

# SUPERVISOR RICH DESMOND

## NEWS BULLETIN

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 3



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## IN HONOR OF THREE

Last month the County of Sacramento experienced the traumatic loss of three lives during service.

On January 18, 2021, **Sheriff's Deputy Adam Gibson** lost his life in the line of duty along with **K-9 Riley**. Deputies observed an occupied vehicle that matched the description of a vehicle involved in a series of burglaries. Deputies initiated contact with the occupant, who was on active parole, before he fled in his vehicle. After a short pursuit to the east side of Cal Expo, a canine handler deputy deployed K-9 Riley and several shots were fired from within the vehicle. Two deputies and the canine were struck by the suspect's gunfire.

**Deputy Adam Gibson, a 31-year-old, 6-year veteran of the department,** was pronounced dead at the hospital. **Deputy Gibson leaves behind his wife Rachel Gibson and 9-month old child, his parents Doug and Sandee Gibson, and several siblings.** Deputy Gibson served in the United States Marine Corps and did two tours of duty in Afghanistan. Since joining the department in 2014 he has worked in corrections, patrol and most recently as a canine handler. **Deputy Gibson received the Sheriff's Office Bronze Star for Bravery and a Major Incident Ribbon in 2018.**

The wounded deputy from the incident is 43 years old, a 13 year veteran of the department, and remains hospitalized in serious but stable condition. **K-9 Riley also died at the scene. K-9 Riley was 5 years old and had been in service with the Sheriff's Department for 3 years.**

On January 14, 2021, **Dennis Catanyag** was fatally wounded after completing a health inspection and succumbed to his injuries shortly thereafter. **Dennis was an Environmental Specialist and 15-year employee in the Environmental Health Division of the Environmental Management**

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**Department.** He worked in the Sacramento County Food Protection Program, which is responsible for the enforcement of State and Local health codes at all retail food facilities in Sacramento County.

Dennis was a model employee who was dedicated to his family and his job. He had a passion for public service and the health and safety of people in the community. The death of Dennis is an extraordinary loss to his family and the County. **Dennis is survived by his wife Shelley, daughter Lauryn, and brothers Gerry, Arnel, Jun and William.**

**Flags at the County Administration Center were flown at half-staff for Dennis and Deputy Gipson.**

**For those who want to help, a memorial fund has been established in their memory. Donations can be sent either to:**

**Support the family of Dennis Catanyag** [GoFundMe](#)

**Support the family of Deputy Gibson** Donations can be made online at the [CAHP Credit Union website](#)

Please join me in your prayers in remembering them, their families, friends and colleagues in Sacramento County.



Dennis Catanyag



Deputy Adam Gibson



K-9 Riley

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## WINTER STORMS

**With the extreme winter weather we are facing, please be assured the Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SACDOT) is prepared to provide a quick response to flooded roadways and broken traffic signals.**

**When winter weather hits, crews will respond** twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to clear roadways, remove fallen trees, repair streetlights, fix traffic signal malfunctions and keep traffic moving safely. Flooded roads are monitored and closed when necessary. When roads are flooded, they are posted to the [SACDOT website at this link](#) to allow you to check routes for problem areas.

**While crews are in the field every day, your assistance -- especially during bad weather conditions -- is important. Report roadway issues by calling 311 (or 875-4311) or [reporting online at the 311 website](#).** You can also report with a 311 app on your phone.

**Fallen Trees and Branches:** During severe weather conditions, crews may clear just the material in the roadway and move on to the next incident. Additional cleanup work is performed when crews have handled all incidents that require immediate attention. (Note trees or branches that fall on private roads or property are the responsibility of the property owner so please contact a private tree service for fallen trees or branches on your property)

**Flooded Roads:** Crews respond immediately to flooded roads and attempt to clear what is causing the problem right away. If the flooded road cannot be cleared, signage will be placed to close the road and maintenance crews will work to continue to clear the roadway.

**Plugged Culverts** (a tunnel carrying a stream or open drain under a road or railroad): If a culvert is plugged, SACDOT crews will flush the culvert until it's clear.

