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INAUGURAL COMMUNITY WEBINAR MEETING

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered every aspect of our lives, and my office has received hundreds of questions about vaccines, testing, school closures, athletic participation, and the limitations imposed on businesses by ever-changing orders from the State of California. To stay connected about these and many other issues affecting the County, I will be hosting regular community webinars.

I held my first community webinar meeting last week on February 25, 2021, with our Public Health Officer, Dr. Olivia Kasirye. It was a pleasure to host Dr. Kasirye to provide an update on the current status of COVID-19 in the County, vaccine distribution, and the current public health order. The community meeting had a great turnout, and we had numerous questions. I would like to thank Dr. Kasirye for taking time out of her busy schedule to provide this important information. For those who missed the meeting, Dr. Kasirye holds bi-weekly webinars regarding COVID-19 and also has a Q&A period. Community members can register [here](#). Also, the Sacramento County Public Health Department has a dedicated website that provides updated information regarding COVID-19. It can be [accessed at this link](#). The website links to the [current public health order](#), information about vaccines and [where to register for a vaccination](#), and [where to get tested](#).

I will be holding additional community meetings, which will be virtual for the foreseeable future. The next meeting will be on homelessness. The date and time will be posted on [my website at this link](#) and will be sent to my email subscribers.

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

SWEEP IN ARDEN-ARCADE

- **ADOPT AN ANIMAL TODAY**
- **WILL ROGERS MIDDLE SCHOOL GIVES LIFE TO DISCARDED LAWNMOWERS**
- **GROUP HELPS THE LATINO COMMUNITY ACCESS HEALTHCARE**

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As you know, our **biggest hope for recovery is effective and widespread vaccine distribution. The State of California splits its vaccine allocation 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 usually receives 13,000 to 18,000 doses each week, but SCPH does not know how many weekly vaccines it will receive. This makes it very difficult to plan.**

Sacramento County is currently vaccinating residents 65 and older, a population that includes approximately 200,000 people. If you are 65 or older, please click [HERE to schedule an appointment.](#) Vaccinations are free and available regardless of immigration status or insurance coverage. For those with health insurance, coverage information may be requested as part of the appointment scheduling process.

On February 15th, Sacramento County also began vaccinating educators and childcare providers. SCPH is working with points of contact within each of these occupational sectors to facilitate the vaccination appointments in a systematic way.

Due to the limited amount of vaccines coming directly to SCPH, appointment availability may be limited, and it may take a while for you to get into an open appointment slot. 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.

Links and References. If you have questions, please email COVIDVaccine@SacCounty.net or call the COVID-19 Hotline (916-875-2400).

To view the SCPH Vaccine Schedule and amount of doses provided directly to the County, please visit the [Sacramento County COVID-19 website.](#)



FREE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT RIDES FOR COVID VACCINATIONS

I am pleased to announce that as of March 1, the **Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT)** is providing **FREE** transit rides to everyone who needs to get to a scheduled COVID-19 vaccine appointment location. The free rides include all vaccination sites in Sacramento County within SacRT's service area, including hospitals, pharmacies, and other immunization locations.

To ride free, customers need to show a COVID-19 vaccine appointment confirmation in the form of an email, text or vaccine card. This will serve as a valid fare on the date of the appointment to ride SacRT's fixed-route buses, light rail, Folsom Stage Line, SmaRT Ride or SacRT GO services. When boarding a bus, show the operator either a printout or screenshot of your appointment on a smartphone. Have it ready to show a fare inspector when riding light rail.

"Access to vaccinations is a top priority for Sacramento County Public Health. We do not want transportation to vaccination sites to be a barrier for anyone that wants to receive a vaccine," said Sacramento County Public Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasirye. "This partnership with SacRT is critical to serving people that may not otherwise be able to access vaccination locations – including people with physical disabilities. We're grateful for their hard work and commitment to serving our community."

Customers can use the [SacRT online trip planner](#) to assist with navigating to a vaccine location or call SacRT customer service

at **916-321-BUSS (2877)**. To request a ride on SmarT Ride on-demand microtransit service, **download the free SacRT SmarT Ride app** (App Store or Google Play) or call 916-321-BUSS (2877) for assistance. Learn more about SmarT Ride at [SacRT's website](#).

SacRT requires anyone waiting at a station or transit center, riding transit, or visiting the SacRT Customer Service and Sales Center located at 1225 R Street, to wear a mask or face covering. Visit SacRT's website for more on their COVID-19 precautions.



YOUR SACRAMENTO AREA PARKS IN ONE WEBSITE

Spring is right around the corner, which means it is time to enjoy the great outdoors! Outdoor activities are more important than ever this year.

