

**SUPERVISOR
KEVIN JEFFRIES
RIVERSIDE
COUNTY
DISTRICT #1**



Jeffries Journal

Volume 1, Issue 7

August 2013

Kevin's Corner

Are you getting your money's worth from your government? I seldom encounter a fellow taxpayer who believes their government is spending our hard earned tax dollars as wisely and efficiently as it should. Even a recent Probolsky Research Survey on Local Government & Taxes found that while a majority of voters across the state supported the job their local government officials (cities, counties, etc.) were doing, a majority of them also refused to support them with more tax revenues to either maintain services, or simply keep them from getting cut!

Why do taxpayers feel this way? Based on my years of public and private sector experience in and around state and local governments, I can say that they're right! A recent column by Dan Walters in the Sacramento Bee highlights the frustration perfectly – Californians now pay the highest gas taxes in the entire country, yet according to the Federal Highway Administration, not only do we have the worst traffic congestion in the nation, but we have the second worst maintained roads in the country! Taxpayers have a right to wonder – if we're paying more than anyone else in the country, and we're not building enough roads to keep up with congestion, and not maintaining the ones we have, where is the money going? A similar case can be made (with many caveats, of course) about our schools, healthcare and public safety (to name just a few). We have among the highest income taxes and sales taxes in the nation, yet nearly all of our essential services are struggling to provide basic services.

While there may be a mixture of valid reasons and lame excuses for these things, taxpayers of all shapes, sizes and political parties rightfully want to know why Californians pay among the highest taxes, but they are not getting what they pay for. And I've seen the examples of the waste just like you have, at all levels of the government, so folks rightfully suspect they're getting ripped off, and are unwilling to provide anymore of their hard-earned money to people they believe will just mis-use it.

Since arriving in the First District Office nearly 9 months ago, I have enjoyed the opportunity to have a more direct role in how our hard earned tax dollars are being spent (if and when it should be spent) and to look for more efficiencies. I'm not just picking on Riverside County, but since my arrival I have already found multiple instances where the default answer to problems had been to throw money at it, and the easy solution was to let some spending go unquestioned, largely because, "that's how its always been done!"

Our office is refusing to accept that as an answer, and I'm very proud to say that we have some great county employees who are doing what they can to challenge the status quo! And we've started to make some headway in some areas. Since our arrival in the First District we've also been dealing with a new multi-million dollar community center that we were told would cost taxpayers as much as \$500,000 per year to keep the doors open, but with some hard work (and stepping on a few toes), the county has been negotiating leases and services that will now end up being nearly a "break-even" proposition for taxpayers and the county general fund.

Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue:

Kevin's Corner continued.... 2

District I YAC Corner 2

Mead Valley Community Center Grand Opening 3

County Boards & Commissions Appointee Profile 4

Non Profit Spotlight 5

District Profile

Follow Us Online!

[www.facebook.com/
SupervisorJeffries](http://www.facebook.com/SupervisorJeffries)

Twitter: @SupJeffries



Kevin's Corner—Continued from Page 1

We are also looking for ways to provide specific services more inexpensively, with more online options, and utilizing fewer middle men that spend money that could otherwise go directly to those that need it. We are looking at ways to pave rural roads in a more cost-effective manner, so that we don't build mini-freeways in rural neighborhoods that are just looking for some pavement that will keep their roads from washing away in the winter rains - causing big problems for fire and police during an emergency.

If people started feeling like their government was spending their existing tax dollars much more wisely, perhaps taxpayers would be willing to consider providing more revenues for specific improvements in their own neighborhoods. But first let's work on the changes to the way government spends our tax dollars and see how much further our existing budget might go if we were to actually spend every hard earned dollar in a responsible manner.

I really don't think that is a lot to ask...

Respectfully,

Kevin Jeffries

P.S. Many of you send email responses to our newsletter. Rest assured, a copy of your email makes it to me for my personal review - even the ones (especially the ones!) that don't agree. Your suggestions are always welcome - but please let me apologize now if you don't receive a personal reply from me. I read them all, but I simply don't have the time to reply to each and every one. If you are asking for a reply or for assistance on a specific question or problem, please say so, in your email and I will be sure you receive a response.