**Traffic Signal Out:** Technicians are dispatched immediately to make repairs to traffic signals that are out or malfunctioning.

**Downed Street Signs and Stop Signs:** Street signs will be replaced as soon as possible. Downed stop signs are a priority and SACDOT's goal is to have them back up within two hours of notification.

**Street Light Out:** When reporting a problem, have the pole number or property address available. The pole number can be found on a sticker approximately 8 feet high, usually on the traffic side of the pole.

**Plugged Storm Drains** (a major cause for localized street flooding): Call 311, give the location and the Department of Water Resources will dispatch crews to remove leaves and/or other debris from the drain.

**Sandbag Sites:** If your property has a history of flooding, get sandbags in advance at Sacramento County's sandbag self-serve sites. Locations can be found online at the [Department of Water Resources website](#).

**If you encounter a downed power line, electrical sparking, or any other emergency that is a danger to yourself or others please immediately call 911.** For any other power outages please report them to **SMUD at 1-888-456-7683** or on [SMUD's website](#). For any **PG&E outages** contact **1-800-743-5000** or report them on [PG&E's website](#).



## VACCINATION INFORMATION

As we approach one year of living through the COVID-19 pandemic, our **biggest hope for recovery is an effective and widespread distribution of the vaccine**. Our office has been inundated with questions about when and where people can be vaccinated. I have heard from you and many others about the

plan to distribute vaccines provided by Sacramento County. It has become increasingly difficult for the public to navigate when vaccines will become more readily available because various news reports and levels of government seem to provide conflicting or confusing information. I hope the following information will provide some helpful insight into Sacramento County's efforts and plans. **Please note that vaccine information as well as those who are currently being vaccinate are changing constantly; and I will do my best to keep people updated.**

**Vaccines Received by Sacramento County** The State of California decided weeks ago to split the vaccines between county public health agencies and their local healthcare partners. Each week the number of vaccines distributed to Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) and their healthcare partners changes based on a formula established by the State of California. SCPH was following State protocols and initially vaccinating frontline healthcare workers and first responders, however, **starting this week SCPH will have 15k doses to begin targeted vaccinations within the large population of Phase 1b. Phase 1b prioritized groups are those who are 65 years and older and essential workers in the following sectors:**

- **Food, Drug and Agriculture** (*Agricultural, lumber and food - farming/manufacturing/slaughtering/processing; Grocery/food markets/warehouse clubs/community food services; Food/drinking establishments; Pharmacies/drug stores*)
- **Emergency services** (*Non-medical first responders; Law enforcement; Fire fighters; Child and youth services; Shelters; Non-residential social services for elderly/people with disabilities; Durable goods merchants -including safety devices; and Justice and safety activities*)
- **Education and child care** (*Childcare workers; Preschool/elementary/secondary school; Community colleges/colleges/universities; and Trade schools*)

**SCPH is working with points of contact within each of these occupational sectors to facilitate the vaccination appointments in a systematic way through SCPH and approved providers.**



**Vaccines Received by Local Healthcare Providers** Many of the vaccines have been sent by the State of California directly to local healthcare partners to administer rather than the county public health departments. These providers include UC Davis, Kaiser, Sutter, and Dignity Health, and some local pharmacies. Many of these providers may be vaccinating people over 65 years of age. **If you are 65 or older or have an underlying health condition, I suggest you contact your healthcare provider directly to see if you are eligible for a vaccine.**

**Second Dose** Many of the initial recipients of the vaccine are quickly approaching their date for the second dose of the vaccine, which further limits the ability to expand to new recipients. If you have already received your first round of the vaccine, you will be contacted when your second round becomes available.

**Links and References** SCPH has also created a registration for vaccination interest for the various sectors that the public can access on the [SacCounty COVID-19 Vaccine webpage](#), or for assistance to register interest in getting the vaccination, the public can email [COVIDVaccine@SacCounty.net](mailto:COVIDVaccine@SacCounty.net) or call the COVID-19 Hotline (916-875-2400). With more vaccine supply, SCPH will use these lists for vaccination appointments.

