's obviously not my proudest moment."

I take a particular interest in Robillard's case not only because it's important but because I came within a whisker last week of also becoming a victim.

I, too, received a very authentic-looking instruction from the title company handling my purchase of a smaller home for downsizing, seeking down payment and closing costs to complete the purchase. It seemingly came from the title company employee who had been handling my transaction and had all of the appearances of a legitimate communication.

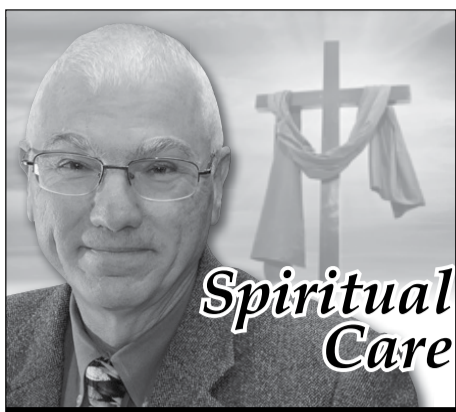
I intended to comply with the request a few hours later, but then received a phone call from my lender about closing the transaction. I told him of the request and he immediately smelled a rat.

That phone call was a lifesaver. A few days later, I presented a valid cashier's check to the title company employee whose identity had been borrowed by the scammer and signed the legitimate paperwork to finalize the purchase.

One of the documents I signed was a warning about phony payment instructions. Perhaps it should have been one of the first documents I was given, rather than one of the last.

*Dan Walters is one of most decorated and 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.* ★

# Don't Talk About God Behind his Back



BY NORRIS BURKES

Last Sunday, I admitted to my Nevada City congregation that I sometimes, feel like the man who had had enough with life's difficulties, so he went to live in a monastery.

The abbot restricted the man's spoken words to only two words every year.

After his first year, he reported to the abbot to share his first two words – "Bed hard."

On his second annual opportunity, he pronounced, "Food bad."

Finally, on his third year, he came to the abbot's office to proclaim, "I quit."

"I'm not surprised," said the abbot. "You've done nothing but complain since the day you arrived."

Well, I don't want you to think I complain too much, but I once spent a few days fretting over lost keys, car repairs and my daughter's somewhat risky international travel to Honduras.

On those occasions, "Mrs. Chaplain," (that's what I call her when she's not around) asked, "Have you prayed about it?"

"At this point," I said, "honestly, my prayers would sound more like complaining."

"What's wrong with that?" she asked.

I took a few minutes to think about her challenge when I remembered a guy who did a fair bit of complaining himself: Moses.

You remember Moses. He's the one who bugged, literally bugged, the Egyptian Pharaoh to free the Jewish people from slavery. Once the people were liberated, Moses ran his egress route through the oppressive heat of the Sinai Desert.

The people quickly forgot their wonderful freedom and started whining about the lack of good Chinese takeout. (OK, maybe they weren't that picky, but they were a bit famished. Read the complete story in Numbers 11.)

So Moses, also resenting his situation, asked God, "Why are you treating me this

way? What did I ever do to deserve this? Where am I supposed to get meat for all these people?"

He continued. "If this is how you intend to treat me, do me a favor and kill me. I've had enough."

Just an observation here – I don't recommend daring God to kill you; it's not a prayer for the faint of heart.

Nevertheless, God threw down a challenge of his own and said to Moses, "Gather together 70 men from among the leaders of Israel, men whom you know to be respected and responsible. . . (and) you won't have to carry the whole thing alone."

In the end, Moses wasn't struck dead for his audacious request. Quite the opposite. God answered the prayer – providing a little help from Moses' friends.

Now, I don't pretend to know how prayer works, but I think Moses' prayer was effective for two reasons.

First, the prayer was simple and direct. It wasn't a flowery prayer packed with analogies, metaphors or obtuse tangents.

God likes direct words. (He also dislikes dictionary words like "obtuse.")

Whenever I encounter someone complaining about their raw deal, I've always told them: Stop gossiping about God. Talk to God directly, not behind his back.

Go right up to God (wherever you talk to God) and say, "Hey, God! My life stinks!"

Then turn it into the prayers Anne Lamott describes in her book, "Traveling Mercies."

"Here are the two best prayers I know: 'Help me, help me, help me' and 'Thank you, thank you, thank you.'"

Moses' simple prayer worked because God heard the heart of the prayer — honesty.

In the midst of the griping, God heard a confession known by anyone in a 12-step recovery process.

It's a prayer that has various wordings, but the gist is, "I'm powerless to do anything by myself. I need help."

It was the same kind of prayer my wife was challenging me to pray.

A little later, she asked, "Find your keys yet?"

"No, but I think God's given me a plan to find them."

"Really?"

"Yeah. How do you feel about having 70 readers come over and help me look for my keys?"

