

SUPERVISOR
KEVIN JEFFRIES
RIVERSIDE
COUNTY
DISTRICT #1



Jeffries Journal

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July 2014

Kevin's Corner

This month my column is all over the map – literally.

It took over a year to get the bureaucracy to act, but some residents of **Lakeland Village** are finally sleeping a little better knowing that the “olive grove” homeless encampment has finally been cleared out and that many of the homeless did accept social services to help get back on their feet. By some accounts the homeless camp started about 15 years ago, so the massive piles of trash and other waste has required a very significant clean-up effort. It took way longer to get to this point than it should have, but in the end, a wide variety of county offices came together to make this happen, and I appreciate their hard work.

I spent several hours touring the rural back roads of greater **Lake Mathews** with a long time resident to see firsthand the flood control issues, deteriorating roads, and the serious challenges our emergency First Responders could encounter during wildfires, floods or crimes. This is a common problem in many rural communities that have encountered population increases and little to no funding to construct and maintain rural “all-weather” roads. Seeking some level of reasonable access for our First Responders is an ongoing challenge that our office is taking seriously.

On Tuesday July 29th, I proposed a revised Board policy for new development that will appear on the surface to contradict my unwavering desire to attract more jobs to Riverside County. Under the county's current Fast Track process, a proposed new warehouse development that meets any one of four criteria for the program does NOT require a public hearing with the County Planning Commission. The one and only hearing to accept public input and review traffic, lighting, air quality, or noise impacts to nearby homes is on the very same day the warehouse project is set to be heard and approved by the Board of Supervisors. With many new warehouse projects reaching from 250,000 to well over 1 million square feet, my proposal is simple---require a public hearing with the planning commission, so that neighborhood issues can be heard and hopefully resolved before the project is rushed to the Board of Supervisors for approval. In the First District, this will mostly impact future developments in the **Temescal Valley** (I-15 corridor) and **Mead Valley** (I-215 corridor). Some of you may be critical of this proposal - pointing out that it could delay new projects, and you might be right. My estimate is that it could add an extra couple of weeks to a month to the process. We will, however, retain other benefits of the Fast Track process, including deadlines for staff reviews and assistance in navigating the process, and we could also be very successful at making sure local community concerns are heard, addressed and resolved in advance, and maybe – just possibly - avoid some very expensive and protracted lawsuits that are so common in California.

While my colleagues on the Board were not opposed to this concept, they did ask that we take the time to consider possible exceptions to my proposed rule, or at least allow the Board to specifically authorize a project to skip the Planning Commission if necessary. I will work with them to craft a rule that is workable and protects our communities, but until that time, I will use my own discretion to ask that any large warehouse projects in the 1st District that are currently Fast Tracked be required to go to the Planning Commission to be vetted.

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One other policy and public safety item I tackled this week is the rapid expansion of illegal commercial marijuana farms in rural residential neighborhoods. Riverside County has an existing ordinance (law) that does not allow any marijuana grow farms in the county – yet the First District has hundreds of these black market operations, most particularly in the **Good Hope, Meadowbrook, and Mead Valley** areas. Some of these operations are allegedly marked and operated by cartels and have the neighbors very concerned about safety. Now before any of you send us a nasty-gram – let me be clear – our office is not worried about nor are we receiving complaints about legitimate medical marijuana users who have a few plants in the back yard. The concern is about the illegal commercial operations and the noise, smell, runoff and the individuals who frequent the farms at all hours. Over the next few months we will be working with public safety and land use agencies (and medical marijuana advocates) to have these commercial operators closed-up and moved out of the neighborhoods. We took a lot of testimony this week from a lot of concerned citizens, and the Board will be holding a second hearing before we adopt the measure on September 23rd.

I hope my constituents in the Cities of **Riverside, Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, and Canyon Lake** don't think I'm leaving them off my tour here, but because you all have elected City Councils, I don't have the same ability (or right) to get involved in most of your local concerns within the City lines, but rest assured that I do keep in close contact with the elected officials in each of these communities to look for opportunities for us to work together to improve the quality of life in our county.

Sincerely,

Kevin

Make a Difference in Your Community! Join the Mental Health Board!



The Department of Mental Health is currently seeking volunteers to serve on the Riverside County Mental Health Board, and is searching for motivated individuals who want to make an impact on how mental health services are delivered in the County of Riverside.



**For more information, contact:
Lisa Osipitan, Mental Health Board
Liaison (951) 955 - 7141**

Applications available at: www.rcdmh.org

County Boards and Commissions



Mental Health Board

Walter T. Haessler, M.D. - Commissioner

What does your Board do?

The Riverside County Mental Health Board has thirteen members, and meets from noon until 2:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each month in Riverside, at 3801 University Ave. (No meetings in August or December.) The meeting is open to the public, and public comments and questions are invited. There are three categories of membership: Consumer (patients and former patients); Family Interest (family members of patients and former patients); and Public Interest Members (anyone with an interest in mental health issues). There is also a Board of Supervisors Representative.

