

SUPERVISOR RICH DESMOND
NEWS BULLETIN
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 3



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IN THIS ISSUE:

- **HOLIDAY EVENTS**
 - **TRAVEL ALERTS**
 - **HOLIDAY CONCERTS**
 - **GIFTS FROM THE HEART**
 - **FENTANYL DEATHS DECLINE**
 - **ARDEN-ARCADE TURKEY GIVEAWAY**
 - **NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**
 - **HACKBERRY LANE TRAIL/CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT**
 - **THE CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON RETURNS**
 - **LOCAL AGE-FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN**
 - **WINTER STORMS**
 - **GRAND JURY**
-

HOLIDAY EVENTS

With the holiday season in full swing, I want to highlight some of the fun community events taking place throughout District 3. It is exciting to see neighborhoods coming together to celebrate the season as a community. I hope you will join me at some of these wonderful events. Happy Holidays!

ARDEN ARCADE

Friday, December 6 | 6:00-8:00pm | Holiday in the Park

Join the Arden Park Recreation and Park District for their 11th annual Holiday in the Park! Santa will use his Christmas magic to light up the 17-foot tree and the community center for the holidays! Local music and talent groups will take the stage and help celebrate the kickoff to the holiday season. Pictures with Santa will be available after the tree lighting, as well as hot chocolate and crafts for kids! For more information visit the [Park district website](#).

Location: Arden Park, 1000 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864

Saturday, December 7 | 4:00-6:30pm | 16th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting

Join me at the Annual Tree Lighting hosted by the Fulton Avenue Association and the Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District at the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance parking lot at 2700 Fulton Avenue. There will be music, entertainment, and a Christmas tree raffle. Fun and games at Santa's Workshop and FREE coffee, cocoa, cookies, and food (as long as supplies last). You can find more information on the [Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District website](#).

Location: 2700 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821

Supervisor Rich Desmond
Third District
Sacramento County
Board of Supervisors
700 H Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814
richdesmond@saccounty.gov

PHONE: (916) 874-5471
FAX: (916) 874-7593

[Follow Us on Facebook](#)

NORTH HIGHLANDS

Friday, December 6 | 6:00-8:00pm | Holiday Extravaganza and Tree Lighting

Don't let the Grinch steal this holiday season! Come and help Cindy Lou Who convince the Grinch to light the tree by competing in holiday festivities and games like cookie decorating, holiday music, Grinch Caricature portraits, and more! Enjoy free hot chocolate while watching the tree lighting take place at 7:00pm followed by SNOW. For more information visit [NHRPD's website](#).

Location: Kay F. Dahill Community Center (Outdoors) 6040 Watt Ave, North Highlands, CA 95660

Saturday, December 14 | 9:00-11:00am | Breakfast with Santa

Put on your best holiday pajamas and join us for Breakfast with Santa! Start your morning off with breakfast including fluffy pancakes, warm coffee and juice, pictures with Santa, and some holiday crafts that include Letters to Santa, Holiday Market, and holiday crafts! **Online registration is required and closes on December 9, 2024.**

Location: Kay F. Dahill Community Center, 6040 Watt Ave, North Highlands, CA 95660

Participation Fee: \$8.00 per person and children Under 3 years old are free.

[Register on the NHRPD website.](#)

CARMICHAEL

Thursday, December 5 | 4:30-7:30pm | Carmichael's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting

Kick off the holiday season at the annual holiday Tree Lighting event at Carmichael Park. There will be live music, arts & crafts, vendors, food trucks and holly jolly fun! Santa Claus and Queen Elsa will be available for visits and photos at no additional cost, but we ask that you please donate one canned good per child. All canned goods collected are donated to the San Juan Unified School District's Food Closet. Stick around to watch us light up the tree as a flurry of "snow" falls at the park, promptly at 6:15PM

Location: Carmichael Park - 5750 Grant Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608

For more information visit the [Carmichael Recreation and Park District website](#).

**Friday, December 6 | 5:00-9:00pm \$10 Early Bird |
Saturday, December 7 9:00am-5:00pm | Sunday,
December 8 | 9:00am-3:00pm | Holiday Craft Fair**

Come out and enjoy the beloved 46th Annual Holiday Show of Hands Craft Fair. There will be custom work by over 150 crafters and artists, featuring handcrafted gift items, decor, collectibles, antiques, delicious food, and of course our can't-miss silent auction is back!

The Holiday Show of Hands Christmas Craft Fair is a very special annual event drawing over 10,000 people annually and is put on by the parents and staff of St. John the Evangelist School in Carmichael, with 100% of proceeds raised directly to benefit the school. For more information check out the [St. John the Evangelist website](#).

