



Jeffries Journal

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May 2015

Kevin's Corner

The month of May is proving to be a tough one in Riverside County. The county and many cities are having to come to grips with challenging budgets that will start July 1st (the new fiscal year). The good news is that more of our unemployed neighbors are finding work, sales tax revenues are up and home values have been increasing along with the property taxes we all pay. Unfortunately the cost of government services continues to increase at a pace that is outstripping the new revenues.

During our first round of budget hearings held on May 11, it was clear to just about everyone in the room that our county government is in for a rough ride for the next several years. What is even more frustrating to me is to know that our State government is flush with cash! State taxes are coming in way above projections – billions of dollars above, and yet our counties and cities are left fighting over the crumbs to fund basic services that we all expect our hard earned tax dollars to pay for.

In the same breath we have to ask: Can we do better with what we have? The answer is, you bet. Can we consolidate, trim, re-organize, and re-prioritize to save and be more efficient? You bet. But will we?

When speaking to local community groups I often share my concern that our county government has been too self-absorbed with what happens within the 13 story County Administrative Center (CAC) in downtown Riverside (much like our Capitols in Sacramento and Washington DC). I often fear that those who are responsible for our day to day management of government tend to forget that the real day to day challenges are NOT within the walls of Government buildings – but in the communities and neighborhoods that struggle with crime, gangs, graffiti, deteriorating roads, and other basic services. Now to be fair, I've met some incredibly talented and dedicated professionals working for the county (and many cities) and they get it. They, however, would argue that their hands have been tied by elected officials, management, overzealous regulations, or budgets that fail to prioritize and fund basic services.

Many years ago, a former State Senator shared an opinion that far too many elected officials (at all levels of government) initially run for office as the champion of the taxpayers, fighting to represent the taxpayers to the Government. Then as time goes on, human nature takes over and the once Champion undergoes a transformation and becomes an elected official who instead represents the Government to the people. Of course this does not happen to every elected official, and many work very hard for their communities – but sometimes the perks and power (real or perceived) of the office and the relationships they build with staff causes even the most honest leaders to become so comfortable with their position that they stop questioning and challenging the bureaucracy to do better.

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Kevin's Corner cont...

At this point in my life, I can tell you that I'm pretty sure it's NOT in my DNA to allow me to become a wallflower. Many of you send me (or my staff) your suggestions, frustrations, or even your outrage about government services or policies. You challenge us and (mostly politely) push us to make sure our county government is responsive and efficient. We then seek the same from county department heads, labor leaders and even the citizen appointees that we appoint to various commissions. In closing – with nearly 450,000 residents in the First District – we continue to welcome your individual comments and suggestions (pro or con) to make Riverside County a better place to live, work, or retire.

Respectfully,
Kevin Jeffries



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries and Lake Elsinore City Councilmembers at a recent Clean Extreme Community event with local residents who braved cloudy skies and cold temperatures to clean up areas in the city and county which included the future community center in Lakeland Village.

Riverside County First District \$500 Scholarship Winners

La Sierra HS
Rachel Caffrey
Zarer Lopez

Arlington HS
Georgiana Varga
Efren Hernandez-Fernandez

Lakeside HS
Johnathan E. Galvez

Keith McCarthy Academy
Jennifer Diaz
Collin Jezewski

Alvord HS
Savannah Rooney
Carlos Zamora

Poly HS
Daisy Coles
Brandon Enyeart

California Lutheran School
Lucas Lang

Citrus Hill HS
Jeniffer Arrieta Martinez
Eduardo Campos

Summit View HS
Priscilla Gavia
Darin DeCarlo

Gateway HS
Maggie McGunigle
Heriberto Ortiz

Temescal Canyon HS
Gabriella Serrano
German Monroy

John W. North HS
Estephanie Bustos
Christian Caballero

Elsinore HS
Taylor E. Johnson
Rafael Vazquez Flores

Ortega HS
Rita Contreras
Elmer Mejia

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.