We oversee, evaluate and review the Riverside County Department of Mental Health's efforts to serve County residents living with mental illness; provide consumer, family and public input into the planning process for mental health services; advocate on mental health issues; and work to improve the quality, quantity, relevance and cultural competency of mental health services available to Riverside County residents.

What encouraged you to get involved with the Board?

I learned about the Board, and the need for members, from a notice in a local paper by former District I Supervisor Bob Buster; applied; and was appointed to the Board in 2012. As a retired psychiatrist, I assumed that the Board would be comprised mainly of mental health professionals. Wrong! I was, and am, the only one. It is basically about community input, not professional expertise; but I feel I have made contributions, and it is a source of satisfaction and pleasure for me.

I think a good way for those interested in Board membership to learn more is simply to attend a meeting. The next step would be to speak with the Board Secretary, who attends each meeting and will be glad to help with the application process.

Supervisor Success Stories



Each month this column will highlight recent successes in Supervisor Jeffries' Office, whether it is assistance for a single citizen dealing with the county bureaucracy, a change in county policy to improve our community, or a promise kept by the Supervisor.

Good Hope Park...Coming Soon!

The park located next to the Good Hope Community Center recently saw the completion of phase 1 of our much anticipated park redesign. As you can see by the pictures, the double-wide mobile home, barn and other accessory structures were all demolished and removed from the property. Although there is still more work on the horizon, many resident have already commented about how grateful they are that very soon the community of Good Hope will finally have a larger and improved park to enjoy.



Mead Valley Senior Center NOW OPEN!

On July 1st, the Senior center located at 21091 Rider Street inside the Mead Valley community center was "officially" opened. Approximately 45 seniors showed up at the center to partake in the senior lunch program, talk with one another, and enjoy the center.

The new location consists of a small kitchen, private restrooms, a fireplace, flat screen tv, games, books and much more. Several other programs such as "Fit After 50" and "Internet 101" will be scheduled in the future, and a computer station is planned soon as well.

With the summer heat upon us, the Mead Valley Community Center will also serve as a cooling center for local seniors during the summer, and heating center during the winter. Office of Aging and DPSS have also dedicated volunteers and staff to working with those in attendance at the senior center in need of assistance.

Supervisor Success Stories cont...

Lakeland Village Homeless Camp

The month of July brought us one of our most anticipated Supervisor Success Stories. Over a year in the making, the Lakeland Village Homeless Camp along Grand Street in Lakeland Village was finally removed. Working with several county departments, such as Mental Health, Fire, Sheriff, Code Enforcement, Transportation, EDA and others culminated with the community of Lakeland Village now able to claim “victory” against a blight which had been neglected for years.

Below are images of the camp, before and after. Many thanks go out to all the departments who assisted with the clean up.

BEFORE



AFTER





Non Profit Spotlight

THE CONCERNED FAMILY

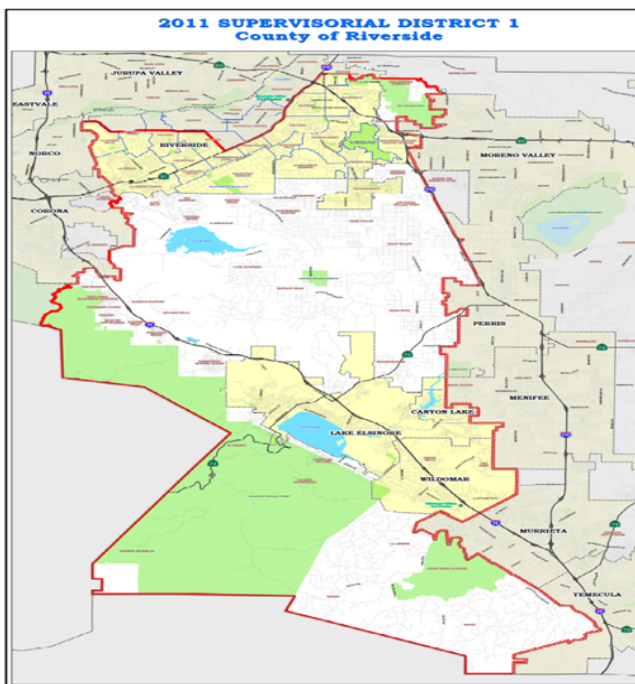
The Concerned Family, is a non-profit organization devoted to helping the homeless. Its founder, Lincoln Cooper, began with personal efforts to organize aid, relief and rehabilitation resources for these unfortunate people more than fifteen years ago. Although temporary relief is sometimes available, Mr. Cooper realized that a program to gather the various needs into one organized effort was sorely lacking.

TCF is the result of this initial experience with the homeless. It was established to provide all the diverse services that this population requires. These services included food, shelter, clothing, self-assessment leading to rehabilitation, crisis intervention, job counseling, and the dissemination of information regarding community resources and programs available through other public and private concerns.