FAIR OAKS

Entire Month of December | Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District and Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce Christmas in Fair Oaks

December 5 | 4:30-7:30pm | Christmas in Fair Oaks and Tree Lighting, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

'Tis the season to celebrate old traditions – and make new ones! The Fair Oaks elves (Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District & Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce, together with their partners) have come together to make this December one to remember! Find fun activities for you or your family to participate in this December throughout Fair Oaks all month long! However, be sure to attend the Christmas in Fair Oaks Tree Lighting on December 5, 2023. The Annual holiday celebration will feature live music, community stage performances, craft vendors, children's games, food trucks, hot cocoa and don't forget Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Don't forget to [check out the December Holiday Guide for information about all the events this month](#).

RANCHO CORDOVA & GOLD RIVER

December 7 | 9:00-10:45am | Annual Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Bring your whole family to the Cordova Recreation and Park District's annual Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus at the Neil Orchard Senior Activities Center for pancakes, sausages and

refreshments! Stop by the holiday craft area, take festive photos and visit with the guests from the North Pole. Visit the [Park District website](#) for more information.

Location: Neil Orchard Senior Activities Center, 3480 Routier Road, Sacramento, CA 95827

FOOTHILL FARMS

December 14 | 5:00-9pm | Holiday at Hogwarts Yule Ball

Step into the enchanting world of magic and wonder at the Holiday at Hogwarts Yule Ball! Join us for an unforgettable family-friendly event filled with spellbinding festivities inspired by the beloved Harry Potter series. Delight in a magical evening of dancing, music, and spellbinding activities for all ages. The Holiday at Hogwarts Yule Ball promises an enchanting experience for the whole family to cherish and remember!

Location: Foothill Community Center, 5510 Diablo Dr. Sacramento, CA 95842

TRAVEL ALERTS

As families across the nation gear up for holiday celebrations, [Sacramento International Airport \(SMF\)](#) anticipates a significant surge in travelers. Please remember that the Hourly parking lot at SMF was permanently closed to begin construction of our new 5,500 space parking garage. This is part of the County's \$1.4 billion SMForward project to upgrade, expand, and improve our main airport. The closure of the Hourly Lot reduces the number of close-in/walkable parking by 762 spaces.

With the closure, we anticipate both the Garage and Daily lot will fill and close on a regular and frequent basis leaving only the remote lots available for customers—**ESPECIALLY DURING THIS BUSY HOLIDAY SEASON**. Unfortunately, the remote lots are not within walking distance of either terminal and there is no pedestrian walking pad. Shuttle buses will run 24/7 to/from the remote lots, and airport staff presence will be increased in key areas to provide reassurance and guidance to our passengers who are unfamiliar with our remote lots and/or our overall parking situation.

During this holiday season, to ensure a smooth travel experience, SMF offers the following tips for passengers heading out of town:

1. **Arrive Early:** To avoid stress, travelers are strongly encouraged to arrive at least 2.5 hours before domestic flights and three hours before international flights, and more if you are parking at the airport.
2. **Rideshare and Public Transportation:** Consider utilizing rideshare services like Lyft, Uber, and Wingz, or opt for public transportation such as Sacramento Regional Transit District's route 142, which offers express service between the airport and downtown. Taxis are also available for travelers' convenience.
3. **Parking Availability:** If you do need to park at the airport, please check out the SMF website ([SMF > Parking](#)) for current information about available parking lots, but please NOTE—all parking is on a first-come, first-served basis. If a lot fills and closes, customers must select an alternate lot and pay the posted rate. Please arrive early to allow time to park in an alternate lot if necessary.
4. **Insider Tips:** For those picking up passengers, use the Free Waiting Area until they are ready for pickup. Check-in kiosks are available throughout the terminal before security checkpoints, allowing travelers to bypass crowds at the main desks.
5. **Expedited Screening Options:** Travelers can expedite their security screening process by enrolling in [TSA Pre✓](#), available at SMF. The application center, located in the southeast corner of Level 1 of Terminal B, operates from 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additionally, CLEAR subscribers can enjoy expedited identification verification in the security line, with membership available on the [CLEAR website](#).

For a less stressful holiday traffic, please plan to arrive early, consider alternate modes of transportation such as UBER/Lyft or arrange for friends and family to drop off and pick up, and if you need to park, please check the SMF website for current open parking lots.