"Really? After 23 years of column writing, do you still claim to have at least 70 readers?"

I think I'll start calling her "Mrs. Moses." Just not to her face. ★

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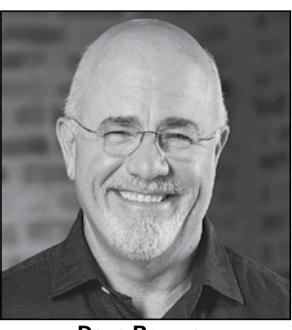
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## Dave Ramsey Says Wait and Save Up

Dear Dave,  
I follow your advice and live on a budget, but it's really hard to save up for a down payment on a house because property is so expensive on the West Coast. My family thinks I should buy a cheaper property back home, fix it up and flip it to get the extra money I need. How do you feel about this?

enough work. Trying to do it from hundreds of miles away would be a nightmare. There's no way I'd sign on for something like this.  
Keep working on your budget, and start saving as much money as you can. You might even consider getting a part-time job for a little while to bring in some extra cash for your house fund. But waiting and saving up is a lot smarter than trying to fix and flip a house in another state.

– Dave  
**Eliminate the Confusion**

– Alan  
Dear Alan,

Dear Dave,  
I work for a construction company. The closer we get to winter, the more I think about work slowing and my income dropping. I've had couple of winters in the past where things were pretty lean. Do you think I should begin building an emergency fund for the slow times?

– Carl  
Dear Carl,

I love that you're thinking about the future. I also think it's great that you've learned from past mistakes and are determined not to repeat those mistakes.  
You've got a smart idea,

but you're going to have to get on your horse to make something happen for this winter. Also, you might want to think about calling it something other than an emergency fund. How about your "Offseason Fund"? You might think I'm being silly playing with the name, but hear me out. This sort of saving isn't really for emergencies, is it? It's a budget issue, because you're planning and setting aside cash leading up to something you know is coming.

Remember, we're not talking about some random amount of money. It's an exact amount that you can budget for accordingly. This winter you may have to think about picking up a side job, depending on the weather and other circumstances. But after that, it'll be a simple matter of planning ahead for the down time and setting aside something each month to see you through!

– Dave  
*Dave Ramsey is a national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives.* ★



## By County Supervisor Sue Frost

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

As the November 5 elections near, I want to highlight Proposition 36, a pivotal measure for Sacramento. Our community has been increasingly troubled by crimes ranging from theft to assault, driven by legislative changes and systemic shifts in crime definitions over the past decade.

The origins trace back to 2011 with AB 109, or "Public Safety Realignment," initiated under Governor Jerry Brown. This legislation shifted many felons from state prisons to local jails, leading to premature releases due to inadequate facilities. This transfer has contributed to a visible rise in crime, particularly affecting the trafficking of dangerous drugs like fentanyl.

Further complicating matters, the 2014 Proposition 47, labeled "The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act," reclassified numerous drug felonies and all property crimes under \$950 as misdemeanors. This policy shift has fueled the increase in California's drug-addicted homeless population, surges in fatal

## Citrus Heights Community Update

### Why I'm Supporting Prop 36

overdoses, and rampant retail thefts.

Proposition 57, promoted as a safety measure, redefined numerous violent crimes as non-violent, enabling earlier releases for offenders. This categorization includes heinous acts like the rape of an unconscious person. Such legislative changes have not only facilitated the growth of organized retail theft but also diminished the morale of our law enforcement and threatened the viability of small businesses.

The political landscape, influenced by a focus on decarceration and police funding cuts, has prioritized criminal interests over public safety, affecting citizens and businesses alike. Despite resistance and legislative attempts to remove it, Proposition 36 remains on the ballot, reflecting a critical public mandate to address these legislative failures.

Proposition 36 proposes several amendments to enhance penalties and accountability, particularly concerning drug-related offenses:

Stricter penalties for smash-and-grab incidents and repeat retail theft.

Allows stolen property values from multiple thefts to be combined, countering tactics by career thieves who steal repeatedly to avoid harsher penalties

Enhanced charges for drug dealers, especially those linked to fatalities, with potential for murder charges.

Similar penalties for possessing firearms with fentanyl as with other drugs.

Increased penalties for distributing significant amounts of fentanyl and renewed incentives for treatment programs over incarceration.

We need tougher rules to stop repeat offenders who aren't facing the consequences they should. Supporting Proposition 36 means strengthening our laws to better protect our neighborhoods and support honest businesses and residents.

This proposition will enforce stricter penalties for ongoing crimes, helping to ensure the safety of everyone in Sacramento. With Proposition 36, we take a crucial step toward a safer community by addressing the gaps in our current system and showing our commitment to law and order.

Thank you for Reading

– and as always if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@sac-county.gov. Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta, and Rancho Murietta.

