### SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT #1



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# Jeffries Journal

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### October 2015

# Kevin's Corner

I have two thoughts on public safety to pass along this month.

The first item is an assumption. I know we've been talking about the California drought for several years, but let's assume for argument sake that the weather gurus are correct and we are in for some significant, potentially historic levels of rain this coming winter. If you've lived in Riverside County for 30 years or more then you already have a pretty good idea of the streets and culverts that have a high probability of being overwhelmed.

The county and many city governments are already evaluating traditional flood prone areas and making flood response plans, but we the individual citizens and homeowners need to be prepared as well. We all need to assess our own properties to determine potential flooding risks, and whether you need to obtain sandbags, clear on-site culverts, and make sure that drainage paths across our properties are not obstructed. You should also look around your neighborhood—is a major creek or flood control channel clogged with garbage or choked with weeds? If so, you need to let us (or your city staff if you live in a city) know, so that Code Enforcement, the Transportation Department, or Flood Control can take care of the problem. Waiting until the heavy rains hit will likely be too late.

On another issue – for those of you who live outside of a city (unincorporated areas), you depend on the County Sheriff's Department to respond to your calls for law enforcement. The County Sheriff and the five members of the Board of Supervisors are all dedicated to increasing additional Sheriff staffing levels. Because the costs to increase law enforcement staffing can reach 10 or 20 million dollars or more a year above current budget levels, we are evaluating how to get more deputies on the street, with fewer serving in administrative support positions. There are questions of how best to reach that goal, whether it be some sort of across-the-board ratio of officers to population, or perhaps a more targeted approach that will guarantee deputies on the street in the areas that are seeing the most crime—or the biggest increases in crime. The Board has hired an outside management consultant to evaluate the Sheriff's Department and make recommendations on how we can best protect public safety without having to cut every other service the county offers, and we hope to have that report by the end of the year.

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Let me close by encouraging fellow able-bodied residents to join with some of your neighbors and participate in local disaster response training and become part of a local response team. Whether it is floods, fires, earthquakes or a terrible accident involving a family member or friend at home – we all need to be prepared. Keep a first-aid kit and a survival kit at home and in your car, and most importantly get trained. A major regional disaster can quickly overwhelm the resources of our local First Responders, leaving neighbors to help neighbors. Training and a few basic supplies can make the difference. This is doubly important if you are a rural county resident, where it is even more likely you may have to rely on yourself and your neighbors to make it through the early hours (or even days) of a disaster.

Learn more about general emergency preparedness and CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) here: <u>http://www.rivcoready.org/</u>

Information on Flood safety here: http://www.floodcontrol.co.riverside.ca.us/FloodSafety.aspx

Respectfully, Kevin Jeffries First District Supervisor Former Volunteer Firefighter (29 years)

P.S. If you live in the southeast part of the City of Riverside, or in surrounding communities, I will be co-hosting two community services town halls with Riverside Councilmember Paul Davis in the month of October—one in Orangecrest on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and one on the 14<sup>th</sup> in Casa Blanca. This is part of our effort to host a meeting in every council ward in the City of Riverside that overlaps the 1<sup>st</sup> District. For more information, see the last page of this newsletter or click here: <u>http://supervisorjeffries.com/opencms/District\_Events/articles/jeffriesdavis.html</u>

### Free Smart Irrigation Controller Workshop Learn what they are and how they can lower your water bill



Securing Your Water Supply

Riverside, CA – High temperatures and longer days may wane with the close of summer, but overwatering often doesn't, and Western is looking to change this.

Fall is the time residents often forget to dial back their irrigation controller and end up paying for more water than their plants need. On Friday, Oct. 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Western Municipal Water District will be hosting a free workshop on smart irrigation controllers and their unique features to prevent overwatering from happening. The leading manufacturers of smart irrigation technology will present their latest products and take the mystery out of how to use them. Join us and get your questions answered from the source. Learn about rebate incentives that pay for a majority, if not all, of the cost of these devices. This event is open to everyone, and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by calling today.

Western Municipal Water District is located at 14205 Meridian Parkway in Riverside. Please contact Pam Pavela at 951.571.7236 with any questions.

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# **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.