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The [Sacramento Symphonic Winds](#) is delighted to announce their 2024-2025 concert season entitled “**A Christmas Fantasy**”, which will be held on **Sunday**,

December 8, at 2:30pm at Capistrano Hall, California State University Sacramento.

The 60-piece adult symphonic winds ensemble is conducted by Music and Artistic Director Dr. Matthew Morse.

The concert features:

- Armenian Dances by Alfred Reed
- Barber of Seville Overture by Gioacchino Rossini
- Feliz Navidad by Jose Feliciano, arr. Christ Sharp
- And more holiday favorites

Tickets are sold at the door:

- General Admission (including seniors) - \$15
- Student (high school/college with ID) - \$10
- Youth (middle school and younger) - Free

For more information, please visit the [Sacramento Symphonic Winds website](#).

The **Sacramento Concert Band** is delighted to invite you to celebrate the season at their annual **Winter Concert, Sunday, December 15, at 2:30pm** at the **Rio Americano High School Center for the Arts, 4540 American River Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864.**

Music Director **Grant Parker**, who retired in 2019 from the Music Department at Cosumnes River College where he was the Department Chair, has conducted the Sacramento Concert Band since 1990. He says, *"Nothing pleases the musicians more than having a large enthusiastic audience."*

The Sacramento Concert Band enjoys performing before an audience and seeks to bring the wonders of music to all who attend. Their concerts are open to the public and are free of charge (donations are gladly accepted).

For more information, please visit the [Sacramento Concert Band website](#).



GIFTS FROM THE HEART

This holiday season, give from the heart! The Gifts from the Heart program (GFTH) is an annual holiday gift-giving program for children, teens, seniors, and disabled adults. The Arden Church of the Nazarene is accepting donations of new unwrapped toys and gifts for any age group in support of the Sacramento Fosters Group.

Gifts may be delivered Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm at 3337 Arden Way.



FENTANYL DEATHS DECLINE

Sacramento County has made remarkable progress in the battle against the opioid crisis, reporting a 56% reduction in fentanyl-related deaths between 2023 and 2024.

According to the latest data, the County Coroner's Office reported 180 fentanyl-related deaths so far this year, down from 406 in 2023.

Sacramento County's approach includes an extensive network of partnerships and initiatives designed to combat the opioid crisis. Law enforcement agencies, including Sacramento County's Sheriff's Office and Probation Department and the Sacramento City Police Department, have worked tirelessly to conduct enforcement actions, make arrests and seize fentanyl supplies. The partnership with the Sacramento Fire Department and Sacramento Metro Fire's Mobile Medicine Teams have been instrumental in administering Narcan and providing medication-assisted treatment.

In addition, the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services, along with Sacramento County Public Health, has been critical in raising awareness about the dangers of fentanyl through education and distributing Narcan and fentanyl test strips. The County's Adult Correctional Health Services has also played a role by expanded access to medication-assisted treatment in jails, while community-based organizations continue to provide prevention education, treatment options and harm reduction resources.

Maintaining this positive trend requires a continued commitment to education, awareness and accessible resources. Narcan distribution, fentanyl test strips and public education are essential tools in reducing overdoses and keeping people informed. Sacramento County is dedicated to expanding access to these resources, providing community members with the support needed to prevent and respond to fentanyl-related incidents.

While this is an encouraging trend, County officials are cautious as the holiday season approaches - a time of year that can be challenging for individuals struggling with mental health and substance use disorders. County officials will continue their efforts and are hopeful that they will end the year with a decrease of 50% or more.

If you are in need of substance use help, need access to Narcan and fentanyl test strips or want to know more about the County's collaborative efforts please visit the [Sacramento](#)

[County's Department of Health Services' Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Services page.](#)



County Fentanyl-Related Deaths on the Decline

ARDEN-ARCADE TURKEY GIVEAWAY

Before the holiday weekend, I had the opportunity to partner with Higher Heights Community Church in Arden-Arcade for a community turkey giveaway. We were prepared with 150 turkeys and gave them out to over 130 families and people in need before the holiday. The additional turkeys were donated to nonprofits and the River City Food Bank. Thank you to all the volunteers from Higher Heights Church and everyone who helped make this day a success!



NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

October was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In observation, the Sacramento County Probation Department's Family Violence Unit conducted a county-wide probation compliance sweep with the assistance of the Sacramento Police Department (Family Abuse Unit), the Sacramento Sheriff's Office (North and Central POP unites, and the Homeless Outreach Team), Elk Grove Police Department, and CDCR Division of Adult Parole Operations.

