

SUPERVISOR RICH DESMOND

NEWS BULLETIN

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POTHOLE REPAIRS AND SUMMER ROADWAY PROJECTS

One of my promises while on the campaign trail was to be the pothole's worst nightmare, and last month I joined one of our Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SacDOT) crews as they filled potholes in the rain. **Last year, the County filled over 85,000 potholes in the unincorporated area of Sacramento County.** I know filling potholes is not a permanent solution to fix our roadways, but removing these pesky menaces does improve our driving experience and roadway safety in the meantime.

In the month of March, we focused our District 3 Community Meetings on transportation issues. We had Ron Vicari, Director of SacDOT, as our guest. Mr. Vicari outlined various upcoming projects throughout District 3. I am happy to share that, as a result of the Board of Supervisors approving additional funding for road repairs, you will see a historic number of roadway repair projects starting construction very soon in District 3. To view the full list of Sacramento County projects visit the [SacDOT Project Master List](#).

The efforts this year will help, but they are not nearly enough to address the overwhelming backlog in roadway maintenance in unincorporated Sacramento County. I will continue to fight for more transportation dollars to fix our roads, but in the meantime, I'll keep battling my pothole nemesis! To report a pothole in your neighborhood: **Call 311 or 875-4311 or report online through the [311 website](#).**

- **WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SPRING AND SUMMER?**

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PARKWAY CRISIS

My office has received hundreds of emails and calls from individuals who are concerned about what is happening along the banks of the American River and the impact on the environment and wildlife. **I recently wrote an article regarding the American River Parkway for the *Carmichael Times*, March 25, 2022 and I would like to share it with you in case you did not read it.**

As a lifelong resident of Carmichael, my backyard has always been the American River Parkway. Even before taking office last year, I was gravely concerned about the degradation of the Parkway, and I know many of you share my fears. The Parkway is a unique natural resource that makes our region, and especially the Third District (where much of the Parkway is located), a special place to live. The Parkway has drawn

people from all over the Country to our area, and it is imperative that the County, State and other cities that border the Parkway preserve this jewel.

This past summer, I was in disbelief as fires destroyed roughly 12% of the Parkway. I fear things will be even worse this summer. Many of the fires were caused by open flames and cooking, which are not allowed in most areas of the Parkway. In my conversations with Metro Fire and our own Park Rangers, it is obvious most if not all of these fires originated in homeless encampments. I am a Mile Steward on the Parkway and have participated in countless cleanups. I have seen firsthand the garbage, human waste and destruction to the parkway from unregulated encampments. Although many individuals living on the parkway try to keep the area clean and genuinely care about their riparian campsites, most camps are damaging the natural habitat, interfering with wildlife, impacting water quality, and deterring recreational users and commuters from enjoying the Parkway. Many campers suffer from untreated mental illness or addiction and need to be connected to treatment. Some campers are violent and pose a danger to other campers and Parkway users. Several violent incidents have occurred on the Parkway in recent years, including the most recent tragic and senseless death of Emma Roark. This case brought much-needed awareness to what is actually happening and the concerns of those who use the Parkway. I think we need to be honest with ourselves that encampments on the Parkway are literally destroying the most valuable environmental resource in our region and endangering Parkway users as well as vulnerable members of the homeless community.

The American River Parkway Foundation hosted an event last summer and released a video, Parkway in Peril, followed by a panel discussion in which I participated. There was unanimous agreement that the Parkway needs to be protected. As a region, we need to come together and make changes. I have been meeting regularly with Parkway stakeholders and Supervisor Phil Serna to hear about issues and find ways to address them.

How do we best preserve and protect the sensitive environmental resource along the American River while making the Parkway safe for everyone to enjoy? Although this is just the beginning, the Board of Supervisors approved additional Park Ranger peace officers and 10 Navigators to enforce Parkway rules and assist homeless campers find services. The Board also approved funding for up to 352 motel night stays to support rapid exits of people who are living in encampments in the Parkway. Additionally, the Board

allocated almost \$2 million in the current fiscal year to address encampments, wildlife, and environmental crime issues in the Parkway. Although there is no ordinance that prohibits camping in the parkway, camping is regulated because it requires a permit. I would like to explore a County ordinance that explicitly prohibits camping throughout the Parkway except in a designated area with a permit. The biggest hurdle to removing encampments on the Parkway, of course, is the lack of alternative shelters and treatment options so campers can reside in safe and sanitary locations with access to services. The County is actively seeking sites that will meet this need. Yes, Parkway encampments need to be removed so we can repair and preserve the riparian environment, protect wildlife, and reduce wildfire risk. But I am also convinced that removing encampments and relocating the homeless along the river to the appropriate shelter or treatment facility will keep them safe and provide them with opportunities to get the help they need. Something needs to change!



