



VOL. 1 ISSUE 6 • OCTOBER 14, 2024

COUNTY CROSSROADS

Official Newsletter of
the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Balancing Compassion and Enforcement: San Joaquin County's Approach to Homelessness

VICE CHAIR PAUL CANEPA, SECOND DISTRICT

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors recently adopted a proposal to revise the County's ordinance on camping on public property. This update represents one aspect of a broader strategy to tackle the complicated issue of homelessness in our community. It is crucial to recognize this proposal is one part of a ongoing comprehensive response.

Over the past few years, San Joaquin County has made substantial changes to address homelessness. We have funded cities to double the capacity of shelter beds, and we are beginning to see that increased capacity come available. We have added numerous supportive housing units that provide essential wraparound services. Our commitment to addressing homelessness is most clearly shown by the establishment of the SJCARES team, which integrates mental health, public health, and probation staff to engage with individuals on the streets and guide them towards necessary services.

(continued on page 3)

This issue:

NEWS OF NOTE

Page 02

HOMELESSNESS UPDATE
(CONTINUED)

Page 03

STATE OF THE COUNTY

Page 04

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

Page 05

UPCOMING EVENTS

Page 06

CONTACT INFORMATION

Page 07

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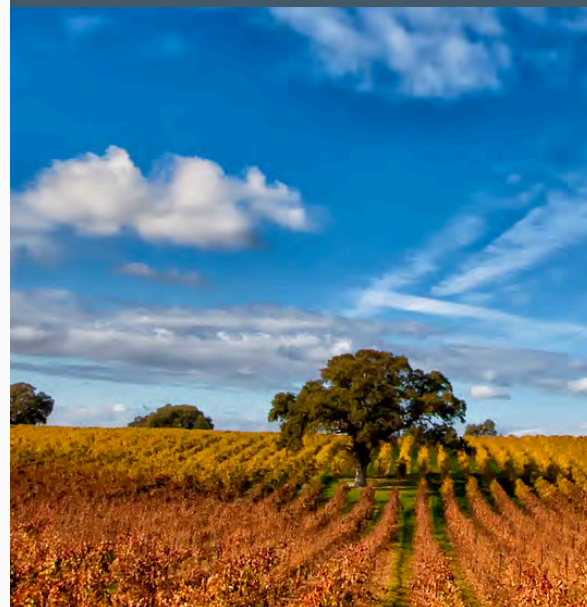
News of Note

- [Joint Statement from Chairman Miguel Villapudua and Vice Chair Paul Canepa on Reported Petroleum Spill](#)
- [Supervisor Rickman and Board Continue Fight Over Ongoing PG&E Rate Increases](#)
- [Ordinance and Building Code Amendments Show Broad Strategy in Addressing Homelessness](#)
- [San Joaquin County Releases 90th Annual Crop Report](#)
- [Board Advances Proposal to Update No Camping Ordinance](#)
- [Board Supports Proposition 36 and Authorizes Ballot Measure for November](#)
- [San Joaquin County Launches Shop San Joaquin](#)

Swenson Golf Park Update

Supervisors Tom Patti and Paul Canepa joined City of Stockton Mayor Kevin Lincoln and Councilmember Michael Blower at the City of Stockton's Swenson Park recently to break ground on a new option for family fun in the Port City and San Joaquin County. The partnership with Kemper Golf will allow them to build a miniature golf course and an enhanced driving range with state-of-the-art technology for games and skill development on the City Park property. The Board of Supervisors, at their meeting on May 21, 2024, approved funding to help support this venture, to improve quality of life locally with affordable options for family recreation.

[Read more...](#)





Homelessness (continued)

We continue to look for models of success throughout the State so that we can build similar programs here in San Joaquin County. Safe camping and parking are programs that recognize individuals' option to live in alternative ways, while offering supportive services and encouraging residents to transition into more permanent arrangements. Programs like those in Placer County provide clean and safe places for the unsheltered with the services and tools to transition back into society.

