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Jeffries Journal

Volume 12, Issue 12

December 2024

Kevin's (Final) Corner

Changing Of The Guard – First let me congratulate and welcome my successor, former State Assemblyman and retired teacher Mr. Jose Medina of Riverside. Supervisor-Elect Medina will start his service in January, and is already busy forming his First District team. With roughly 25,000 county employees and 2.5 million residents, Riverside County is the 10th largest county in the nation and the 4th largest in California. We have warned Jose that he will be drinking from a fire hose, so if you need to connect with him (and it's not urgent) – give him a little time to get settled in. ***District 1 e-mail (District1@rivco.org) and phone number (951-955-1010) will remain the same.***

What To Watch For – As this is my last Kevin's Corner, I'll try not to put you to sleep with my usual updates, but here are my top five "county related" issues to watch for in 2025 and beyond.

1. The **County budget** is likely to face VERY intense (read: multi-billion dollar) challenges as new expenses grow each year. This includes MAJOR increases in labor costs, and skyrocketing healthcare and pension costs. There are also new demands for severely needed (and extremely expensive) large facility expansions at our Public Safety training center, RUHS hospital and Behavioral Health facilities. And on the list of many smaller scale future budget needs, is at least five (5) new or replacement county fire stations that now cost roughly \$12 million each!
2. Needed **Transportation** infrastructure (new freeway capacity) appears to be under wholesale assault by State regulatory agencies (otherwise known as the CA State Transportation Agency, CA Transportation Commission, CA Air Resources Board, & CA Housing & Community Dev.) and elected state legislators. They are advancing a "Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure" which is basically hostile to anyone driving their own vehicles. This a real threat to our local cities and county and their future ability to obtain State approvals and the needed funding to expand anything beyond your driveway. Oddly, even with this potential shutdown of crucial infrastructure, state regulators are still pushing our county to add 166,000 additional residential units (or 300,000+ people). All of which will need additional road/infrastructure capacity to get to work, school, healthcare, shopping, vacations, etc). They can't have it both ways! However...
3. Consideration of new **Toll Lanes** is alive and well. With state funding for traditional freeways on life support, new discussions are occurring in city halls and at RCTC about expanding Toll Lanes on the 15, 60, 91 & 215. Some discussions involve eliminating (taxpayer funded) free HOV lanes and

(Continued on Page 2)

replacing them with revenue generating Toll Lanes. While I STRONGLY disagree with eliminating our free HOV lanes, the next BIG financial challenge that is barreling towards us is electric vehicles. As they do not consume gasoline, they therefore do not contribute any fuel related taxes and fees towards our freeway maintenance and repairs. So get ready for a state “mileage tax”.

4. The shortage of new Firefighter **Paramedics** continues to cause staffing problems for Riverside County/CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE has proposed changing its qualifications so that licensed paramedics can get hired and then train to become firefighters (as nearly every other fire department does), but the proposal has been held up for an extended period by the State of California Human Resources agency. As a result, fire engines are being down-staffed in numerous communities, waiting for CAL-HR to make a decision. No rush – it’s only lives we are talking about!
5. The long term viability of the **March Air Reserve Base** is becoming a bit murkier as private sector expansion on and adjacent to the air base is being pushed by those looking for new tax and fee revenues. The base is set to receive new military aircraft and hundreds of millions of dollars in new federal investments as the Pacific Theater heats up with new challenges from China and North Korea. Private sector flights in and out of the base currently account for roughly 3000 flights a year, but the March Joint Powers Aviation agency is proposing to increase that number to 21,000 private flights (mostly warehouse cargo) along with more non-military businesses occupying property adjacent to the military runway.