Transparency in County Planning

When a large development is planned, the applicant for the project is generally required to mail a notice of any upcoming hearings to any residents within 600 feet of the project. For many projects, especially those that involve a change in land use, this just isn't sufficient notice to all those who may have an interest in what happens to a particular property. In response to suggestions received from the public, Supervisor Jeffries introduced a new requirement that any development proposal that involves a change in zoning or land use (residential to industrial, commercial to residential, low density to high density, etc) will now have to post a large public notice sign along any roads that border their property, so that residents who may not live within 600 feet, but drive on those same roads, might have an opportunity to participate in the hearing process. This requirement was supported unanimously by the Board of Supervisors.



This sign is similar to the new ones required by the county.

Funding for Mead Valley

Mead Valley is one of the poorest communities in the state, with very little infrastructure, no large grocery stores, no real restaurants, and virtually no retail opportunities. What it does have is a place along I-215 where land was long ago designated as an industrial corridor, which can provide some local jobs, but doesn't generally provide much in the way of direct benefits to the community. In an effort to find funding for community services and streets and other facilities in Mead Valley, Supervisor Jeffries recently was successful in getting the Board of Supervisors to dedicate a percentage of the increase in future sales tax revenues in the community to fund improvements in Mead Valley. This ensures that when growth does begin to occur along the 215 and Cajalco, local residents will benefit from it.

Clean Extreme a Huge Success in Lake Elsinore

Clean Extreme is a volunteer driven program organized by the City of Lake Elsinore, churches, and non-profits in the region. Supervisor Jeffries' office was deeply involved in the planning meetings, contributed money from the Community Improvement Designation (CID) Fund to help purchase tools, paint, and supplies, and had staff on hand the day of the event to help work at the site of the future Lakeland Village Community Center. On the big day, April 25th, over 700 volunteers showed up to help, including 100 at the community center site. Even the Supervisor got into the act, using some power tools to clear brush and help improve the appearance along Grand Avenue. A tremendous amount of work was done by these volunteers, making the day a huge success for the community.

Woman Of The Year - 1st District Chief Deputy Shelley A. Kennedy-Smith



Supervisor Jeffries was pleased to present his nominee, Chief Deputy Shelley Kennedy-Smith with the Woman of the Year Award during the April 14th Board of Supervisors’ meeting. Chief Deputy Kennedy-Smith has over 28 years of law enforcement experience and is the first African-American woman in the history of the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department to achieve the rank of Chief Deputy.

Since 1986, when she was first sworn in as a Deputy Sheriff, Chief Deputy Kennedy-Smith has held a variety of assignments, including corrections, patrol, court services, recruiter, and background investigator for the personnel bureau. She also helped to create and develop the Women’s Fitness Challenge within the Department which was created for women who are interested in all areas of law enforcement. The Fitness Challenge assists women in learning skills and techniques necessary to pass the physical agility test required in the academy and to meet other women within the Department who have excelled in their careers.

Chief Deputy Kennedy-Smith holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University in Workforce Development.



Above: Chief Deputy Kennedy-Smith with Supervisor Kevin Jeffries and our members of the Women’s Commission at the recent Board of Supervisors presentation of awards.



Above: At the recent Women’s Fitness Challenge for the Sheriff’s Department recruitment event.



Left: Pictured at recent community event regarding law enforcement with CHP, DA Mike Hestrin & Senator Richard Roth.

Non-Profit of the Month

Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Service

Since 1953, the primary goal and objective of CBHNS has been to provide various types of human, social, health and supportive services to the neighborhood of Casa Blanca and surrounding communities. Key objectives of CBHNS include increasing levels of academic achievement, school attendance, and graduation rates, employability, access to health and mental health care, reduction and elimination of alcohol and substance abuse, decreased gang involvement by youth, increase financial and educational literacy, and access to other key social, legal, and economic services.