Sue Frost was elected to the Citrus Heights City Council in 2012 and served as Vice-Mayor in 2014 and Mayor in 2015. She is now the Sacramento County District 4 Supervisor. ★



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Publish: October 4, 11, 18, 2024  
ABBOTT 10-18-24

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 October 30, 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.

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: Edward Burns, 5440 Park Drive, Suite 102, Rocklin, CA 95765; 916-282-9799  
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Publish: October 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.  
BIEHLE 10-25-24



# Kings Korner

## By V.G. Harris



The wait is finally over and once again a frenetic group of nearly 20,000 fans will hear the introduction, "and now running the point for the Sacramento Kings from the Kentucky Wildcats, De'Aaron Fox!"

On Wednesday night for the very first time Sacramento fans will hear the introduction of newcomer DeMar DeRozan out of the University of Southern California. DeRozan, like many of his comrade's, chose to bolt to the NBA after just one year in college, and the ninth overall pick in the 2009 draft has been an overwhelming success ever since.

Drafted by the Toronto Raptors, DeRozan spent nine years in Canada before a short stint in San Antonio, and then on to Chicago. Traded for Kawhi Leonard, DeRozan had to watch from San Antonio as the Raptors captured the NBA title in 2019.

Many pundits were wildly surprised that of all the destinations and the high interest in his service, DeRozan chose Sacramento as his next home. Since then, he has said all the right things, and like many NBA fans, I believe he will fit in extremely well alongside De'Aaron Fox and Domantas Sabonis. Great players are replete, but great people and great players are a scarce commodity. Mr. DeRozan brings both qualities to a team that is replete with team chemistry, and like most Kings fans, I want to see what Monte McNair's standout acquisition can do.

It is entirely possible that amid all the hype, Kings fans may have to be patient while the big three learn to play alongside one another, but I firmly believe that this six-time all-star will make the transition quickly.

Able to play guard or small forward, much has been reported about the uptick we are likely to see with regards to better looks for Fox, Sabonis, and three-point shooter Keegan Murray.

Lost to some degree in all the uproar of the signing of DeRozan, is how third year hoopster Murray will use DeRozan's talents to get better looks, and more opportunities to drive the lane.

I was impressed with Keegan's introduction of a true mid-range game last

season, and along with some notable shooting inside the three-point line, like former teammate Harrison Barnes, Murray became a threat driving to the basket.

The combination of Murray's three-point shooting, mid-range game, and ability to go to the hole, will have a positive impact on DeRozan as well, and I expect to see this career 21 points per game player, potentially pad that number in the upcoming season.

Not to be overshadowed, Domantas Sabonis could elevate his game even more with the myriad of scoring ability around him, and a return to the high octane offense that led the NBA two years ago may well be in the offing.

It remains to be seen what the loss of defensive minded Jordi Fernandez will do to the Kings, and without question assistant head coach Jay Triano will have big shoes to fill.

Fitting that Sacramento's first opponent of the preseason will be archrival, The Golden State Warriors, and like the Kings, the Warriors will bring a vaunted offensive into Golden One.

Notably missing Wednesday night will be perennial three-point shooter and other half of the splash brothers, Klay Thompson, who has now donned royal blue colors of the Dallas Mavericks.

Joining all-stars Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving, Thompson hopes to reignite a career that took a two-and-a-half-year hiatus after suffering back-to-back injuries to his ACL and Achilles.

It's important to note that Thompson helped the Warriors to an NBA title in his comeback season of 2022, but the past two years have seen Klay a step slower, and his offense not as reliable as it once was. At age 34 the 6'6" Thompson may still have more in the tank, but we won't witness that until the Mavericks come to town on Dec. 30.

Hitch up your britches Kings fans. We are in for a different look than perhaps this team has ever presented, and it's going to be a fun ride.

May the Beam shine brighter than ever!  
Your thoughts are always welcome at [vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com](mailto:vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com). ★



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# COMICS & PUZZLES

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



## GRIN AND BEAR IT



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Y	A	L	T	A	W	A	S	B	A	B	A
E	L	I	O	T	A	M	T	B	O	N	E
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S	P	E	W	P	A	R	S	N	O	R	T

