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Virus Patients and Patience— Updates on the continuing impact of the Covid-19 virus in Riverside County and the state's rules can be found at the Riverside County Public Health website located at <https://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus>. I receive a substantial amount of email each week asking me to lift or adjust various portions of the restrictions that have been imposed. This is mostly NOT something within the power of the Board of Supervisors in this county or in any of the 58 counties in California. Once the Governor issued his Executive Orders, no county (or city) can change the emergency health orders of the Governor during a declared emergency. On Tuesday our Board will be considering a proposal to rescind ALL locally issued county health orders and reverting solely to the statewide orders issued by the Governor. Of course any individual can file legal challenges raising constitutional rights and guarantees, but as we've seen in a few cases to date, that's a tough case to win during a pandemic. On a side note, I had the pleasure of recently watching the HBO DVD series from 2008 titled "John Adams," regarding the formation of our Nation, the power of government, and the constitutional rights of the people. It hit on many of the very issues and concerns we are experiencing today.

Virus vs. Budget – "Unprecedented" "Draconian" "Over the Cliff" "Worse than 9/11 & 2008 Combined" Those are just a few of the descriptions as to what state, county and city budgets could possibly look like over the next year or so. I personally believe it will be ugly. But if the State of California can find a way to safely reopen our economy and jobs sooner rather than later, I believe that we MIGHT be surprised with how quickly most of the private sector will rebound and help prevent drastic cuts to all our county and city services.

A New Animal Lover on Board! The permanent Director position at Riverside County Animal Services has been vacant for a long time while we looked for the right person. And it appears we have finally found the one! Many of our local cities contract with County Animal Services to provide them services, so having the right person at the top impacts a lot of communities. I'm happy to welcome Julie Banks as our new Director of Animal Services! Julie has roughly 30 years of experience in this field, including serving with the Pasadena Humane Society (and many others).

Do You Count? How and where your federal dollars are spent depends a lot on how many people occupy a particular community, city or county. The boundaries of congressional districts, state senate and state assembly districts also depend on those numbers. Even the individual boundaries of city council wards, school boards, water board directors and County Supervisors depend on the population counts that come from completing your Census questionnaire. Unless you want to have more of your federal tax dollars shipped to other states, or other parts of our own state, be sure to get counted. It only takes a few minutes to complete the online questionnaire here at: www.census.gov

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Help Your Firefighters! It has been delayed a few months, but fire season will likely arrive very soon and with LOTS of fresh vegetation! If you have tall grasses growing somewhere around your property, do yourself a favor, and do your local firefighters a favor and help them help you. Break out that weed whacker and cut the weeds down before they turn brown! Landscaping and maintenance services are considered “essential businesses” and are allowed under state orders, whether you do it personally or hire someone.

Thank you! The March 3rd Election results were recently certified, and I just want to say **THANK YOU** for allowing me the honor to return and serve for 4 more years as your 1st District Supervisor. My staff and I will continue to give you and our county 110%! As always, please feel free to drop us a note with any suggestions or concerns you may have with County operations.

Respectfully, Kevin Jeffries

HAPPY 
*Mother's
 Day*

Interested in serving your local community?

Perhaps you are more of a regional advocate?

If you live in or have a business in District #1, be sure to look at the list of openings we have below for local commissions.

If you feel you have the time to dedicate to making the district a better place feel free to apply online at www.supervisorjeffries.com, under Boards & Commissions



In Home Support Services (IHSS) - Recipient of IHSS Services

Behavioral Health Commission - Contact our office for details on eligibility

Advisory Council on Aging—Open (seeking qualified applicants)

Local District #1 Events

District #1 Staff, Local Business Owners and SEIU Help Out....

Recently, District 1 staff went out with local business owners and members of SEIU Local 2015 to pass out over 4000 masks to local Skilled Nursing Facilities and Behavioral Health locations within the City of Riverside. Huge “Thanks” go out to those members of Local 2015 as well as to the business owners who helped make this possible for those working at these locations.