Youth Advisory Council Helps In The Community

The Youth Advisory Council is an organization made up of Riverside County's high school students who live in the 1st District. The council participates in monthly community service events and bi-monthly meetings. This year the council has 21 active YAC members as follows:

- 1) Ikeoluwa Adeyemi-Idowu, Norte Vista High School, 11th grade
- 2) James Amaya, Citrus Hill, 12th grade
- 3) Michael Carrillo, Norte Vista, 11th grade
- 4) Adan Chavez, John W. North, 12th grade
- 5) Hugo Chica, Citrus Hill, 12th grade
- 6) Sammy De LaCruz, Temescal Canyon, 11th grade
- 7) Saory Gonzalez, Citrus Hill, 10th grade
- 8) Lanae Harris-Pitts, Citrus Hill, 12th grade
- 9) Arnulfo Morga, Citrus Hill, 11th grade
- 10) Kendall Morris, Poly, 11th grade
- 11) Sophia Munoz-Rodriguez, Elsinore, 12th grade
- 12) Erick Murillo, Poly, 9th grade
- 13) Linda Murillo, Poly, 12th grade
- 14) Kaitlin Neckar, Elsinore, 12th grade
- 15) Angela Nguyen, Norte Vista, 11th grade,
- 16) Stephanie Noriega, Arlington, 12th grade
- 17) Angela Patini, Norte Vista, 12th grade
- 18) Veronica Sanchez, Norte Vista, 12th grade
- 19) Sunny Singh, Norte Vista, 11th grade
- 20) Ha Tran, Norte Vista, 11th grade
- 21) Matthew Vitale, Woodcrest Christian, 12th grade



1st District YAC members Matthew Vitale and Sunny Singh volunteering at the Mead Valley Community Center Grand Opening, 8-24-13.



1st District YAC members cleaned up the trail on Rider Street for the opening of the Mead Valley Community Center, 8-17-13.

Mead Valley Community Center Opens

Charles Meigs Sr. Community Center Grand Opening

On Saturday August 24th, Supervisor Kevin Jeffries was pleased to cut the ribbon and welcome the community to the grand opening of the new Charles Meigs Community Center.

Mead Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) members were present, as was the Director of Transportation Juan Perez, Code Enforcement Director Greg Flannery, Assistant County CEO Rob Field, as well as Lt. Jackie Horton from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Also speaking at the ceremony held at the community center was Dr. Javier Rios, a community partner who will be providing medical and dental health care services for the community.



Charles Meigs Sr. Family



Mead Valley MAC President Tony Davila stated, "This was a great event for the community and we thank Supervisor Jeffries for all of his help in making this day a reality".

Over 3500 people attended the event, which featured a Ballet Folklorico group, two DJ's, free hot dogs and drinks, face painting for the kids, and several different county organizations and local businesses who all braved the hot weather with their booths to provide information to the community members who attended the event. Among the



attendees was the family of Charles Meigs Sr., which included several grandchildren and family friends as well.

The Charles Meigs Sr. Community Center will be home to services provided by the Department of Social Services (DPSS), Workforce Investment Board (WIB), Riverside County Code Enforcement, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, a teen center for local youths, a child care facility, as well as district office for Supervisor Jeffries. The facility will also be able to host recreational and educational classes and

programs for the community, and has a large room that will be available to rent for parties, dances, and banquets.

Center hours and days of operations will be determined once all the community center partners are moved in and ready to open, which should be towards the beginning of October of 2013.



County Boards and Commissions Appointee Profile

Each month, the Jeffries Journal will highlight one of the Supervisor's nearly 100 appointees on Boards and Commissions in the county, to provide an insight into the kind of service opportunities that exist, and the people who have chosen to serve.

Mead Valley Municipal Advisory Council Antonio Davila, Chair

Antonio "Tony" Davila is a resident of the community of Mead Valley, a Marine veteran who served in Desert Shield and subsequently Desert Storm and staunch community advocate.