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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- End of WW2 conference location
  - No longer is
  - Cake with rum
  - \* \_\_\_\_\_ Asinoff, author of "Eight Men Out"
  - Invoice qty.
  - Fox crime drama, 2005-2017
  - \*Baseball player's representative
  - Pastrami's partner
  - With irregular edge
  - "Last year's World Series winners"
  - "Brave contender"
  - Certain tray content
  - Fail to mention
  - Nocturnal flyer
  - Team homophone
  - "Last year's MVP Corey \_\_\_\_\_"
  - Iranian monarch
  - Proactiv target
  - "Superman" star
  - Head of family
  - Button-up or button-down
  - Singles
  - Graduates
  - Symphony member
  - "Number in a baseball lineup"
  - Say again
  - Brezhnev's country
  - PST plus three
  - Mouth off
  - Brewed beverage
  - "Fall \_\_\_\_\_"
  - \*Two-time World Series MVP winner in 1970s
  - Two under on one hole in golf
  - Brewed alcoholic beverage
  - Grind down
  69. #72 Across, in the olden days
  - \*2003 World Series winner or Marvel leader, Stan
  - Plural of #62 Down
  - Eject
  - \_\_\_\_\_ excellence
  - Noise of contempt
- DOWN**
- 1984, e.g.
  - Pond plant
  - Right to a property
  - Polynesian kingdom
  - Affirm to be true
  - TV's "Storage \_\_\_\_\_"
  - Comedian Schumer
  - Iron setting
  - Bora \_\_\_\_\_
  - Any day now, formerly
  - Superlative of better
  - Not in port
  - Loud singer
  - Actress \_\_\_\_\_ Perlman, pl.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the season!
  - Double-decker
  - Wife of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" fame
  - Blue or gray swimmer
  - Drink like a cat (2 words)
  - Reply from a tunnel
  - Eon, alt. sp.
  - Robin Williams in "Aladdin"
  - 0 and 2, e.g.
  - Set to zero
  - \*Touch to score

**CROSSWORD**

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72								73		74		

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1	5	9	4	2	6	8	3	7
6	4	3	1	7	8	5	9	2
7	8	2	5	3	9	1	6	4
3	7	4	8	6	5	9	2	1
9	6	5	2	1	4	7	8	3
2	1	8	7	9	3	4	5	6
4	3	6	9	5	7	2	1	8
5	2	7	6	8	1	3	4	9
8	9	1	3	4	2	6	7	5

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	8				9	1		
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		2	4					
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

# SMF Closes Hourly Parking Lot

By Daniel Canfield

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA** - Effective Oct. 1 and without much ceremony, the Sacramento International Airport (SMF) hourly parking lot was closed, according to the airport website.

This was the closest parking lot to Terminal B, had more than 600 parking spaces available and was ideal for short visits to the airport to meet or drop off travelers using Terminal B.

Terminal B accommodates the following airlines: Aeromexico, Alaska Airlines, Frontier, Hawaiian Airlines, Horizon, JetBlue, Southwest, Spirit and Volaris.

The Sacramento International Airport's website indicates the hourly lot will be permanently closed to make way for a new parking garage that will boast more than 5,500 spaces when completed. This new development is part of a larger capital improvement project ongoing at the airport. The project, dubbed SMF Foreword, by Sacramento County leaders is expected to cost \$1.3 billion when completed.

According to a September airport news release, project funding is coming from the sale of General Airport Revenue Bonds.

"Increasing close-in garage parking capacity is the number one opportunity we have to improve the guest experience at SMF," said Cindy Nichol, director of airports for the Sacramento County Department of Airports, in an April 2024 news release.

Indeed, a day after the hourly lot was closed, airport officials were joined by local dignitaries to break ground on the new Terminal B parking garage.

"Today's groundbreaking is another important step to realize the SMF Forward vision and deliver tangible improvements for our community," said



Here is an architectural rendering of the future Terminal B parking garage as seen from street level. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Department of Airports



Airport officials, along with local dignitaries, break ground for the new Terminal B parking garage. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Department of Airports

Congresswoman Doris Matsui at the groundbreaking event. "This new parking garage will

greatly expand capacity while going above and beyond to make the facility convenient and

technologically cutting edge. I'm proud to champion the work of our airport and we are only

continuing to push the envelope to keep it the national gold standard for years to come."

According to a Sacramento County news release on the groundbreaking event, the parking garage project will generate 1,000 jobs during its construction phase and will utilize labor under a Community Workforce Training Agreement, creating opportunities for the local workforce.

Sacramento International Airport visitors have recently become accustomed to the airport's existing parking lots and parking garages near the terminals being full during busy travel periods, leaving travelers few options except to utilize the remote long-term parking lots and ride the shuttle to the terminals.

The new parking garage, when completed, will be a great asset to Sacramento travelers. In the meantime, the hourly lot closure will put additional pressure on the other airport parking lots during the new garage's construction.

Sacramento International Airport's senior public information officer Scott Johnston provided this guidance, "Travelers are encouraged to check parking availability and track shuttles in real-time before arriving at the airport. We also recommend arriving two-and-a-half hours before a flight and using rideshare options instead of driving."

"SMF is seeing an average of one million passengers per month and is expected to surpass 13 million in 2024, which would be a record-breaking year for the airport," Johnston added explaining the need for the expanded parking facilities.

For more information on parking at Sacramento International Airport, visit the Sacramento County website at [www.sacramento.aero/smf/to-and-from/parking](http://www.sacramento.aero/smf/to-and-from/parking)

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