Before I Leave, I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your representative for these past 12 years. I’ve (mostly) enjoyed the dozens, and on occasion the hundred or so email replies I have received each month in response to this newsletter. The engagement by and of the public is key to our Republic. I’ve been keenly aware to NOT become one of those elected officials who starts out with the best intentions of “representing the people to the government” and instead gets seduced by the perks and power of the position and then switches to “representing the government to the people”. This elected office has never “belonged” to me – it was only temporarily loaned. And with that, I must also acknowledge the incredibly hard working staff that has worked tirelessly helping people and thus made me look good (well... as best they could). So my sincere personal thanks to all the current and former First District staff: Jeff Greene, Bob Magee, Kerstin Justus, Robin Reid, Kristen Huyck, Tom Ketcham, Elena Bautista, Araceli Ruiz, Tricia Almiron, Samantha Stillwell, Liz Limon, Hashish Winstead, Lynn Anderson, Damian Fussel, Lorraine Williams & Vanessa Ortega. A shout-out also goes to those who volunteered grueling hours to serve as our First District Planning Commissioner(s); Charissa Leach, Bruce Shaffer, Shade Awad and Mussa Khair. I must also express my gratitude to my wife Chris, who has put up with me for 42 years, starting when I was a volunteer firefighter and through my various elected positions – all while raising our two children and helping manage our family businesses. Rest assured it was no easy task for her.

Again, thank you for the privilege to serve. Stay engaged. Stay informed. Stay vigilant. It’s your government!

Respectfully,

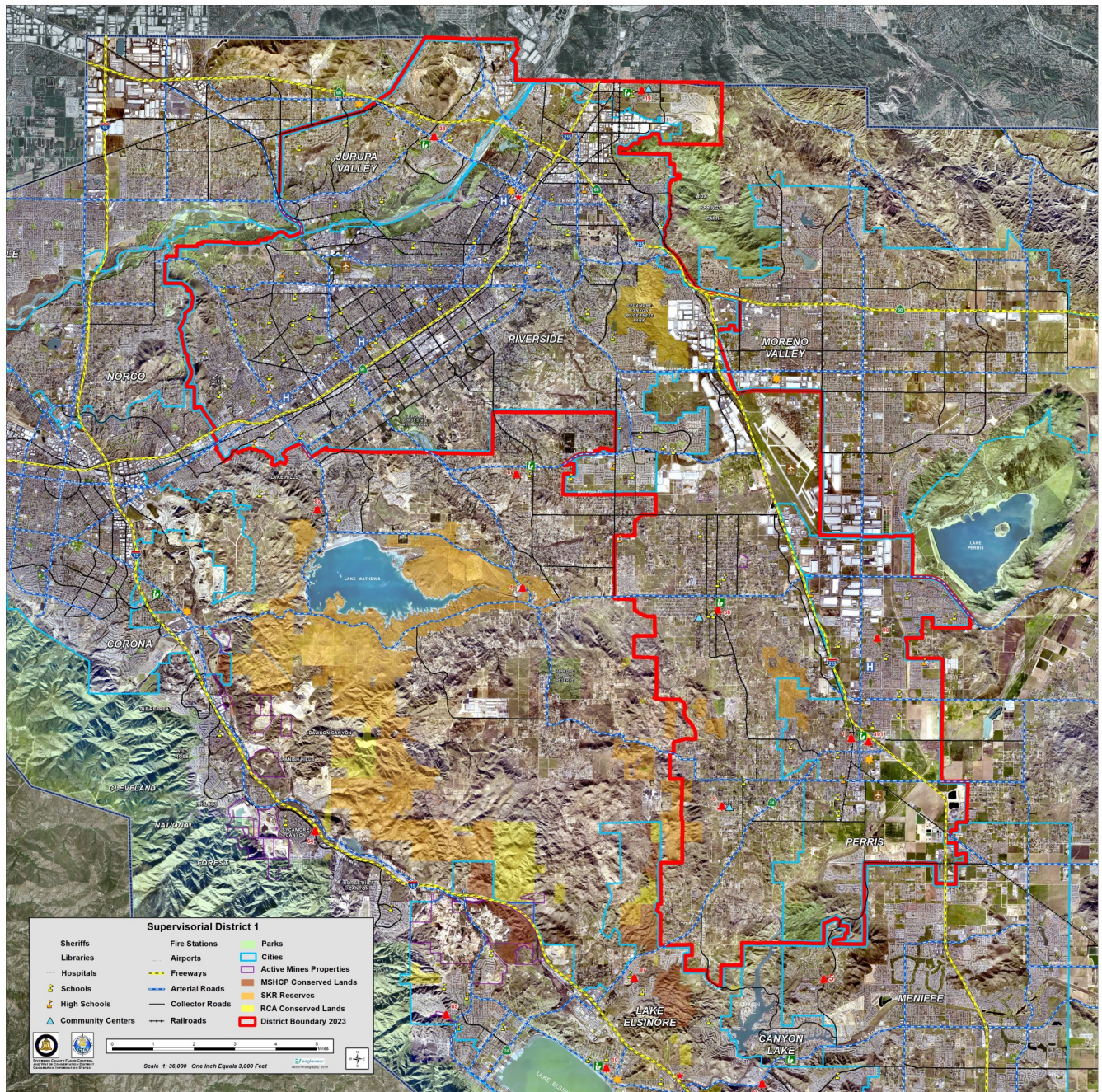
Kevin D. Jeffries

First District Supervisor (Retired 12/31/24)