Staff members came out to greet us and were beyond happy about the donations which are sorely needed in their daily work at these locations.



District #1 Residents!!

Don't Forget to Complete the 2020 Census

The 2020 Census is currently underway! Remember to fill out your Census form, if you have not already done so. You can participate online, by telephone, or on paper in limited instances. The Census is a short, nine question survey that will help identify how much federal funding and representation California receives for the next 10 years. Complete your census today, to ensure a complete count in Riverside County!

<https://my2020census.gov/>



Local District #1 Events

Clark Street Sidewalk Project Completed!

After several years of planning, land acquisition and waiting for grant funds from the State of California, the Clark Street sidewalk project has been completed. Residents and students can now walk safely from the Library to the Fire Station, Columbia Elementary or even to the Community Center.



Farmer Boys Now Open In Mead Valley!

After several weather delays Farmer Boys was finally able to open up their doors to the public in late February. Of course, there was no “grand opening” event for the public due to the Coronavirus but, Corporate staff has assured us that they will do one soon.

Big thank you to our County team who helped move this one along and to Farmer Boys for bringing more jobs to our community.

This location is currently open for drive-thru service, so stop by and grab some great food for the entire family!



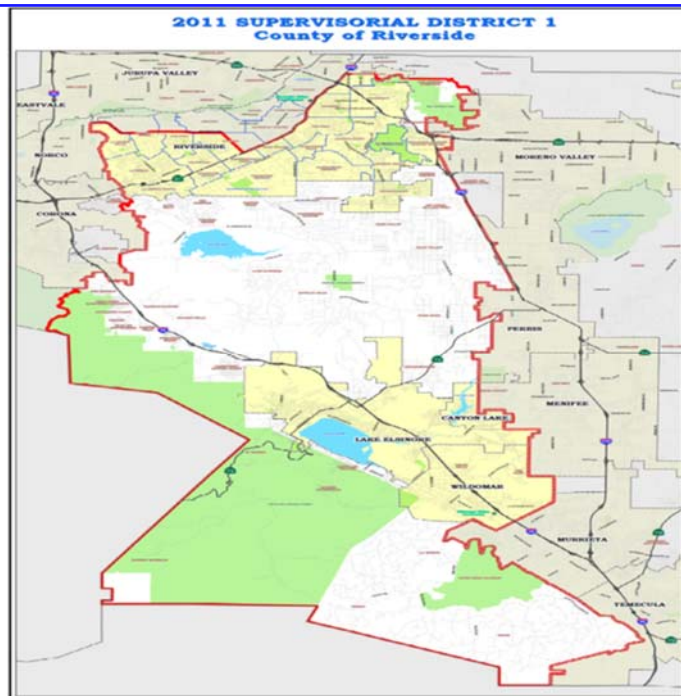
Non-Profit Spotlight

Voices for Children

Voices for Children serves children in foster care who have been removed from their homes for their own safety due to abuse or neglect. Voices for Children is the only local organization approved by the court to match each child with a volunteer, called a Court Appointed Special Advocate (or CASA), who gets to know their situation and makes sure their needs are being met. Due to the current crisis, children need CASAs more than ever. A CASA often becomes the only consistent person in the child's life. At regular court hearings required for all children in foster care, our CASAs report on the children's progress and needs, which is essential for judges to make the best decisions for their futures.

Sign up now to attend an ONLINE information session and learn more about how you might be able to help!

Go to this link, scroll down to Riverside County and find the blue RSVP button to sign up!
<https://www.speakupnow.org/volunteer-2/information-sessions/>



First District Profile



Kevin Jeffries was elected in November 2012 to represent the residents of the 1st Supervisorial District on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. This district covers the cities of Riverside, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and Wildomar, and unincorporated communities including Woodcrest, Lake Mathews, Mead Valley, Temescal Valley, Good Hope, Lakeland Village, El Cariso, Meadowbrook, La Cresta, Tenaja, DeLuz and Spring Hills.