Need quick access online to find specific recreational facilities like dog parks, trails, golf, horseback riding, tennis courts and much more? The website [Yoursacparks.com](https://yoursacparks.com) is a one stop gateway to fun and recreation where you can make a tee time, sign up to volunteer, or improve your health and fitness progress.

The website is a partnership of 19 recreation and park agencies in the Sacramento region, including Sacramento County's Department of Regional Parks, with the goal to help connect you with the beautiful parks and recreational services available in our area. Check it out at [Your Sacramento Parks website at this link](https://yoursacparks.com).



FAIR OAKS RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT ACTIVITY GUIDE

The Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) is hard at work adding programs to benefit you and your family. **The FORPD has released its new Digital Activity Guide for March through May. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and regulations, the District uses this temporary digital guide to provide the most current and accurate information.** The Guide features activities like preschool, sports, dance, childcare and more. **The Digital Activity Guide can be [found at this link](#).**

For more information about the Park District or available activities, please visit the [FORPD website](#).

SMF WELCOMES NEWEST K9 PASSENGER SCREENING TEAM

Help me welcome **Vern and his handler, Deputy Ian D'Cuhna**, as they join the K9 passenger screening team at the Sacramento International Airport (SMF).

Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputy Ian D'Cuhna has been involved with the Sheriff's K9 program since 2008. Twelve years later, Deputy D'Cuhna was united with his first four-legged partner, Vern, a two-year-old yellow Labrador retriever. The pair took part in a sixteen-week training program at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas, before returning to SMF to continue their certification process.

"Earlier in my career I couldn't make that kind of commitment," **said D'Cuhna.** "Now that I'm towards the end of my career, this is really the last thing I want to do."

"We are excited to welcome Ian and Vern to our K9 program here at SMF," **said Cindy Nichol, Sacramento County Department of Airports Director.** "Our K9 teams play a very important role in the safety and security of our passengers and employees here at the Airport."

Like most Labradors, Vern loves people and food!

"He loves mealtime, and I really have to hold him back because he's so social," **said D'Cuhna.** "He loves people and he's become so comfortable with me that wherever I go he wants to be there too." That being said, Vern knows when it's time to get to work.

"All of the training put into this is what separates him from just being a family pet," **said D'Cuhna.** "He knows as soon as we get to the airport it's time to work. He knows he's going to get his reward and it's going to be a fun day. The whole program is designed to make work the most exciting thing to him."



PROBATION EDD SWEEP IN ARDEN-ARCADE

On Friday, Jan. 28, 2021, Sacramento County Probation assisted the Sacramento County District Attorney's office and conducted a sweep in Arden Arcade for suspected Employment Development Department (EDD) fraud. The sweep resulted in two arrests in connection with a \$550,000 EDD fraud case that involved dozens of victims. The probation officers found ghost guns, fake identification cards, and fraudulent EDD cards. Officers also found a notebook with the handwritten title "Fraud Bible/Methods," a list of online Dark Web accounts, and what appeared to be a note about a magnetic credit card reader.

Thank you to the Sacramento County Probation Department for helping arrest those who are defrauding the taxpayers at a time when people are struggling to survive.

ADOPT AN ANIMAL TODAY

The Sacramento County Animal Care and Regulation is open for adoptions despite the pandemic. The Governor's recent stay at home order made it clear that adopting an animal can

bring companionship, love, and affection into your life. **The Department of Animal Care and Regulation is in the process of adopting out dogs, cats, kittens, rabbits and other pets by appointment only.** The public must follow all local public health mandates, including the use of face coverings and social distancing during their appointment. For details, visit the [Sacramento County COVID-19 website](#).

Please follow the steps below if you are interested in adding a new member to your family:

- **Step 1:** Visit the [Bradshaw Shelter](#) to see all available pets and write down the 7- digit animal number of the pet (s) you are interested in (up to 3 pets allowed).
- **Step 2:** Call 916-875-2287 (between 9:30am and 3:30pm, except Mondays and Holidays) to schedule an adoption appointment with a shelter representative.
- **Step 3:** Visit the shelter during your scheduled appointment.
 - Bring a valid I.D.
 - \$50 Adoption fee (cash/credit/debit accepted)
 - Wear a face covering and social distance

Please read these descriptions of three wonderful pets that are ready for adoption!

Cat - Teasha A791855, 10yr. Black Domestic Shorthair. Teasha was rescued and brought to the shelter after her owner passed away. At 10 years old, she arrived with a litter of six 2-month-old kittens who have already been adopted. She has since been spayed, and readied for adoption. Teasha has been shy at the shelter, so is looking for an adopter who will take it slow with her and give her time to build her confidence while settling into a new home. She is not a fan of being picked up, but she allows petting and will sit nicely on your lap in a quiet environment. She prefers a slow approach, and would do best in a calm, adult home.