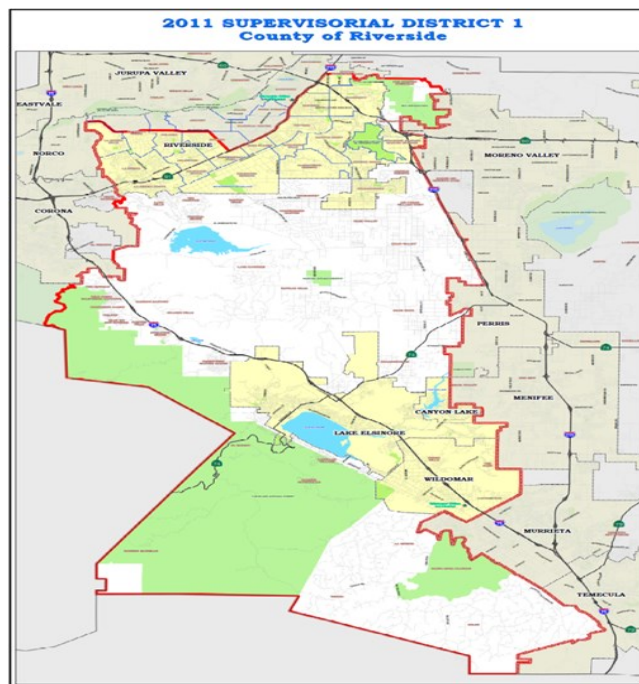
Key programs of CBHNS include Project Head Start, Friday Food Distribution, YES After-school Tutorial Program and the Computer Literacy Program. The programs and services offered at CBHNS not only benefit the Casa Blanca neighborhood, but also the communities of Arlington, Woodcrest, Temescal Valley and Eastside.

For more information, visit their website at: <http://www.cbhns.org/page1.php>



CBHNS

Welcome Home



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



The Arlington Business Partnership Presents the

13th ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF & CAR/CYCLE SHOW

Featuring the 42nd Annual California State Chili Championship

Best In Show 2014

May 23, 2015 • 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
On Magnolia Ave. Between Van Buren Blvd. & Jackson St.,
Arlington Village, Riverside, CA

ARTS & CRAFTS, BUSINESS & FOOD VENDORS • CHILI COOK-OFF • CAR & CYCLE SHOW • KIDS ZONE • LIVE MUSIC • BEER GARDENS • & MUCH MORE FAMILY FUN!



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IF YOU SERVED, YOU EARNED

If you served in any branch of the U.S. Military, Guard or Reserves, you and your family may be eligible for special benefits — even if you didn't see combat.

To learn more, call toll-free 1-844-SERV-VET (737-8838)

AMERICA THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



A project of the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers in partnership with the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

Box Springs Mountain Reserve

Comprehensive Trails Master Plan
Community Meeting




Please join us to review the future of the Box Springs Mountain Reserve!

The **Comprehensive Trails Master Plan Document** is being prepared to conduct an assessment of existing **Trails and Staging Areas and Trailheads**, review ways of improving **Regional and Local Connectivity**, and develop **Design and Maintenance Standards** to increase trail sustainability.

We need your input on:

- ✳ Conceptual Trail Alignments
- ✳ Staging and Trailhead Locations
- ✳ Regional and Local Trail Connectivity

The meeting will be an Open House Format so feel free to drop in anytime between 6:30 - 8:30pm.

Wednesday, May 20th, 6:30-8:30pm
Ruth Lewis Community Center
Multi-Purpose Room,
Reid Park: 701 N. Orange Street
Riverside, CA

Contact: Amelia H. Steen, Project Manager
Ph. 951-897-6587 or Visit the www.rivcoparks.org

Background:
Box Springs Mountain Reserve is bounded by the City of Moreno Valley to the east, the City of Riverside to the south and west and the unincorporated area of Highgrove and San Bernardino County to the north. It consists of approximately 1155 acres managed by the Riverside County Park and Open-Space District. There is an existing network of trails that were mostly in existence when the District obtained the land. The existing trails have been used mostly by hikers and equestrians, but, in recent years, the reserve has become increasingly popular with all types of trail use, including trail running, endurance, and extreme sports.





Help us in supporting the ASK Foundation and the Department of Animal Services at the

6th Annual Park n' Bark Classic Car Show

Saturday, May 30th, 2015 from 9am – 1pm
Riverside County Animal Shelter 6851 Van Buren Blvd Riverside, CA

Music! Raffle Prizes! 50/50 Drawing! Special Opportunity Raffle!
All proceed donated to the ASK foundation!
Vendors Welcome.

For more information contact Craig: 951-233-6435 Craig.cullen@ca.rr.com



Pre-Registration (\$15) _____ Registration (\$20) _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Make/Model: _____ Year: _____

Email: _____

Mail Registration to: _____