



CHUCK'S CHRONICLES

The latest news and announcements from the Thriving Third!

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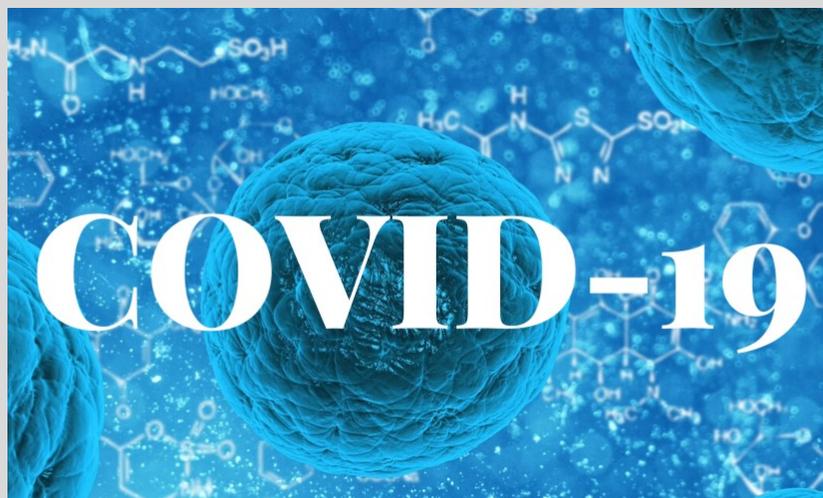
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FROM THE DESK OF CHUCK WASHINGTON



Special Edition: COVID-19 Update

In lieu of our normal Third District newsletter, the April edition of Chuck's Chronicles contains the latest information and resources on the COVID-19 crisis. The information and mandates surrounding COVID-19 are constantly evolving, but everything in this newsletter is accurate as of Tuesday, April 7, 2020. For updates on COVID-19 in Riverside County, visit www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus. For state updates, visit www.cdph.ca.gov, and for national updates, visit www.cdc.gov. For a consistently updated list of Third District resources, visit supervisorchuckwashington.com/community-resources.

Currently, California residents have been ordered to take shelter in their homes and only leave to obtain food, prescriptions or health care or to provide essential services to others. (*cont'd, p. 3*)

COVID-19 Food Resources

Community First Church of God (31371 Highway 74, Homeland) distributes food and clothing every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. There are no income or age restrictions. In addition, Feeding America distributes food on the property on the second Monday of every month.

Valley Community Pantry (191 Columbia St., Hemet, behind Trinity Lutheran Church) provides food from 9:30 a.m. to noon from Monday to Thursday. To learn more about receiving assistance, visit www.vcpcares.org. Open to residents of Hemet, San Jacinto and Valle Vista.

Salvation Army Hemet Corp (340 S Palm Ave., Hemet) provides food assistance on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. Seniors and individuals with disabilities can also call for assistance in getting supplies such as toilet paper. Please call James Fleming (714-499-3943) for more information.

Bread Basket Food Bank (2385 S. San Jacinto Ave., San Jacinto) provides food distribution Mondays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Call 951-658-5098 or visit www.breadbaskethemet.com for information. Open to residents of Hemet, San Jacinto, Beaumont, Nuevo, Lakeview, Romoland and Homeland

Community Food Pantry of Murrieta (39493 Los Alamos Rd., Suite A, Murrieta) provides food distribution on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. To learn more about receiving assistance, visit communityoutreachofmurrieta.com/food-pantry. Open to residents of Murrieta, French Valley and Winchester.

Community Mission of Hope (41760 Rider Way, Temecula) provides food distribution from Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please bring your picture I.D. For more information, visit www.cmoh.net. Open to residents of Temecula.

Salvation Army Murrieta Corp (40270 Los Alamos Rd. Murrieta) provides food assistance, hygiene kits, diapers, bus tickets and rent and utility assistance. Their hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, email Priscilla Gutierrez at priscilla.gutierrez@usw.salvationarmy.org or Capt. Mysti Birks at mysti.birks@usw.salvationarmy.org.

Anza Community Hall (56630 CA-371, Anza) provides food distribution every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon while supplies last. Open to residents of Anza and Aguanga.

Anza Electric Cooperative (58470 CA-371, Anza) provides food distribution on the second Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon.

The Family Service Association (951-342-3057) distributes a weekly meal package on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the San Jacinto Senior Center (625 S. Pico Ave, San Jacinto). Meal packages will be distributed between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Must be 60 or older to receive a meal; limited to one package per customer, per week.

Idyllwild Help Center (26330 CA-243, Idyllwild-Pine Cove) provides food assistance from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment only from Tuesday to Thursday. Open to residents of Idyllwild, Mountain Center and Pine Cove.