To view the SCPH Vaccine Schedule and amount of doses provide directly to the County, please visit the [Sacramento County COVID-19 website](#). If you would like to track the allocation of vaccines from the State, [you may do so at the link provided](#).

My goal is that everyone who is eligible and willing will receive the vaccine as quickly as possible, and I will do everything I can to make sure vaccines are allocated quickly and equitably to the residents of Sacramento County.



# SUNRISE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT WINTER / SPRING ACTIVITY GUIDE

The Sunrise Recreation and Park District has released its new **Digital Activity Guide for the months of February 2021 to May 2021**. The Guide features activities like preschool, sports, dance, childcare and more. **The Digital Activity Guide can be [found at this link](#).**

The Sunrise Recreation and Park District is hard at work adding programs to benefit you and your family. For more information about the Park District or the available activities, please visit the [Sunrise Recreation and Park District website](#).



## HOMELESS WINTER SHELTER

In the past few days I have received many questions related to the **recent storm and its effect on the homeless population**. I wanted to make sure I address this important topic.

Due to the pandemic, there are fewer options to help the unhoused during severe weather this year, and **our office is working hard to identify effective solutions**. The County has set guidelines for severe weather that would require an



emergency response. Please keep in mind that these are guidelines and do not preclude local governments from providing assistance due to extreme weather. Please find the [Severe Weather Guidance here](#).

As you may be aware, the **County of Sacramento is instrumental in assisting all cities in the County that wish to set up warming centers. Sacramento County Public Health worked with the City of Sacramento directly to provide guidelines for operating a warming center with COVID precautions in place.** The County is committed to providing food and support items as well as social workers at warming center locations to connect clients with crucial services. I toured the warming center at the Library Galleria last week with Councilmember Angelique Ashby. In addition to the City shelters, **Sacramento County is working to open more shelter beds.**

Unlike much of the concentrated homeless population within the City of Sacramento, the homeless population in the unincorporated area is spread out, making it extremely difficult for them to take advantage of a centralized warming center; although the County is exploring physical locations that might provide an accessible solution. Also, the **Department of Human Assistance has obtained additional hotel vouchers for the most vulnerable homeless individuals. Sacramento County community navigators and Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team officers have been working to distribute motel vouchers for winter shelter.** They are actively going to encampments to identify the most vulnerable and try to get them into motels. The good news is that more motels are currently working with the County to offer vouchers than in previous years. For more information about the County's response, [please visit this link](#).

There is always more that can be done, and I am working on other options, including partnerships with local community groups to help distribute more vouchers.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

With your college applications submitted, now is the time to start applying for scholarships. The **Jackson Laboratory has a \$10,000 scholarship** opportunity open to graduating high

school seniors who reside in the Sacramento region.

The **JAX College Scholarship Program** will award **\$10,000** to a student from an underserved background who will pursue a college degree and aspires to a career in biomedicine. The mission of the **Jackson Laboratory** is to discover precise genomic solutions for disease, and the scholarship will be awarded to a student who shares this goal by pursuing a career in research or medicine. The **Jackson Laboratory** seeks to provide promising students an opportunity to alleviate some of the financial burdens that a college education presents.

Nominations can be submitted by email to [scholarship@jax.org](mailto:scholarship@jax.org), with the subject line 'Scholarship nomination'.

Online teacher nominations are accepted until **February 15, 2021** and scholarships will be awarded in late spring 2021

Applications for the 2021 scholarship program are now **OPEN**. To apply and for full applicant details, [please visit this link](#).

