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Jeffries Journal

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Kevin's Corner

No Money – Except... Some of you may have read my article (rant) some months ago about our effort to provide covered bus shelters for fellow residents who depend on riding the local transit buses for work, shopping, etc. Unfortunately, we hit a wall of financial “concerns” over the “affordability” of allowing bus riders to get out of the blistering heat or winter downpours and under a nearby covered bus shelter. If the goal is really to convince people to use buses more often, logic dictates that comfort and convenience should be a top priority. Well... it would be if only the people-mover powers-to-be had the funds to buy and maintain a \$15,000 covered bus stop. But they didn't – so folks settle in and continue to enjoy the heat and rain until funding can be found. But wait! Last month a new proposal surfaced to potentially improve bus ridership by way of improving “accessibility” and “connectivity” and thereby “improve ridership” at one of the existing Transit Facilities located along Hwy 91. So you ask, if \$15,000 covered bus shelters break the budget, what is the projected budget for the above Hwy 91 Transit Connector Project? No worries – the cost is only an estimated at \$178 million! (yes that equates to 11,866 brand new covered bus shelters!). Now to be fair, I grossly oversimplified the complicated funding sources and the description of this transit construction project – but rest easy, as it is projected to serve two (2) buses each day when completed! It's for the people! – until it's not. (This Bus Boondoggle is currently in the “study phase”).

Mission Impossible? Last month, I wrote about the March Air Reserve Base and its possible growing mission as the west coast and the greater Pacific theater becomes more challenging with China's military growth and increasing encroachment, and the military technology advances being made by North Korea. This is coupled with a somewhat controversial ongoing push by the March Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to bring more private sector businesses and commercial cargo flights to JPA properties and the base itself (including use of the base's runway). With the above political backdrop, I was recently made aware of the State of California Office of Business and Economic Development (known as GoBiz) having reached out to Riverside County seeking a location for a new manufacturing facility known as the NALINV Technologies project. NALINV requested to meet with the March Joint Powers Authority to discuss a site for their new USA facility. The County Economic staff then forwarded the inquiry to the March JPA executive staff, who took the lead in helping to secure a proposed location along I-215 and the March Air Reserve Base (FYI – March ARB has numerous National Security Agencies operating on the base). Turns out NALINV is a “China-based film manufacturer”! So when the military brass was informed (by a local private citizen) of this proposal, some bells and whistles went off and military investigators were promptly dispatched to obtain details
(Continued on Page 2)

from JPA staff of a Chinese owned firm's request to operate next to a U.S. military base. As a commissioner on the March JPA, I've had to learn of much of this third hand from outside sources. I'm told this particular "manufacturing" use is now being deemed "incompatible" for reasons unrelated to the ownership of the company, but being left in the dark by the JPA is not a successful way to communicate.

State Fines County for State's Decisions. When a felony crime is committed, the person who committed the crime can, according to State law, be evaluated to determine if they are "Incompetent to Stand Trial" (IST). If a State appointed Judge determines the individual is Incompetent, they are placed into a mental health diversion program. The State has also set a limit on the number of diversions that can occur per year in a given county. That means the State decides who gets diverted, while at the same time the state restricts how many can be diverted. So guess what happens when the State diversion limit is exceeded by the State Judges? Well... the County gets fined! Yep, you read that right. Last year the State judges exceeded the 146 IST limit for Riverside County – so the State is fining Riverside County over \$1.8 million. The good news is that the county just has to develop a plan (subject to state approval) that outlines how the county can identify and treat would-be IST individuals BEFORE they commit a crime, thus reducing the number of IST determinations that would have to be made by judges. A good plan is then eligible to get back some or all of the fines to support the program. Anybody remember the futuristic "Pre-Crime Division" from the 2002 Tom Cruise movie "Minority Report"? We're here...

Vacant Public Safety Positions – I have been learning more as to how bad things are getting for many public safety agencies. The United States Forest Service, California Highway Patrol, and CAL FIRE are just a few having significant to severe challenges hiring and retaining certain public safety employees. I recently stopped and spoke with a CHP officer during a fire road closure, and he advised that when he finished working his shift – he will have put in nearly 20 hours straight, as they are so short staffed and had no relief available for him. Apparently, CHP state-wide is short well over 1000 officers. The U.S. Forest Service has been so shorthanded that they reportedly occasionally have fire engines with no one available to staff them. One recent wildland fire located within USFS boundaries just outside of Pine Cove/Idyllwild was reportedly extinguished by state and county fire engines with NO USFS fire engines available. And CAL FIRE continues to struggle with their own recruiting and retaining Firefighter-Paramedics to help staff fire engines here in Riverside County. I will soon be obtaining briefings regarding recruitment and retention of county Sheriff Deputies and Probation Officers. I suspect the news will also not be good. Where did everyone go?