We are also making significant investments in treatment options, like Care Court and the BeWell campus, which will offer crisis intervention for substance abuse, transitional and supportive housing solutions. Additionally, our Mobile Crisis Unit and the expanded services we have funded at St. Mary's Community Center and other shelters in our cities are pivotal components of our approach. Recently, the Board authorized \$300,000 in funding to the Gospel Rescue Mission, to keep the men's shelter with its 70 beds from closing. Since that time, I have attended their graduation program, highlighting the success stories of people who have, with help and assistance, fought back against addiction and despair and stepped back into community and healthy living. Collaborating with our continuum of care partners, we continue to secure resources to tackle this issue comprehensively.

Homelessness is a deeply entrenched problem that did not materialize overnight and will not be resolved quickly. There is no single solution to this issue. Instead, we are implementing a multi-pronged, multi-agency approach that combines compassion with practical strategies, including law enforcement options. This balanced approach will ensure that services are available and responsive to individual needs, and there is also a system in place to encourage compliance and foster positive outcomes.

Addressing homelessness requires making tough choices and embracing challenges. The cycles of poverty and abuse that contribute to homelessness are often rooted in decades or even generations of issues. The work is not flashy or immediately visible; it is the quiet, persistent labor of dedicated professionals who are committed to effecting meaningful change.

If our dedicated staff require additional tools, including enforcement measures, to support their efforts, we will provide them. Our goal is to ensure that everyone in San Joaquin County not only has a roof over their head but also enjoys a good quality of life. By combining compassionate outreach with practical enforcement, we aim to address the immediate needs of individuals while also fostering long-term solutions for our community. We hope you will join us in these efforts.



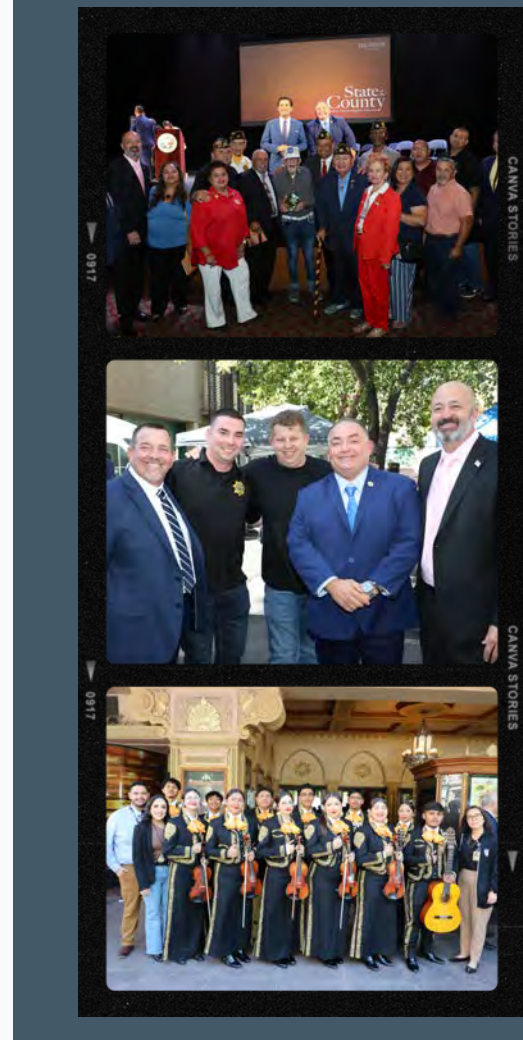
State of the County

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors was pleased to welcome more than 600 guests to the State of the County Exhibition, hosted by Chairman Miguel Villapudua, on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at the historic Bob Hope Theatre in Stockton.

Exhibitions included a variety of booths and demonstrations from multiple county departments, showcasing the innovative programs and services that have been introduced or enhanced to better serve the community. Attendees engaged directly with county officials, explored the impact of new initiatives, and learned how these programs are improving the quality of life for all San Joaquin County residents.

In addition to the interactive displays, the event included a keynote address by Chairman Villapudua, who highlighted the county's accomplishments over the past year and provided valuable insights into the progress being made across various sectors, including public safety, health services, economic development, and community engagement.

The Board presented the inaugural “Growing Greatness” award, to Karl Ross Post 16, for their engagement, community service, and advocacy on behalf of our community’s veterans.





Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors designated October as “National Domestic Violence Awareness Month,” with a theme of “#Every1KnowsSome1,” to highlight the pervasive nature of domestic violence. 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been directly impacted by domestic violence. This action reaffirms our commitment to raising awareness, providing critical support to victims, and fostering a community united against domestic violence throughout the month of October and beyond.