SPRING EGG HUNTS FOR THE FAMILY

After two years of quarantine, several communities are hosting **Egg Hunts for children** in April. Each event is **open to the public**. Below is a list to choose from:

April 16 --Arden Park Easter Egg-Stravaganza at Arden Park, 1000 La Sierra Drive. Carnival games 8:30-10 am, Pancake Breakfast 8:30-9:30 am (\$5.00 per person), and **Egg Hunt at 9:30 am featuring a bounce house, petting zoo (\$5.00 per person) and pictures with the Easter Bunny**. For more information, visit the [Arden Park Recreation and Park District website](#).

April 16 --Breakfast with the Bunny hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Carmichael and the Carmichael Recreation and Park District, 5750 Grant Avenue. Pancake Breakfast by Kiwanis Club 8-10 am (\$5 per person) along with arts, crafts, photo booth and a special meet and greet with the Bunny. For more information, visit the [Carmichael Recreation and Park District website](#).

April 16 --Fair Oaks Easter Eggstravaganza at Fair Oaks Park, 11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard. **Activities 9am-1pm include free Egg Hunt for children Ages 0-12** plus a craft station and pictures with the Bunny. For a nominal fee, the family can enjoy carnival games and inflatables. For more information, visit the [Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District website](#).

April 16 --Fulton-EI Camino Eggstra Special Small Business Saturday at Howe Park, 2201 Cottage Way, hosted by Humble Beginnings Entrepreneur Network LLC and the Fulton-EI Camino Recreation and Park District. There will be face painting, vendors, food, games and an egg hunt from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information, visit the [Fulton-EI Camino Recreation and Park District website](#).

April 16 --Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District Annual Easter Blast at Swanston Community Center, 2350 Northrop Avenue. **Egg hunt, magic shows and pictures with the Easter bunny from 11 am to 1:30 pm.** For more information, visit the [Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District website](#).

April 9 --North Highlands Spring Extravaganza and Egg Hunt at Freedom Park, corner of Freedom Park and Dudley Boulevard. **Free Community event with games, crafts, a petting zoo and the famous egg hunt.** For more information, visit the [North Highlands Recreation and Park District website](#).

April 9 —Cordova Recreation and Park District is hosting the **Hoppin' & Huntin' at Hagan** event from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Enjoy music, a hopstake course, and free egg hunts for children up to age 10. For more information, visit the [Cordova Recreation and Park District website](#).

Happy Egg Hunting!



KITTEN SEASON

Animal shelters around the country are gearing up for what is known as “kitten season,” when cats begin to give birth to countless kitten litters. Typically beginning in late spring and continuing throughout summer, kitten season stretches the resources of animal shelters and rescues when an influx of unwanted kittens and cats crowd shelter and kennel space.

The [Bradshaw Shelter’s Foster Care Program](#) helps save lives and space during this hectic season. Residents interested in becoming fosters should [submit a foster application](#) to FosterRescueProgram@saccounty.net. The shelter provides all food, bedding, supplies, toys and more at no cost to the foster. Fostering is a great way to help alleviate the impact of kitten season at your local shelter while providing temporary companionship for those still working from home. However, working outside the home doesn’t need to be an impediment to becoming a foster! Most animals in foster care do not require constant monitoring.

A bathroom, laundry room or spare bedroom is typically all the space you will need to be a foster. The time commitment for fostering can be anywhere from one to six weeks, depending on the animal’s size at the time of fostering. Additional foster needs include caring for sick or injured animals, nursing mothers and litters, giving animals a break from the shelter, and more.

For more information about fostering, including [fostering FAQs](#), visit the [Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter website](#). To learn more about what to do if you find a kitten or litter of kittens, [visit the feral cat information webpage](#).

Donations of essential kitten season supplies are also needed and will gladly be accepted at 3839 Bradshaw Road, Tuesday through Sunday, between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. For a complete list of supplies needs, visit the shelter's [Amazon Wishlist](#) or the [donation website](#).



HERO OF THE MONTH

As you may know, each month I seek to recognize outstanding community members and organizations that go above and beyond in helping to make Sacramento County a better place to live, work, and play for our residents. I am pleased to announce our April honoree, Lilian Monceaux. This month, I wanted to shine a light on our small business community. Lilian, is the owner of "Touch of Britain," a traditional British tearoom and import shop. Lilian is celebrating over 36 years of operation in the restaurant business, and her commitment to providing excellent service to Sacramento residents should not go unnoticed. Lilian and her friend Jean Greenstreet, along with their retired Air Force veteran husbands, LJ Monceaux and Harry Greenstreet, opened touch of Britain on September 4, 1985. She fought through the challenges of running a small business during COVID-19 but came out triumphant. Lilian and her daughter, Tamara Monceaux, now manage the restaurant together and are still passionate about bringing a bit of Britain to Sacramento while ensuring their guests enjoy the experience and hospitality. Lilian embodies the American Dream and is truly a **Community Hero!**

If you would like to visit Lilian and experience a Touch of Britain, I encourage you to make a trip over to her restaurant and shop located at 5712 Watt Ave, North Highlands, CA 95660

You can nominate a Sacramento County District 3 Community Hero of the Month by filling out this

nomination form. The selected Community Hero of the Month will be featured in our newsletter and will receive a certificate of recognition. I look forward to honoring all of those who work so hard to make our communities better.