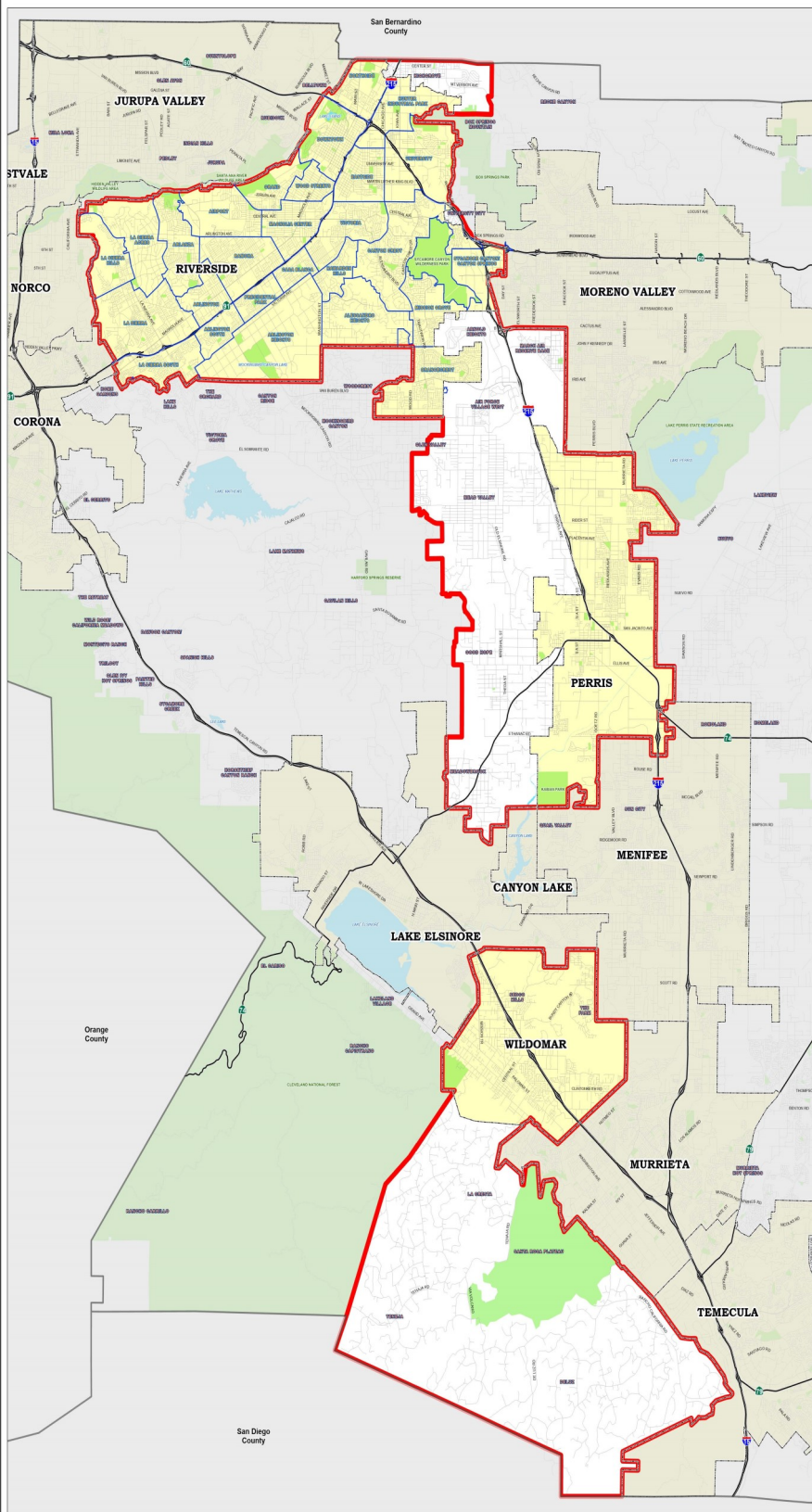
As always, I welcome your feedback with ways to improve county government services – or just to vent (about county services). I read nearly every email and personally respond to many. I plan to keep working right until my last day.

Respectfully,

Kevin Jeffries

P.S. our office has been meeting each month, separately, with both candidates (Roth & Medina) who are seeking to fill the First District Supervisor position in this November's election. Our goal is to inform them of all the duties, responsibilities and unique community needs and projects one of them will inherit come January 1, 2025.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1 County of Riverside



First District Profile



Kevin Jeffries was elected in November 2012 to represent the residents of the 1st Supervisorial District. In 2022 the district was redrawn, and now covers the entirety of the cities of Riverside and Perris, as well as the unincorporated communities of Highgrove, University City, Mead Valley, Good Hope, Meadowbrook, and the March Joint Powers Authority. In January 2025, the 1st District will also include portions of the City of Jurupa Valley.