Staying at Home Doesn't Have to Mean Staying Inside

Citrus Tree Gardening Tips for National Gardening Month

For many Californians, gardening is a relaxing outdoor activity that helps clear the mind, while adding beauty to their yards. April is National Gardening Month, and while we're all practicing social distancing at home, it's a great opportunity to get some fresh air and give your yard some TLC. In California, we have many different types of beautiful plants, and our bright and fragrant fruit trees are not only delicious to eat but are also a wonderful part of our state's tradition – now, about 6 in 10 California residences have a citrus tree on the property.

Pass the time by practicing your green thumb with these tips:

As we have a bit more time on our hands lately, now is a good time to inspect your citrus trees for pests and diseases. It's extremely important to look for signs and symptoms of the deadly and incurable citrus tree disease, **Huanglongbing (HLB)**, which can be spread by a pest called the **Asian citrus psyllid**. Symptoms of HLB include asymmetrical blotchy and yellowing leaves, corky veins, premature and excessive fruit drop, lopsided fruit, and rancid-tasting fruit. Call the state's pest hotline at **800-491-1899** if disease symptoms are seen on your tree. For photos and to learn more about HLB and the psyllid visit: californiacitrusthreat.org/pest-disease/.

Apply products to treat your tree for the Asian citrus psyllid. This is the best way to stop HLB – stop the pest that can spread the disease. The University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources has a helpful list of recommendations: ucanr.edu/sites/ACP/Homeowner_Options/.

- Your nutritious backyard citrus can serve as a kind neighborly gift while we practice social distancing. Be sure to wash your fruit thoroughly and remove any leaves/stems before sharing to limit the spread of the Asian citrus psyllid and HLB. Additionally, if you choose to prune your citrus tree as part of your tree care, dry out the citrus tree clippings or double bag them before disposing plant material to avoid inadvertently spreading the pest to new areas.
- Home and garden centers can also give advice on pest management and nutrients for your citrus tree. Some home and garden centers may still be open. Try calling ahead to see if a retailer near you is still open – they may offer delivery or pick-up options while limiting in-person interaction.

Allow agricultural officials to continue to inspect citrus trees in order to protect our community's citrus. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is still hard at work ensuring a safe and secure food supply. If you live in an area where HLB is present, you may receive a letter from CDFA explaining the inspections that may be happening in your neighborhood. They will first leave a letter that gives an optional timeframe to allow them to inspect citrus trees on your property, then come back during the scheduled time to inspect and/or treat citrus trees as needed. **Their primary focus is to protect your citrus tree and the community's citrus trees.** Please allow them to access your property and call the free statewide pest hotline with any questions: 800-491-1899.

Tending to your garden can be a great way to get outside and provide a literal breath of fresh air to your new routine. Plus, your citrus trees will thank you for it!

Learn more about citrus tree care tips at www.CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org.

RivCoParks
Invites you to Join Us for

"Camp-at-Home" FRIDAYS

Friday Nights During the Pandemic!
Join our Facebook Event - Let's have some Fun!

RivCoParksHQ

Real camping adventures from home shared in social media!
Because we all like to laugh at goofy stuff 😄😄

#CampAtHome #DeprivedNatureNuts
#MissMySpringCamping #RivCoParks

LAW DAY 2020

RCLL & the League of Women Voters present:



History of women's suffrage 1848-1920

FRIDAY MAY 1, 2020
3 P.M.

Free Online Event- register on EventBrite [HERE](#)

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

The presentation describes the women who led the women's suffrage effort, the obstacles they faced and the choices they made that led to victory. Featuring over 100 pictures and commentary from a League of Women Voters member.

ABOUT LAW DAY

Law Day is held annually on May 1st to celebrate the role of law in our society and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession. This year's theme is "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100" which commemorates the centennial of the 19th amendment.

For questions please call (951)368-0368
email lawlibrary.riverside@rclawlibrary.org
Visit our website at rclawlibrary.org



Even when we're not together in person, we must work together to save our community's citrus.