If you have questions about this program please feel free to email me at richdesmond@saccounty.net or call my office at (916) 874-5471.



SACRAMENTO COUNTY ONLINE BILLING

The Sacramento County Department of Finance's [Revenue Recovery Division](#), which provides billing and collection services for the County, has a great

new tool to help customers manage their payments and pay their bills online!

With Revenue Recovery Online you can:

- Sign up for paperless & receive statements via email
- View previous statements, correspondence and payment history
- Set up payment reminders
- Pay Online
- Set up auto pay, so you never miss a due date

This new paperless billing option come at a good time. Recently the United States Postal Service revised its service standards for certain first-class mail items that increase the delivery time from 1-3 days to 5 days. This new standard could delay receipt of mailed payments to the County. Paperless billing will avoid these delays.

The new billing option also helps our environment and eliminates waste. Revenue Recovery sends out close to 100,000 customer statements every month. It is estimated that the standard 45-foot pine tree can produce roughly 10,000 sheets of paper, so every year, Revenue Recovery uses roughly 120 greenhouse gas absorbing pine trees worth of paper, excluding envelopes and other correspondence.

To avoid delays in receiving your Revenue Recovery statement or other time sensitive correspondence from us, and to help us Go Green, [sign up today for Revenue Recovery Online](#). We will email you and let you know when your statement is available to view online. It's simple and secure!

COME SEE MASTER GARDENERS IN ACTION THIS SPRING

Come experience the beauty of the Horticulture Center with the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners of Sacramento County. The perennials in the Water-Efficient Landscape Gardens will be in

full bloom. The Orchard will be starting summer pruning along with fire blight control. Warm season vegetables will be off to a good start. Berries will be vigorously sprouting new canes. In the vineyard, canopy management will be in progress with cluster thinning and removal of foliage to encourage robust vines and develop more and larger fruit. The herbs will be shooting up. Compost will be happening.

Master Gardeners will be available in all areas of the garden. You can bring your samples and ask questions on topics ranging pests and diseases. See and learn as you peruse the gardens at your own pace. These are great places to ask questions and get advice about your own garden and fruit trees. Located outside – rain or shine.

LOCATION: Horticulture Center, 11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. South of Madison, in Fair Oaks Park, next to the Library

DATES: Wednesday, April 13, 2022

TIME: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

For more information call (916) 875-6913 or [visit their website](#).



YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

As the weather heats up, Soil Born Farm's Youth Education program creates a space for curiosity, learning,

and empowerment. The work connects youth to food, community and the natural world, while the experience cultivates leadership, stewardship and healthy futures for all.

The Youth Education program focuses on two areas of education. **The [Roots and Wings](#) program provides farm-based educational experiences at the American River Ranch in Rancho Cordova.** While children explore the garden, the farm and the American River, youth gain an understanding of the role of the urban farm in the community and the ecosystem. The program focuses on experiential, hands-on learning in the garden, in the natural world, and in the kitchen. Farm-based educational programming provides students with opportunities to become more aware of the important connection between our food, our health and the health of our environment.

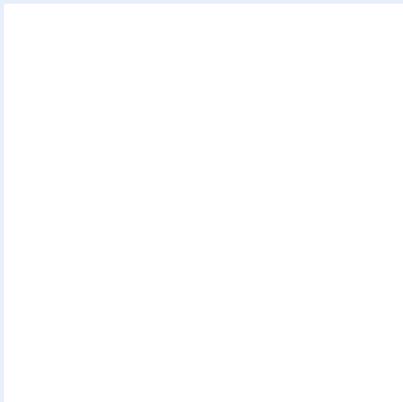
The [Growing Together](#) initiative focuses on supporting school gardens in the greater Sacramento Area and has served students from the San Juan Unified School District, Folsom Cordova Unified School Districts, and other districts. Both programs work together to provide youth the opportunity to experience powerful connections with the natural world, hands-on learning, stewardship of the environment and healthy food.

Information on these wonderful programs can be found at the [Soil Born Farms website](#).



WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SPRING AND SUMMER?

The Carmichael Recreation and Park District has released its new **Spring/Summer Activity Guide**. The Guide features



activities like preschool, sports, summer camps, facility rentals, Carmichael Dog Park and more. [The Digital Activity Guide can be found at this link.](#)

As the community is opening up, the Carmichael Recreation and Park District is working hard to add programs that benefit you and your family. For more information about the Park District or available activities, please visit the [Carmichael Recreation and Park District.](#)
