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The Record

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025 | RECORDNET.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



LEFT: Stockton Vice Mayor Jason Lee attends a council meeting at city hall in downtown Stockton on July 15. RIGHT: Stockton city council member Brando Villapudua attends a council meeting on July 15. PHOTOS BY CLIFFORD OTO/THE STOCKTON RECORD

CVS closes;
Where to
pick up
medication

Angelaydet Rocha
The Stockton Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

CVS Pharmacy recently closed one of three locations in Tracy. The CVS Pharmacy at Valley Shopping Center at 3320 N. Tracy Blvd. in Tracy permanently closed on July 8. The American retailer corporation filed a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act notice on May 24. The notice was received on June 11. The report states the permanent closure will affect six employees at the location. Amy Thibault, CVS Health executive director, corporate communications - external affairs told The Stockton Record via email on July 15, no employees were laid off, but were moved to nearby CVS stores.

"We've made the difficult decision to close the CVS Pharmacy at 3320 North Tracy Boulevard on July 8. All prescriptions will be transferred to the nearby CVS Pharmacy at 1885 West 11th Street to ensure patients have uninterrupted access to pharmacy care," Thibault said. "Patients can always choose to fill their prescriptions at any CVS Pharmacy, or the pharmacy of their choice, if another is more convenient. Employees were offered comparable roles within the company."

The notice appeared in the WARN report for July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, which lists 1,506 notices by county in California.

"We'll continue to provide the community with outstanding service at our two remaining CVS Pharmacy locations in Tracy, including one inside Target," Thibault said. "We also offer several delivery options for customers and patients with eligible prescriptions, including 1-2-day delivery and on-demand (same-day) delivery (within three hours), through CVS.com and the CVS Pharmacy app to provide additional convenient access to household essentials, health and wellness products, and prescription medications."

Open CVS Pharmacy
locations in Tracy:

• CVS Pharmacy at 1885 W. 11th St. in Tracy in Corral Hollow

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'Fabricated criminal
charges' Stockton vice mayor threatens
lawsuit against councilmember

Hannah Workman The Stockton Record | USA TODAY NETWORK

Stockton Vice Mayor Jason Lee has threatened to sue District 5 Councilmember Brando Villapudua for defamation following public accusations that Lee engaged in political extortion. • Villapudua is standing by the claims he made during the July 15 Stockton City Council meeting. • Lee posted a cease-and-desist letter from his Los Angeles-based attorney, Walter Mosley, on social media July 18. The letter, addressed to Villapudua, demanded that he "immediately cease and desist from all defamatory statements about Vice Mayor Lee," including remarks made at public meetings, in media interviews, on social media or in private conversations that could be repeated.

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From left, Councilmembers Michael Blower, Mario Enríquez, Vice Mayor Jason Lee, Mayor Christina Fugazi, councilmembers Mariela Ponce, Michele Padilla and Brando Villapudua participate in a Stockton City Council meeting on March 4.

What's behind CA's frozen housing market?

Ben Christopher
CalMatters

The national housing market is stuck in a post-pandemic rut. Prices and interest rates have stalled out at unaffordable highs, keeping buyers at bay. Sellers, unable to fetch the still-higher prices they want, are backing out of the market in droves. The result is a housing market stuck in molasses, with a slow down in new listings, stagnant sales and an uptick in deals cancelled at the last minute. If the country as a whole is in the middle of a housing market drought, condi-

tions look especially parched in California. New homes listed for sale fell by more than 17% in San Francisco, compared to the same time last year, according to online real estate broker Redfin. There were double-digit year-over-year declines in listings in San Diego, Riverside, Anaheim too. Of the 10 metros where new listings fell fastest, five were in California. "The number of transactions have absolutely slowed down," said Amy Kong, a real estate agent who works in and around San Francisco. "As everyone knows, it's because of the higher interest rates and the affordability, which is just really, really

low." Part of the market slow down can be blamed on a nationwide financial pathology that dates back half a decade, said Daryl Fairweather, Redfin's chief economist. As mortgage borrowing costs have whipsawed from ultra-low to harrowingly high over the last five years, the gap between what most current homeowners pay for their mortgage and what they would pay if they were to borrow and buy again has reached historic highs. That makes this an inauspicious time for most homeowners to sell.

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Volume 131, No. 96
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