# **Natural Sound Berm Replaced!**

Dennis Macula has lived in his Quail Road home for decades. His University Heights neighborhood is pressed up against the Box Springs Mountains where the railroad tracks serpentine between the homes and the rugged mountainside. When the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) -owners of the tracks -- secured a Federal Grant to extend Metro Link service from Riverside to Perris, a new rail line needed to be added. When work began Dennis noticed that the natural berm that had once somewhat shielded his home from impacts of the occasional freight train had been removed. After conferring with RCTC officials, Supervisor Jeffries' office requested that the berm be restored to its former height and shape to limit the impact on area residents to the greatest extent possible. And on September 1st the berm was completed, much to the delight of Mr. Macula.



### **Community Center Improvements Completed.**

After months and months of red tape and bid processes, some much needed improvements were completed at two of our community centers. Window tinting, and the installation of four (4) ceiling fans were completed at the Moses-Schaffer Community Center in Good Hope and not to be left out, acoustic panels were finally installed into the banquet room at the Charles Meigs Community Center in Mead Valley.

Community members are pleased to have the improvements which will help during the summer to keep the center cool in Good Hope and for meetings inside the banquet hall in Mead Valley.



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County Boards and Commissions Appointee Profile

Lakeland Village Community Advisory Council (CAC)

Barbara Dye, Chair

### What does the Lakeland Village Community Advisory Council do?

The council brings Riverside County agencies to a place where the community can get information and the agencies can get input and give the community a chance to have their questions answered. It also gives the community a chance to be informed as to what is happening in Lakeland Village and to get involved.

### What interested you in serving on the Lakeland Village CAC?

I was the President of the Lakeland Village Neighborhood Association for 15 years. I also served on the Riverside County Redevelopment Advisory Committee for 10 years. I have also been a volunteer for the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. When I moved to Lakeland Village in 1994 as a single mom I asked myself what did I do?? There were drug houses and meth labs everywhere, so I got involved. Over the last 21 years I have seen many changes to the Lakeland Village community. The changes have been a joint effort from not only the community but also because of the communication with the Riverside County agencies (Flood, Transportation, Board of Supervisors, Planning, Code Enforcement, Sheriff's Department) to name a few. It has all been worth my volunteer time and effort to make Lakeland Village what it is today. There is still work to be done. The Lakeland Village CAC is still helping to make Lakeland Village a better place to live and raise our families. As Paul Baillie said over 20 years ago "We can and will win the fight". I feel that we are winning the fight.

# Veterans Advisory Commission

**THERE IS NOW AN OPENING** on the Veterans Advisory Committee to fill an unexpired term until 6/30/16. Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month, excluding July and August. Applicant must be a current member of a congressionally chartered veteran's organization. For more information, please contact our office.

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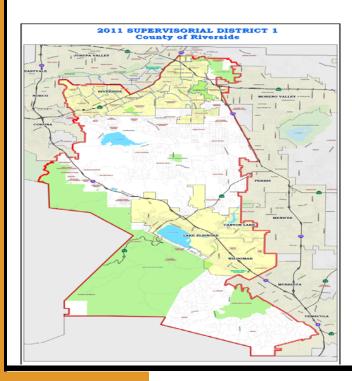
# Non-Profit of the Month California Veterans Of Foreign Wars Motorcycle Club



The VFW Motorcycle Club, Empire Chapter, is dedicated to meeting the unmet needs of underserved, low-income military populations of the 1<sup>st</sup> District. They assist veterans, troops, families and widows of veterans by offering the following programs:

- Food Box Program: food boxes are prepared for families and delivered to their homes by Club volunteers;
- Homeless Outreach: provides assistance with referrals, counseling, temporary lodging, clothing, toiletries, and benefits processing for veterans;
- Veterans' Support Group: provides short term physical and monetary assistance to veterans, including but not limited to yard and home maintenance, vehicle maintenance, transportation to appointments, providing service dogs, airline flights to visit family and emergency home repair; and
- Employment Search: assists veterans with job search, job leads, resumes, interviews and develops relationships with companies in the community to foster job opportunities for veterans.

For more information, go to http://www.vfwmotorcycleclub.org/



# 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, Spring Hills, Warm Springs and DeLuz



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