The Probation Department's focus was to contact clients on probation for domestic violence related offenses to ensure their compliance with court ordered conditions. They conducted searches, served warrants and arrested individuals who were in violation of their probation status. The sweep resulted in 60 probation searches with 32 violations of

probation, 5 new crimes, 5 warrant arrests and they seized five firearms, ammunition, and high-capacity magazines.

Community resources were provided to victims by way of the [Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center](#).

For Domestic Violence Resources in Sacramento County, visit the [Sacramento Superior Court of California's webpage](#).



HACKBERRY LANE TRAIL/CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Sacramento County's Department of Transportation (SacDOT) and Water Resources (DWR) work hard to find solutions to address our community needs for better roads and pedestrian/bike access to schools, churches and parks in our neighborhoods. I want to highlight a great example of their work.

Vehicular access on Hackberry Lane in Carmichael ends at Arcade Creek, about halfway between Madison Avenue and Winding Way. Many years ago, SacDOT placed pavement on top of drainage culverts there to create a pedestrian and bike path access on Hackberry Lane across Arcade Creek. Over the years, this pavement eroded, creating an unsafe and unsightly access. Staff from SacDOT and DWR recognized the problem and rushed to get the culverts and pedestrian pavement replaced before the rainy season. The Departments split the cost and constructed it as a joint SacDOT/DWR team effort. Job well done!



Hackberry Ln. pedestrian crossing, successfully completed through a joint effort between DOT and DWR

THE CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON RETURNS

The 41st annual California International Marathon is back this year. Thousands of runners are expected to be racing through our neighborhoods in the Third District on **Sunday, December 8**, during the annual **California International Marathon** organized by the Sacramento Running Association. The 26.2-mile grueling trek begins at 7:00am in Folsom and concludes at the State Capitol.

Residents can come out and cheer on the runners. A race day spectator guide can be found online at the [Sacramento Running Association website](#). Please note spectators are not allowed at the start line.

Fair Oaks Boulevard is a big part of the route, so Fair Oaks, Carmichael and Arden Arcade residents south of that roadway may find themselves “land-locked” while the race is in progress. Please be cognizant of the closures when planning your morning activities. Residents can view specific street closures on the [marathon’s website](#).



CALIFORNIA
International Marathon

LOCAL AGE-FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN

Sacramento County is partnering with the California Department of Aging and AARP's Age-Friendly Network of States and Communities to make the Sacramento region livable and accessible for residents throughout their lives.

In November 2018, the Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission voted to recommend the County join the Age-Friendly Network of States and Communities. Two years later, the Board of Supervisors approved the recommendation, and Sacramento County officially joined the Age-Friendly Network in February 2021.

Once enrolled in the network, a community begins a multi-year program cycle consisting of a community assessment, an action plan, and a progress report. Sacramento County conducted its community assessment over the last couple of years, consisting of a community-wide survey and 26 targeted listening sessions. Using grant funding from the California Department of Aging, the County will complete its first-ever Local Aging and Disability-Friendly Action Plan by the end of 2024.

Residents are encouraged to Review and comment on the [draft Age & Disability-Friendly Action Plan](#) by 5:00 pm on December 13, 2024.



WINTER STORMS

Last month, the region was hit with the major storms. During these events, it is important to be prepared.

Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SACDOT) is prepared to provide a quick response to flooded roadways and broken traffic signals. Even during severe storms, 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.

We need your help, especially during bad weather conditions, to report roadway issues by calling 311 (or 875-4311) or [reporting online at the 311 website](#). You can also report with the 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 Signals 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 Lights 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.

Potholes: The number of potholes increases during winter weather, and DOT will prioritize their response to repair potholes based on safety and traffic impacts. Please report potholes any time of year by calling 311 or using the 311 website app.

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 or verify they are reported 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](#).

GRAND JURY

The Sacramento County Grand Jury service application period is now open. Nineteen Sacramento County residents and 11

alternates will be selected from among qualified applicants. The one-year term for volunteer jurors runs from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

The Grand Jury is appointed to provide oversight of county, city, school and special district agencies and operations within Sacramento County.

The Grand Jury is also authorized to hear criminal indictments and is tasked with visiting regional detention facilities. Grand Jurors receive a small stipend for their volunteer work.

To serve on the Grand Jury, you must be a Sacramento County resident over 18 and be able to speak, read and write in English.

Applications must be received by Dec. 31, 2024, to be considered. The Grand Jury will be empaneled in June 2025.

For more information about the Sacramento County Grand Jury, applicant criteria and how to apply, please visit the [Sacramento County Grand Jury website](#).



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Suite 7650 · Sacramento CA 95814 · 1-800-439-1420