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## WASTE MANAGEMENT RATES

**Recent mandates from the State of California and changes in the global economy have an impact on every aspect of our life, including garbage and recycling.** The Sacramento County Department of Waste Management and Recycling (DWMR) is required to comply with new state requirements for organic waste and recycling which will result in overall cost increases to the Department. Meanwhile, changes in trade relations with China have decreased the ability to sell recyclables. **DWMR has been using reserves** to cover basic services costs, and in March 2019, the Department came to the Board of Supervisors to request an increase in residential rates. Due to Covid-19, the request was delayed and the Department came back to the Board of Supervisors in December **requesting that monthly residential rates be increased by \$13.41.**

During my inaugural meeting on the Board of Supervisors on January 12, 2021, I was faced with the decision to dramatically increase rates. Although I understand the financial constraints

the Department is facing, I had serious concerns about increasing costs for families already struggling during the Covid-19 pandemic. Through careful and thoughtful deliberation and discussions, the Board pushed DWMR to decrease their request. **I reluctantly joined my fellow Board members and approved an increase in residential garbage and recycling rates by \$5 per month.** This will be followed by another \$5 monthly increase next year. DWMR has not raised rates since 2010, and the increase these next two years is essential to ensure the Department can cover its operating costs without having to rely on the County's General Fund. Using the General Fund would jeopardize funding for other services provided to the residents of District 3, including law enforcement services. That is not a risk I am willing to take. The final rate increase was substantially less than the proposed \$13.41 a month proposed by the DWMR, and I am glad to report that the **Solid Waste Lifeline Rate Assistance Program, which provides a rebate for eligible low income families, was doubled.** I am still hopeful that the State of California will provide some legislative relief on upcoming organic waste requirements until after the COVID-19 pandemic.



## **INVITATION TO SACRAMENTO COUNTY BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Sacramento County residents** are invited to a [Sacramento County Budget Workshop](#) **Thursday, Feb. 4, beginning at 3 p.m.** The workshop will be virtual and can be viewed [on the](#)

[Metro Cable 14 website](#) and [via BlueJeans](#) (similar to Zoom). If you do not have internet access you can join via phone by **dialing (415) 466-7000** and entering the **meeting ID 1458615#**. Please note this phone line will not be used for public comment.

**The Board of Supervisors would like for residents to have access to better understand the County's budget process and to weigh in with their own budget priorities.** We understand the budget process is complex and our goal is to provide further insight and transparency into the process.

Staff from the Sacramento County Budget and Debt Management Office will kick off the workshop with a presentation about the budget basics, budget content and format, the process of preparing the budget, and the County's current budget and fiscal condition.

**After an approximately one and a half-hour presentation regarding the County's budget and budget process, viewers may call (916) 875-2500 with questions and/or input about budget priorities.** Please note that callers may be on hold for an extended period of time and should plan accordingly.

For those who cannot watch the workshop live, the video will be available on the [County's YouTube account](#). Sacramento County residents may also share their comments regarding budget priorities via email at [Budget2021@saccounty.net](mailto:Budget2021@saccounty.net). The email will be available through Thursday, Feb. 11, and all responses will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.

There will be other opportunities for public comment on the budget at Board meetings throughout the fiscal year, including a budget policies item in late February, a Board budget workshop in April, and at the Budget Hearings in June. [Sign up for Board meeting alerts](#) via email and/or text message.

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## **WANT TO SERVE ON A BOARD OR COMMISSION?**

**Are you looking for a way to serve your community?** We are looking for community members who are willing and able to

serve on one of the various **Sacramento County Boards and Commissions**.

**Sacramento County has close to 100 boards and commissions**, and serving on one is a great way to help your community and enact meaningful change in your neighborhood. District 3 is full of diverse communities, and my goal is to reflect that mixture on our boards and commissions. It is imperative that we have members of these boards and commissions be represented by residents of District 3 to convey the unique issues that we face in our unincorporated communities. **Prior to running for office, I served on the Adult and Aging Commission as well as the Carmichael/Old Foothill Farms Community Planning Advisory Council, and found the experience rewarding and eye-opening.**

There are boards and commissions that cover a variety of various topics and issues. For more information about serving on a board or commission or to see a list of current and upcoming vacancies, please visit the [Clerk of the Board of Supervisor's website](#).

I encourage you to [APPLY](#) for an appointment to a Board and Commission.

**If you have questions about any of the boards or commissions listed you may contact me at richdesmond@saccounty.net or (916) 874-5471.**

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