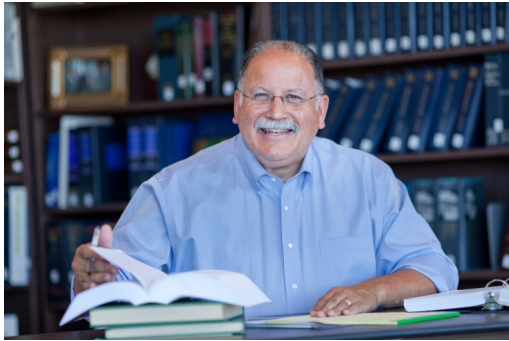
Riverside County's "New" 1st Supervisorial District



As of January 1st, 2025, Riverside County's 1st Supervisorial District will be represented by Jose Medina. The "new" 1st Supervisorial District covers the entirety of the cities of Riverside and Perris, and portions of the City of Jurupa Valley. It also includes the unincorporated communities of Highgrove, University City, Mead Valley, Good Hope, Meadowbrook, and the territories of the March Joint Powers Authority.



MEET JOSE MEDINA!



1st District Supervisor-Elect Jose Medina graduated from the University of California Riverside with a Bachelor's Degree in Latin American studies and a Master's Degree in History. His professional experience includes working as a teacher with the Riverside Unified School District, serving as a member of the Riverside City Teachers Association, and serving as a representative to the state council of the California Teachers Association (CTA).

Medina served as a school board member on the Jurupa Unified School District Board of Education and completed three terms on the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees.

He was also a member of the California State Assembly, representing District 61. He assumed office on December 3, 2012. He left office on December 5, 2022. During his service in the Assembly, he served as Chair of the Higher Education Committee, while also serving on the Transportation Committee and Budget Committee, among others.

He has two adult children and two grandchildren. He currently resides in Riverside with his wife, Linda.

Jose will be sworn in to his new office at the Board of Supervisors Meeting on January 7th, 2025, at 9:30am

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 below

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

CURRENT OPENINGS:

Behavioral Health One (1) Public Interest Member

Riverside County Flood Control - Commissioner - One (1) opening

First 5 Children & Families Advisory Committee— One (1) Member

Good Hope Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) - One (1) Alternate

In Home Support Services (IHSS) - Recipient or Consumer of IHSS Services - One (1) opening

Flood Control District—Riverside Area (One (1) Member)

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions please see the link below:

<https://rivcodistrict1.org/sites/g/files/aldnop256/files/2023-08/Boards%20and%20Commissions%20Application%2C%208-22-23.pdf>

Mead Valley Events

Mead Valley Community Center continues to be active, with an early Thanksgiving dinner and free turkey distribution, as well as a fruit tree giveaway, where Environmental Justice funds generated by warehouses were utilized to purchase 1,000 fruit trees for residents! Thank you to the Tree People and all our volunteers for helping out!



MEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER PRESENTS

Breakfast WITH SANTA



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
9 AM - 1 PM**

FREE EVENT!
FREE BREAKFAST, BRING YOUR CAMERA,
CARNIVAL GAMES, AND ARTS & CRAFTS!

MEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER 21091 RIDER ST.
PERRIS, CA 92570 • (951) 210-1580 • SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Operated by:




Supper WITH SANTA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 5-8 PM

**COME ENJOY A FREE
CHILI DINNER, COCOA, &
CHRISTMAS FUN!**

GOOD HOPE
COMMUNITY CENTER
21565 STEELE PEAK DR.
PERRIS, CA 92570

Operated by:




'Tis the Season to be Merry!
to
Be Kind
And to Chill



LAKE LAND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTER WINTER CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024
3-6 PM OPEN HOUSE
VISIT SANTA AND
THE LAKE ELSINORE
ELF POST OFFICE
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING
CEREMONY
FREE FAMILY FUN

TOY GIVEAWAY



For more info: Call 951-471-4407 or email dru.bradford@studio395.org
Location: 16275 Grand Avenue, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530 Web: studio395.org

The 951 Market Presents



**FREE ENTRY
Free Parking**

**December 14th
1pm-6pm**



Photo w/Santa
Follow @The951Market
Toy Giveaway
30+ Vendors
Games
Music



www.The951Market.com

459 Center St
Highgrove Ca 92507



HIGHGROVE LIBRARY

STEAM

**TUESDAYS
AT 3:30 PM**

December 3, 10,
17, 24, & 31 2024

AGES 6-12

Science, Technology,
Engineering, Art and Math!
Join us for fun crafts and
activities to learn more about
these concepts, and learn to
code with Ozobot and Fiero
Code!

Highgrove Library
530 Center Street, Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 682-1507 | www.rivlib.net

CALIFORNIA
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Riverside County
Library System

Instagram icon

Facebook icon

PERRIS VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PRESENTS

**JINGLE
MINGLE**

5th Annual Holiday Event

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 19, 2024
6 PM**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 595
600 SOUTH D ST. PERRIS, CA**

ENTRY FEE: ONE RAFFLE ITEM, VALUED AT \$20+
NICELY WRAPPED/ DECORATED
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

SCAN QR CODE OR REGISTER HERE: [BIT.LY/PVCCJINGLE24](https://bit.ly/PVCCJINGLE24)

(951) 657-3555 WWW.PERRISCHAMBER.NET PVCC@PERRISCHAMBER.NET



Visit all RivCoParks for FREE with the RivCoParks Library Pass!

Time spent in outdoor spaces improves physical, social, spiritual, and emotional health. The RivCoParks Library Pass program is a collaboration between RivCoParks and local libraries aimed at promoting literacy, outdoor recreation, and community engagement. Through this program, individuals and families gain access to a variety of benefits, including free admission to RivCoParks sites, special events, and educational programs.

For more information, including participating libraries, visit here: <https://rivcoparks.org/library-park-pass>

Highgrove Activities and Events

December 2024

The Norton BULLETIN

INCLUSIVE - VIBRANT - SUPPORTIVE

DECEMBER DELIGHTS: COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND CELEBRATORY TIMES

Hey everyone, it's Leila from Norton Younglove Community Center! December is brimming with holiday cheer and events that I can't wait to share with you.

As we step into the festive season, we have a lineup of special days to look forward to. December 1st kicks off with Christmas Book Day and World AIDS Day, both important occasions for awareness and celebration. December 6th brings the charm of Saint Nicholas Day, a fun opportunity for festive activities.

On December 14th, make sure to visit the Highgrove Market, where you can shop local and enjoy the community spirit. On the same day, Santa and his elves will be making a special visit to our center, so bring your family for a magical

experience! Don't miss out on our regular Tuesday Bingo sessions—it's a fun and social way to connect with friends and possibly win some prizes!

As we approach the winter solstice on December 21st, let's celebrate the longest night of the year together. Christmas Day on December 25th also marks the start of Hanukkah, and we'll be closed to allow our community and staff to celebrate with their loved ones. Boxing Day and the start of Kwanzaa follow on December 26th, offering more opportunities for festive gatherings. And finally, let's ring in the new year with joy on December 31st, New Year's Eve.

Reflecting on the past year, we are immensely grateful for our vibrant community. Thank you to our volunteers, donors, community members, and employees who have made the Norton Younglove Community Center a thriving hub. Looking back, we've hosted countless memorable events and expanded our programs. We're excited to carry this momentum into the new year and continue building a welcoming community.

We're eager to see your smiling faces this December—let's make every moment count!

With love, Leila S. Center's Manager

JOIN US IN GROWING OUR COMMUNITY!

We invite you to become an integral part of our expanding community by following our social media channels and visiting our website. Each like, share, and comment boosts our reach, helping us connect with more community members, donors, and volunteers. Stay engaged and be an essential member of our online family. Simply scan the QR code and join us today!



PHONE: 951-241-7221 **ADDRESS:** 459 CENTER ST, RIVERSIDE, CA 92507

OPENING HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 8AM TO 4PM FRIDAY 8AM TO 2PM

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