Cat - Sam, A792888, 8yr. Orange Tabby Domestic Shorthair. Sam's former owner moved and left him behind to fend for himself, although he was not on the mean streets for long, and arrived at the shelter at a hefty 23lbs! The shelter has him on a diet, which he will need to continue in a new home until he

reaches a healthy weight. He loves sitting atop his cat tower, and looking out the window from his habitat room. This big lug promises to keep the couch warm for you!

Dog - Nanuk, 792693, 10 yr. Chow-Chow. This older gentleman came to the shelter as a stray. In play groups he's shown us to be dog-social, but he does prefer low-energy ladies over other males, however he tolerates well-mannered males as long as they respect his space. Nanuk can be a little fearful of new people, which is common for his breed, but he does warm up with slow interaction. Once he's comfortable, he engages in light play, and even play-bows to solicit fun. This ol' man just needs a calm home to live out his Golden Years!



Teasha



Sam



Nanuk

WILL ROGERS MIDDLE SCHOOL GIVES LIFE TO DISCARDED LAWNMOWERS

A partnership between the **Sacramento County Department of Waste Management and Recycling Department** and **Will Rogers Middle School** is giving new life to discarded lawnmowers while helping students get hands-on training in engine repair.

Since 2019, the North Area Recovery Station (NARS) has allowed **Will Rogers Middle School instructor Ken MacPherson** to take discarded gasoline lawnmowers to use in the school's class on bicycle and small gas engine repair. The class gives mechanically-minded students a jumpstart on auto shop classes offered in high school.

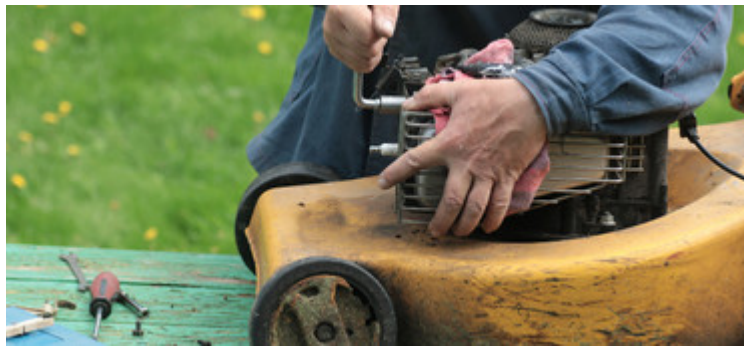
One day, while visiting NARS, MacPherson noticed customers dropping off old gas-powered mowers. Knowing that small gas engines are pricey and students have a tendency to lose parts,

inspiration struck! MacPherson approached NARS workers who supported his idea of donating discarded mowers. As part of the agreement, the school is required to document the donation, release the county from liability, and prohibit students from selling the engines.

Pre-COVID, students in a classroom could perform basic diagnostic tests, drain oil and gas from the engines, and give them a good pressure wash. Given the restrictions of the pandemic, MacPherson prepares the mowers for students to work on at home and schedules a pickup date for parents and students to come to the school. They choose the engine they will work on for the semester.

“There’s a lot you can learn from a small gasoline engine. It’s like a 3-D puzzle, with oil,” said MacPherson. “And if they can make it work, they can use the engine to build anything they want.”

For Waste Management and Recycling, it’s another example of how employees go the extra mile to support the community and reduce and reuse items that would have otherwise ended up in the landfill. And in this case, it also provides an opportunity to partner with a school and educate students.



GROUP HELPS THE LATINO COMMUNITY ACCESS HEALTHCARE

The Latino Leadership Council’s Promotores program is here to help the **Latino Community** access health care services. **They can assist with the following:**

- Help you find free or low-cost medical care, including getting established with a primary care doctor/clinic, a vision or dental provider or a therapist.
- Accompany you to an appointment to ensure you understand their recommendations.
- Help you to find other community-based services that support your health (pharmacy, nutrition, support groups).
- Connect you with an insurance specialist to apply for health insurance or Medi-Cal (if eligible)

All of these services are FREE. To make a referral to the Promotores program, [please visit this link](#).

Services for families in these zip codes **95610, 95660, 95815, 95821, 95833, 95834, 95835, 95838, 95841** will be provided by Elica Health Centers, Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center, Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association, and United Latinos, Promoviendo Acción Cívica, with the generosity of Dignity Health. For more information, please call (916) 802-2260

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