The impact of domestic violence is wide-ranging, directly affecting individuals, families, and society as a whole, here in this community. The need for safe housing remains a critical and urgent priority for survivors of domestic violence.

We want to say a special thank you to District Attorney Ron Freitas and the team at the San Joaquin County Family Justice Center. They partner with Victim Witness, Child Abuse Prevention Council, PREVAIL, Department of Child Support Services, Probation, Chest of Hope, San Joaquin Pride Center, Uplift All Foundation, Community Medical Center and the Domestic Violence Task Force, to provide victims with comprehensive, trauma-informed services that are essential for their safety, healing, and justice.



24 HOUR HOTLINES

Prevail

Crisis: 209-465-4878

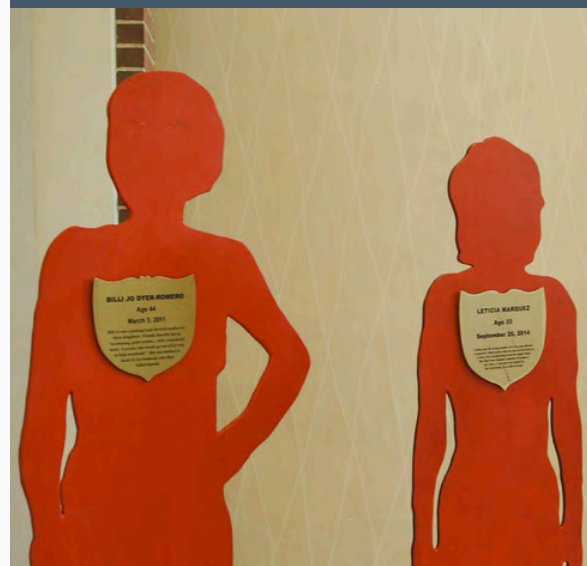
Youth: 209-948-1911

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233

Family Justice Center
209-468-2600

**if you are in an unsafe situation,
please consider saving these
numbers under a different
name.*





Community Clean-Up Events

The Board of Supervisors is proud to partner with the Community Development Department (CDD) to offer community clean-up events. Event times have been updated to 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, based on vendor availability. Free pick-up is available for seniors and veterans; arrangements must be made in advance of the event. For more information, contact Code Enforcement at 209-468-3141.

Remember, this is also an opportunity to get rid of e-waste like computers, monitors, televisions and old phones. This year, we have collected nearly 600,000 lbs. of garbage - thanks for keeping our County clean!

Coffee with a Cop

Thanks to the men and women of local law enforcement agencies for all they do to protect the peace and serve our communities. It was great seeing you at the "Coffee with a Cop" events throughout San Joaquin County. Public safety is our top priority - a safe environment for families and businesses to thrive is good for our whole community.

Municipal Advisory Council Meetings

Thornton MAC

November 6, 2024
6:30 pm
Thornton Community Center
26675 N Sacramento Blvd,
Thornton

Linden MAC

November 20, 2024
7:00 pm
Linden-Peters Fire Dept.
17725 E. Highway 26, Linden

Lockeford MAC

October 17, 2024
7:00 pm
Lockeford Community Center
19258 N Jack Tone Rd, Lockeford

Woodbridge MAC

October 24, 2024
6:30 pm
Woodbridge Fire Department
400 E Augusta St, Woodbridge

Morada MAC

November 7, 2024
6:30 pm
Waterloo-Morada Fire District
6925 Foppiano Ln, Stockton

Upcoming Dates

Escalon: November 2, 2024
Location: Van Allen Elementary
21051 State Route 120

Thornton: November 9, 2024
Location: Community Hall
26590 N. Sacramento Blvd.

Free Pick-Up for seniors and veterans - call 209-468-3141 to schedule in advance of event.

Vote on November 5th!

The upcoming general election is on November 5, 2024, and all eligible San Joaquin County residents are encouraged to vote - find out more on where to cast your ballot at:
<https://www.sjgov.org/departments/rov>



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The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors is on Instagram, Facebook and Threads. Stay connected to upcoming events, news and updates from the Board.

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