Learn more:

CALIFORNIA CITRUS THREAT.ORG

Behavioral health support available to public to assist with coping and anxiety

New app provides text support along with referrals to community resources

Riverside County residents who are experiencing the stress and challenges surrounding the coronavirus pandemic have free access to live support via text chat from peer support specialists and counselors through a new computer and smartphone app called TakeMyHand.co. Please note that the URL is a .co and not a .com site.

"This is an example of using leading-edge technology to bring behavioral health care to people where and when they need it," said Dr. Matthew Chang, director of Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health, which developed the app. "The 24/7 availability means that people can get support without a delay or need to travel outside their home," he continued.

This online resource uses a chat format to connect individuals with specialists who are trained to interact with people expressing concerns about difficult feelings and behaviors. TakeMyHand.co provides an alternative to telephone and video calls for those who prefer text as their primary form of communication. A comprehensive list of Riverside County wellness and recovery resources is also available at this site. TakeMyHand.co is confidential and does not require a login, username or password.

"I appreciate that Behavioral Health is always there for our community, and especially now," said Riverside County Board Chair and Fourth District Supervisor V. Manuel Perez. "These are excellent services that provide support and hope."

Although this is not a substitute for the care of a licensed clinical professional, many people may find this to be a useful outlet to help calm their anxiety and regain their center. Anyone experiencing a behavioral health crisis should immediately contact 2-1-1 or call the behavioral health CARES line at (800) 706-7500. A 24/7 free, confidential crisis or suicide intervention service can be reached at (951) 686-HELP (4357).

VITA / EITC PROGRAM FREE VIRTUAL TAX PREPARATION

Beginning April 14, 2020
Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm

Get your taxes filed virtually for free!

Tax returns completed and e-filed within 24 hours of receipt of all required documents.
IRS Tax Certified Volunteer Tax Preparers.

Current and prior year returns (2016 thru 2019)!
Taxpayer contact/communications will be via **VIDEO** conferencing.

If you earned less than \$70K in 2019 and had no business losses or rental income you qualify!

Items needed for tax preparation:

Identification-No Copies

- Driver's License
- California ID
- Military ID
- Social Security Cards –For you and all dependents you can claim.

If you purchase or own a Home

- 1095 Forms A, B, or C
- Exemption Notification
- Out of pocket Medical Expenses

Miscellaneous Items

- Charitable Contributions
- Vehicle Registration
- Work Related Expenses

Income & Earnings

- W-2 Forms
- 1099 Forms
- Self-Employee Income
- Unemployment Income

Education Expenses

- 1098-T Forms
- Receipts for Books

Health Insurance Expenses

- 1095 Forms A, B, or C
- Exemption Notification
- Out of pocket Medical Expenses

Childcare Expenses

- Proof of Childcare Expense

Reminders:

- Previous year's tax documents.
- For Direct Deposit, you must bring a direct deposit form from your bank with routing and account numbers or bring a blank check.

For Additional information contact Charles Clinton at
VITA@capriverside.org or call (951) 955-4900



County urges residents to volunteer for medical and non-medical positions

Riverside County is calling on residents to help in many ways in our County. From residents who have experience in the medical field to helping out at the Santa Rosa Plateau. Please see below for volunteer opportunities.

Riv Co. Parks

Volunteers Needed at Santa Rosa Plateau! In the wake of the Coronavirus crisis, Santa Rosa Plateau is in need of volunteers critical to the day to day operation of the park. Current volunteers at the plateau are from populations vulnerable to the Coronavirus, either 65 and over in age or with pre-existing conditions, leaving a need for more volunteers. Parks are a vital part of our day-to-day life, made even more pronounced during this crisis where getting outside and doing regular exercise has been encouraged.

If you are under 65 years of age and would like to support the Santa Rosa Plateau as the weather improves and demand for access to the park increases, please reach out to RivCo Parks to volunteer, go to <https://www.rivcoparks.org/volunteer-donate-partner> and sign up today!

Medical and non-medical positions

This request goes out to all physicians, both active and retired, nurses, nurse assistants, as well as non-medical volunteers such as office staff or Class A and B drivers. The opportunities vary with some paid openings available. The county needs our residents' varied talents to support the response throughout the region's impacted communities.