- Roads
- Highways
- City Boundaries
- Neighborhoods
- District 1 Boundary
- Parks
- Waterbodies

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
District 1
(951) 955-1010

Representing the Cities of:
Riverside
Jurupa Valley (portion)
Perris
Wildomar



As of April 2024, the lower area outlined in red, including City of Wildomar, La Cresta, De Luz, and Tenaja, has changed responsibility from our District to District 3, Supervisor Chuck Washington's office. His office can be reached at 951-955-1030 or District3@RivCo.org

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 online at www.supervisorjeffries.com, under Boards & Commissions

CURRENT OPENINGS:

Behavioral Health One (1) Public Interest Member

Assessment Appeals Board - One (1) Alternate (All Districts)

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

Highgrove 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>

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY
BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE
NOW
PROGRAM**

PERMIT ASSISTANCE
FINANCIAL RESOURCES
HIRING & TRAINING

**LOOKING TO START OR
EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS?**

RIVCOED.ORG/BANP

SCAN HERE

SUCCESSFUL TOWN HALLS!



Thank you to the hundreds of community members and the dozens of county staff and department heads who turned out for our Town Halls in Mead Valley and Highgrove. Nearly every public-facing department was represented at both events, answering questions and explaining their services.



Upcoming Fall Festivals and Events



Fall FESTIVAL
MEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

Wednesday, October 23 • 6-9 PM

Free event!
Bring the family. Kids are welcome to wear a costume.

Activities for all ages.
Pumpkin patch, trunk or treat, photo booth, food vendors, music, and more!

Mead Valley Community Center
21091 Rider St. Perris, CA 92570
(951) 210-1580
Se habla español

Operated by GROVE



Fall FESTIVAL
GOOD HOPE COMMUNITY CENTER

Saturday, October 26 • 5-8 PM

Free event!
Bring the family. Kids are welcome to wear a costume.

Activities for all ages.
Pumpkin patch, trunk or treat, jumpers, food, music, and more!

Good Hope Community Center
21565 Steel Peak Dr. Perris CA. 92570
(951) 943-9126
Se habla español

Operated by GROVE



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26, 2024

530 W. CENTER ST.
RIVERSIDE, CA 92507

12:00pm - 4:00pm

Free Games, Candy, Popcorn and More!

HIGHGROVE LIBRARY
JOIN US FOR OUR
HALLOWEEN TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Join us for our second annual Trunk-or-Treat!

Come Dressed in Your Halloween Costumes!

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

OPERATING LIBRARY
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Riverside County Library System



The 951 Market Presents

The HIGHGROVE Market CALIF.

October 12th
3pm-8pm

FREE ENTRY!
Free Parking

Costume Contest
Hourly Raffle
Candy
Music
Haunted Maze
30+ Vendors

Follow @The951market

459 Center St
Highgrove Ca 92507

www.The951Market.com



Fraud Hotline 24/7
Against Fraud, Waste & Abuse



Fraud Hotline (Lighthouse)

Anonymous and confidential third-party reporting system – Available 24/7
Administered by the Auditor-Controller's Office



The County of Riverside is committed to maintaining the highest level of ethics and integrity in all county operations. **Fraud Hotline 24/7!** was developed to engage the participation of employees and the public to help meet this commitment. You can help the county eliminate fraud, waste and abuse by using **Fraud Hotline 24/7!** to report your concerns.

AREAS OF CONCERN REPORTABLE TO THE FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE HOTLINE

- ✓ Fraud
- ✓ Waste
- ✓ Abuse
- ✓ Vandalism and Sabotage
- ✓ Ethics Violations
- ✓ Theft
- ✓ Misuse of county equipment
- ✓ Unsafe working conditions
- ✓ Conflict of interest – bribery

USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TOOLS TO REPORT AN INCIDENT

- Website: www.lighthouse-services.com/rivco
- Telephone: (833) 590-0004
- Auditor-Controller: www.auditorcontroller.org under "Quick Links"
- E-Mail: reports@lighthouse-service.com (include company name with report)

For any Human Resources (HR) related matters, please contact HR directly at (951) 955-3500 or employee-relations@rc-hr.com

AMERICA'S
SBDC
CALIFORNIA
ORANGE COUNTY INLAND EMPIRE

California
SHOP SMALL
Take your business online!