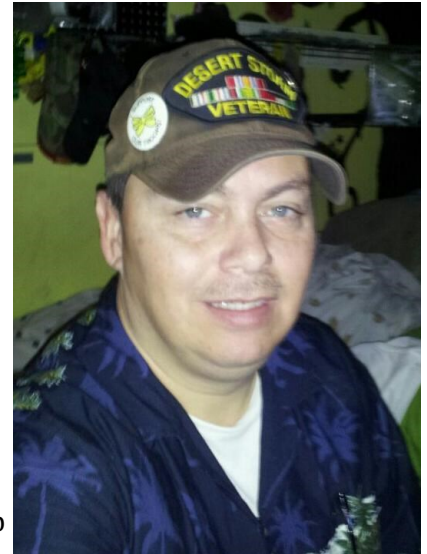
What does your Council do?

The Mead Valley Municipal Advisory Council is a board appointed by the Riverside County District 1 Supervisor, whose mission is to conduct monthly public meetings and hear the concerns and issues of the residents of Mead Valley. We then work with the Supervisor and his staff, to solve those issues and help build and maintain communication lines between the County and the people in the Valley. Our goal is to help our Supervisor and residents create a community that is safe, peaceful and profitable for everyone.

What interested you in serving on the MAC?

The most interesting part about being a member of the Mead Valley Municipal Advisory Council is the positive things that we work with the Supervisor's Office to do, that make a real difference in the day to day quality of life for the citizens we serve. Through the Council, residents and business owners are able to have a voice in the future of Mead Valley. Our District 1 Supervisor and his staff have brought many changes to our area that are long overdue and I look forward to helping them make our community safer, cleaner, and prosperous.

The MAC meets of the Second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the community room at the Mead Valley Library 21580 Oakwood Street, Mead Valley, CA 92570. Agendas are available online at www.supervisorjeffries.org



More pictures of the Mead Valley Community Center Grand Opening.....

Non Profit Spotlight

OPERATION SAFEHOUSE

Operation SafeHouse has served runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth ages 11-17 in Riverside County for over twenty years with the goal of assisting young people who come to us in crisis or from unsafe living conditions. SafeHouse has offered services to more than 700 youth annually through the provision of our shelters, transitional living programs, and our highly regarded Human Trafficking Program.

SafeHouse provides services that will encourage youth to return home and stay off the streets and out of harm's way. SafeHouse has met this goal by providing a 90% family reunification to the youth that we serve. This benefits the community by saving tax dollars for youth who would otherwise be on the streets, in juvenile courts, served by Child Protective Services, or in juvenile hall.

The Goals of SafeHouse are to:

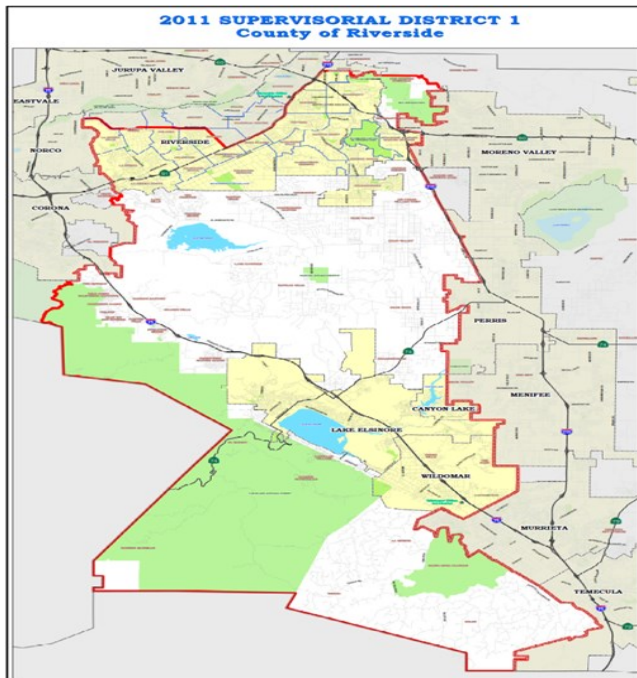
- Provide immediate counseling and intervention services for variable and multiple needs (inner conflict resolution, child abuse / neglect, substance abuse, etc.)
- Reunite the youth with their family (family preservation and reunification)
- Foster self-reliance and responsibility.
- Create an intervention point for runaway and homeless youth before they become juvenile offenders.

Contact:

Operation SafeHouse
9685 Hayes Street, Riverside, CA 92503
Ph: 951-351-4418 ext. 12
Fax: 951-351-4265
www.operationsafehouse.org



SAFEHOUSE



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, and DeLuz