For all volunteer positions, please include all information requested to speed up the process for a background check and position placement. Useful information will include an availability schedule, driver's license, and any professional licenses or certificate numbers for the medical volunteers. Once a volunteer's background check has cleared, they will be contacted to link their skills and availability with critical needs.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, and to submit your information, please visit the Riverside County Public Health website: www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus and click on the "Volunteer" button or call 951-955-9227 for additional assistance.

State Call for Volunteers

On Tuesday 4/21/2020, Governor Newsom announced a new initiative to support the critical need for volunteers across the state. This initiative connects interested volunteers with opportunities based on their interests, locations, and skills. To get involved, please visit www.californiansforall.ca.gov to fill out the short form and stay tuned for email updates on the opportunities in our area.

**REGISTER AS
A VOLUNTEER**



COVID-19 and Pets: What You Need to Know

Information as of: 4-15-2020

What is COVID-19?

This is a newly identified virus in the corona virus group. It is closely related to a couple of other corona virus outbreaks we have seen recently; namely SARS and MERS. COVID-19 is more distantly related to the other corona viruses most familiar to pet owners. Those are the virus which causes Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) and the Canine Coronavirus (CCoV) which causes digestive tract disease in dogs.

Can pets be infected with corona virus?

Most recent research has identified COVID-19 infections in cats, ferrets and tigers at the Bronx Zoo. At this time, it is not thought that infected cats are a significant risk factor for human disease while the tigers at the zoo appear to have been infected from a pre-symptomatic caretaker. Dogs have not been identified as infected or carriers of the virus. It is very early in the disease cycle and more research is needed to understand this virus.

Can people become infected from dogs and cats?

At this time there is no evidence that dogs can transmit this disease to humans. Although cats can be infected the risk from house cats seems to be very low. It is possible that pets, as with door handles and other objects, can act as fomites and carry virus on their fur for short periods of time but the pet would need to have had very close contact with an infected person for this to occur. Person to person contact is the most significant way the virus is spread in society.

If my pet shows signs of illness, such as coughing, sneezing and fever should I have it tested?

Current expert understanding is that COVID-19 is primarily transmitted person-to-person. This supports a recommendation against testing of domestic animals, except by official order. If domestic animals, including dogs or cats, present with respiratory or gastrointestinal signs, veterinarians should test for the more common pathogens and conditions.

What about COVID-19 and bowel movements?

Experimental exposure to corona virus in cats has identified virus in feces but the data is limited at this time. Owners should use caution and wear gloves when cleaning the litterbox and avoid any direct contact with the litterbox contents. Remember you can be exposed to other pathogens, such as toxoplasmosis, when cleaning the box.

Can I give my dog a bath?

Generally speaking, yes. There is no reason to think that domestic animals, including pets, in the United States might be a source of infection with the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Can my dog play with other dogs?

If you are referring to dog parks and such... No, YOU are supposed to be staying home and keeping a safe, social distance from other people.

What should I do with my pet if I have been potentially exposed to this corona virus or have become ill with symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath)?

Let's look at the first situation. At this point there is no real concern for your pet, but you should consider wearing a face mask and avoiding direct contact with your pet. The same precautions you would have around other people. But, as a responsible pet owner, you should have a back-up plan for animal care should you become ill yourself; enough pet food and someone you can count on to provide care if you become too ill yourself.

In the event you become physically ill with COVID-19 symptoms, this is when your back-up plan takes effect. A trusted family member or friend should be called upon to render assistance. While avoiding direct contact with the pet for the first few days, this person should provide board and care for your pet. And remember however, that the probability of anyone contracting the virus from any pet is absolutely minimal.

For a much more detailed summary of current COVID-19 knowledge from the AVMA please access: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/sars-cov-2-animals-including-pets>

Riverside County Department of Animal Services
(951) 358-7387
www.rcdas.org



Image: CDC Public Health Image Library, Alissa Eckert, MS; Dan Higgins, MAMS

Riverside County launches map of local food resources

In response to an increasing number of requests for resources, Riverside County has released an online map to connect residents to food resources. Food Access gives directions to local senior meal sites, school district meal sites and food pantries within a 10-mile radius. The map also includes relevant details such as hours of operation, contact information and special populations served.