WEDNESDAYS | 3 - 5 p.m.
OCTOBER 2 - NOVEMBER 6

California Shop Small is a six-week program designed to help product-based aspiring or existing business owners sell online. Business owners will learn how to get their business online, reach new customers, and increase their sales on a local, regional, and national scale. Participants will receive a six-month free subscription to sell on a California-branded e-commerce platform and no-cost one-on-one consulting to assist in furthering their online success.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



REGISTER TODAY!
shop-small-ca.eventbrite.com



Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Funding is not an endorsement of any product, service, or entity. All programs are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. Funded in part through a Grant with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. All opinions, conclusions, and/or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.



FRIDAY
OCTOBER 11TH
2024

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Free Hair Cuts
and Manicures**

HIGHGROVE LIBRARY

JOIN US FOR OUR

RESOURCE FAIR



- County Resources
- Food Bank List
- Utility Assistance
- Mothers Nutrition
- And More!

For More Information Call: (951) 682-1507

highgrove library
530 W. Center St. Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 682-1507 | www.rivlib.net



**Are you helping care for a
loved one over the age of 60?**

**FREE CLASSES
for family caregivers!**

CARE PATHWAYS Can Help

- FREE program delivered in a series of 11 workshops
- FREE respite while in class may be available
- FREE support & referrals to community resources

Get answers about Dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Communicating Effectively, Managing Stress, Legal Issues, Grief, How to Care for an Older Adult & much more...

Funding is provided by the Riverside University Health System - Behavioral Health through the Mental Health Services Act.

**Call today for
more information
or to register**

(951) 237-9576

Class series

Starts

October 10, 2024

HIGHGROVE COMMUNITY CENTER

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Zumba Fitness with Letty
Mon-Fri, **8:30 AM - 10:30 AM**
\$6 per class

Senior Nutrition Program
Hot meals for registered participants age 60 and above, Mon-Fri, **11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.**

Tuesday Bingo 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM 4 cards for \$1.50 (Includes refreshments)

Polynesian Dance with Lorena
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

- Beginner: **5 PM**
- Advanced: **6 PM**

E-Taekwondo United Martial Arts Evening Classes

Monday & Wednesday

- Lil Rhino's (3-6 yrs): **6:00PM**
- Beginners 7+ yrs.(up to orange belt): **6:30 PM**
- Advanced 7+ yrs.(green belt & higher): **7:15 PM**

For detailed info, call at 909-578-4799 or visit etkdu.com



Sunday Worship:
10 AM

Thursday Bible Study: 7:15 PM

For detailed

info, call Pastor John Braxton at 951-400-3298

Cool Center Activated from June 1 to October 15, 2024, temporary relief from the heat. Visit capriverside.org or call 951-955-4900 for a list of sites.

FSA Child Development Center Now Enrolling! Free or low-cost full day early care and preschool programs. Call 951-342-3151.

NOURISHING NEIGHBORS

USDA Food Distribution:

4th Friday of the month, **8:00 AM to 10:00 AM.** Share a ride and bring a neighbor! Drive-through pick-up servicing Highgrove and Grand Terrace areas.



Joy of Giving Food Distribution: 4th Saturday of the month, **10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.**

Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino ("FARSB") Programs: Senior Mobile Pantry Program (SMPP) serving adults 60+ years of age and low-income households within Inland Empire. **Nourish Now - Formerly HERO (Homebound Emergency Relief Outreach)** free emergency food deliveries to home-bound neighbors whose health and financial limitations prevent them from shopping for food.

FARSB CalFresh Assistance: Need help applying? More info visit <https://feedingamericaie.org/get-help> or call 951-359-4757.

C4Yourself Program: Riverside County benefits like CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and Cash Aid. Submit applications securely at <https://c4yourself.com>. or call 877-410-8829.

LET'S GET THE PARTY STARTED!

Step into joy and celebration where every event is a festival of memories! Our venue is ready to host weddings that are the talk of the town, birthday bashes to remember,



milestone anniversaries, high-energy corporate events, and spirit-lifting church gatherings. With a rate of just \$125 per hour our space accommodates 150 of your favorite folks and includes complimentary use of our tables and chairs. You can whip up your favorite treats with our kitchen, available for an additional flat rate cost. Safety first! Security is provided at all events (additional cost). To lock in your party date, a \$200 non-refundable deposit is required. For details, call us at 951-241-7221 or visit: <https://nycchighgrove.com/>



Join **The 951 Market** team every 2nd Saturday of the month for a fun-filled **SUNSET MARKET** from 3 PM to 8PM. Enjoy shopping, food, and entertainment, and much more. More details: <https://the951market.com/>

October 2024
The Norton BULLETIN