TCF, by reaching the homeless through active efforts to deal with their problems directly, sensitively encourages their participation in the organizations programs of rehabilitation. Self-help and gentle guidance toward self-evaluation, along with solving the more immediate needs of food, clothing and temporary shelter, become the more permanent contribution to their lives. The Concerned Family, therefore, is not simply devoted to charitable work, but dedicated to those long-term activities which bring about successful and total rehabilitation whenever possible.

This program, with its diverse goals, requires support quarterly. The Concerned Family must provide a wide range of practical services in order to continue its successful efforts and expand its effectiveness within the community. The problem is severe. Never before in the history of this proud nation have so many people suffered from basic wants, in peacetime, at home, within the very heart of our great cities. We need the help of every concerned person and agency, public and private alike, who can contribute to alleviate this blight on our national conscience. No contribution of time, space or resources is too small; every effort is significant, and is truly appreciated.

Thank you for any consideration you are able to extend. (951) 657-5400, Email: theconcernedfamily@live.com
 "Give us the tools, and we'll finish the job." Winston Churchill



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, and DeLuz

4TH ANNUAL MULTI-CULTURAL BIZ FEST & MIXER

Host

 Inland Empire Hispanic Leadership Council

Co-hosts

 PRIME Care Office of County Supervisor, Marion Ashley

"Enhancing Business Opportunities (#EBO)"

August 14, 2014
5:30 - 7:30 PM
 County of Riverside
 County Administrative Atrium
 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, 92501

- Workshops (4:30 - 5:30 pm)**
- Biz Fest Marketing Tips
California SBDC Inland Empire
 - Doing Business with Government
City of Riverside
- Keynote Speakers**
- Supervisor Marion Ashley
 - Jerry Wong, U.S. Census Bureau
 - Keith Erickson, NBA Star
Former LA Laker & Broadcaster

Invited Guest Speakers: U.S. Congressman Mark Takano
 U.S. Congressman Raul Ruiz

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HONORARY HOST SPONSOR



Business Expo
 Multi-Cultural Cuisine
 VIP After-Mixer Hosted at:

 3727 Main Street #100
 Downtown Riverside, CA, 92501
 Sponsored By:


Networking
 Join 3 Chambers for 1 Price

FREE EVENT!
 Local businesses and representatives welcome



Sponsorship & Vendor Booths Available!
 (Limited availability)

2 CHANCES TO WIN
 Tickets for **FRONT ROW**
 2014-2015 Lakers game

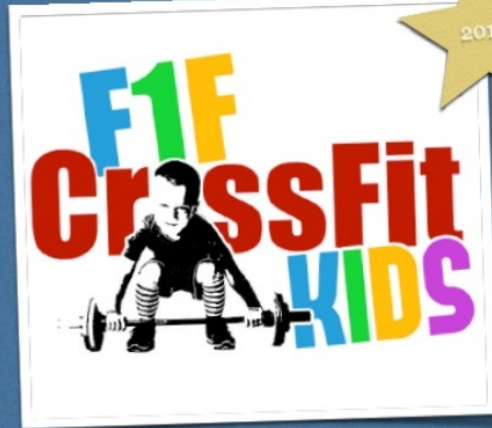
Contact Us:
 iembizfest@gmail.com
 951-384-0125

Register Online:
<https://iembizfest14.eventbrite.com>

Start a conversation:
 #IEMBIZFest & #EBO on social media



FITONE FOUNDATION
 presents FREE CrossFit Kids Camp



CrossFit Kids is a fun action packed 45 minute class that teaches kids proper functional movements and gives them the foundations for a lifelong love of physical fitness. Classes are limited and openings will go fast so hurry and sign your little ones up today!

August 7th

1:00-1:45 Age 4-6 & 2:00-2:45 Age 7-12
 Sign up at Mead Valley Community Center
 21091 Rider St. Mead Valley, Ca. 92570

in collaboration with the
Mad St. Arts Collaborative & the people of Casa Blanca

presents
Día de las Artes
 a daylong celebration of the neighborhood
THROUGH THE ARTS



DIA DE LAS ARTES
 a daylong celebration of the arts!

9 AM TO 9 PM MAKE ART | MAKE FRIENDS

Music Poetry See, Watch, Make
 Dance Art VISIT US AT
 Theater ART madstreetarts.org
 Photography & Facebook

COME FOR: ART, FOOD, FUN

AUGUST 9TH
 at the Casa Blanca Library & Pavilion
 2985 MADISON ST.
 Riverside, CA

... bring the whole family for food, fun, and art!
 See, watch, and make art all day long!



RRR - Residents for Responsible Representation
 Annual NNO - National Night Out

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

To make our community a better place to live

Come meet, eat & mingle...
 Co-create community!

- Prizes
- Raffle
- Firemen
- Fire Truck
- Ice Cream Cones
- Root Beer Floats
- Sundaes

August 5th, Tuesday
 6:30p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For ALL Neighbors
 10941 Cochran Avenue under the Stars
 BYOC (bring your own Chair) and meet your neighbors)

HOSTED BY LINDA & BRUCE BAKER



FOR INFORMATION CALL LINDA ♦ 951-689-4989 OR SHARON 951 359 5565