As COVID-19 continues to cause uncertainty in the job market, many local organizations have introduced temporary food pantries. Riverside County employees keep in contact with local food providers to ensure the map's accuracy. New food providers can email EOCMassCare@rivco.org to be included on the map.

"Thank you to all the organizations that are making sure there is a safety net and our residents have food to eat. Resources such as this virtual map are important so people are aware of services that are available and are able to access them," stated Riverside County Board Chair and Fourth District Supervisor V. Manuel Perez.

Food Access supports food pantry operators, who have received fewer donations at a time when they are also seeing double or triple the number of individuals and families in need. Community members who want to donate food or funds can use the website to locate their nearest food pantry.

Food Access is available on www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus and on the RivCoMobile app (available on iOS and Android).

Second Round of Emergency CalFresh Food Benefits Expected to Land May 10

70,000 Riverside County households received supplemental food benefits for March

RIVERSIDE COUNTY, Ca.— To assist families and seniors during the COVID-19 crisis, the state will be providing supplemental food benefits to new and existing Cal Fresh recipients on May 10.

The extra benefits will be the second of two short-term infusions the state is making to help CalFresh recipients manage the sharp economic downturn spurred by the pandemic. The first allocation for March was recently made to 70,000 Riverside County households, representing an extra \$12.6 million.

"The temporary benefits can add up for seniors and households so it's worth the effort to apply," said Allison Gonzalez, assistant director over Self-Sufficiency at the county's Department of Public Social Services. "It's a good time to see if you qualify."

For example, in March and April, a household of two that would typically receive \$53 in CalFresh benefits could be temporarily eligible to receive the maximum of \$355.

"The additional benefits put healthy food on tables and take pressure off families and individuals who are struggling during this unprecedented event," Gonzalez said. "These extra benefits will also support our local economy as county residents buy groceries from local stores and restaurants that accept their (electronic benefit transfer) EBT cards."

Gonzalez said CalFresh customers should be able to begin using their EBT cards online at Amazon and Walmart by the end of April. California has eased the applications process for CalFresh, CalWORKS and Medi-Cal, which provide food, cash and health services to qualified applicants. Applications for CalFresh, CalWORKS and/or Medi-Cal can be made online at C4Yourself.org or by calling 1-877-410-8827.

CAJALCO PROJECT

Safety and Rehabilitation Project



Construction Begins Week of April 6

Weather permitting, construction will begin on the Cajalco Road Safety and Rehabilitation project between Alexander and Day streets in the Community of Mead Valley, near the city of Perris. Daily work hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and single lane closures are expected. Motorists who use Cajalco Road to commute are encouraged to use an alternate route.

The project will widen Cajalco Road and construct a two-way turn lane in the center of the road from Brown to Day streets to improve safety for motorists. Additionally, Cajalco Road will be rehabilitated and repaved from Alexander to Day streets.

CAJALCO ROAD

Safety and Rehabilitation Project






The project also includes new pavement, striping changes, new signage and relocating utilities. The traffic signals at Brown and Clark streets will be relocated and a new signal will be installed at Day Street. Bus stops will be added along with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks at the Clark Street intersection.

What to expect

Crews will work seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with lane closures, traffic control and reduced speed

limits in the construction zone. Neighbors can expect regular noise associated with construction including engines running, beeping, and some jack hammering. Access to driveways and entrances will be maintained.

FAST FACTS

-  **WHAT**
Cajalco Road turn lane addition, safety improvements and rehabilitation
-  **WHERE**
Cajalco Road from Alexander to Day streets
-  **WHEN**
Utility relocation: Dec. 2019 to March 2020
Construction: April through Fall 2020
Work hours: Daily, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Construction Hotline

877.672.7765

Website: rcprojects.org



@RivCoTrans