Idyllwild Town Hall (25925 Cedar St, Idyllwild) provides food assistance on the first Tuesday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Open to residents of the mountain communities. Food assistance made possible through the partnership between Idyllwild Community Center (ICC) and Feeding America.

Community Resources

City of Hemet: 951-765-2300

City of Murrieta: 951-304-2489

City of Temecula: 951-694-6444

City of San Jacinto: 951-487-7330

Hemet/San Jacinto Valley Chamber: 951-658-3211

Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber: 951-677-7916

Temecula Valley Chamber: 951-676-5090

San Jacinto Chamber: 951-654-1645

Special Edition: COVID-19 Update (cont'd)

Short-term rental lodging is prohibited except when used to combat or mitigate COVID-19, so do not use this time to travel or take a vacation. Residents are also ordered to cover their mouths and noses with a scarf, bandana or other cloth when leaving their homes. Please do not use N-95 or surgical masks as face coverings – leave these for first responders and the health care community. Also, Riverside County residents can call 800-945-6171 to see if they meet the eligibility criteria to receive testing for COVID-19 at the Diamond Stadium in Lake Elsinore, Harvest Christian Fellowship Church in Riverside or the Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio. Those who would like to be tested at Diamond Stadium may also visit www.projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/ for more information. There are currently 1,016 of cases of COVID-19 in Riverside County, and there have been 28 deaths and 67 recoveries.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the individuals who continue to work hard every day to protect our people and keep our vital services running. This includes first responders, essential government workers, nonprofit workers, health care providers and those who work to keep our pharmacy and grocery store shelves stocked. Just like you and your family, the Third District Office is looking forward to the end of this pandemic and a return to normal. Our community has shown true selflessness and courage in the past weeks – if we all continue to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve, we can get through this crisis ~ Chuck Washington

How Does COVID-19 Affect the 2020 Census?

In recent issues of Chuck's Chronicles, we've stressed the importance of having a complete and accurate count of every person residing in Riverside County on April 1, 2020. Every individual who is not counted in the 2020 census represents \$2,000 in lost funding for schools, health care and other essential services. Despite causing complications, COVID-19 will NOT stop the 2020 census.

The U.S. Census Bureau created plans for continuing operations during a pandemic – they will utilize these plans during the current COVID-19 crisis. The enumeration period of the 2020 census has been extended – Aug. 14 is now the last day to fill out the census. Members of the public may begin completing the census as soon as they receive their official Census Bureau mailed invitation, which will contain information and a census identification number that will allow them to complete the form online or by phone. Some homes will also receive paper census questionnaires.

For information on how to fill out the census, please visit www.2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020 from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. The County of Riverside is working alongside the U.S. Census Bureau, government entities and community partners and stakeholders to make sure that you count in the 2020 Census!

Taxes: What Has Changed?

COVID-19 has brought uncertainty and change to many aspects of our lives, including the way we file taxes. Here's what you need to know:

Federal Income Taxes: The filing deadline for federal income taxes has been postponed from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020. This postponement gives taxpayers extra time to contribute to their IRA and HSA accounts for 2019. The IRS is encouraging individuals to file their tax returns, as this information will be used to disperse economic impact payments. However, social security beneficiaries who do not typically file tax returns do not need to file one to receive their payment. Additional information on economic impact payments can be found at www.irs.gov/coronavirus. Taxpayers who have an annual income of \$69,000 or less may still file their federal income taxes for free at www.irs.gov/filing. Taxpayers may also file their state income taxes at this site, but some of the offered online programs require extra fees to file state income taxes. To avoid these extra fees, file state taxes through the State of California Franchise Tax Board (see below for details).

State Income Taxes: The filing deadline for state income taxes has also been postponed to July 15, 2020. This extension applies to any business with a California return or payment due between March 12 and July 15. Taxpayers may file their state income taxes online through CalFile at www.ftb.ca.gov.

Property Taxes: In order to assist local governments with their COVID-19 response, the State of California has NOT extended the due date for property taxes. Property tax payments are due April 10, 2020. Payments can be made online at www.countytreasurer.org, by phone at 951-955-3900 or by mailing a check, money order or cashier's check. Taxpayers who will be unable to pay their property taxes by April 10 can request to have their penalty fees cancelled. Find more information at www.countytreasurer.org/COVID-19SpecialCircumstances.aspx.

During this tough time, the federal, state and local government are working together to serve constituents while keeping in mind the difficulties they are facing.



RivCoDCSS – We are Here to Help!

Contributed by Marquese Howard

During this extremely difficult situation with coronavirus (COVID-19), nothing is more important to the Riverside County Department of Child Support Services (RivCoDCSS) than the health and safety of the communities we serve.

We'd like to reassure you that RivCoDCSS will continue programs and services, but they may be adapted based on ongoing changes. Our customer service lobbies are closed to the public until further notice, as our offices are Flattening the Curve in alliance with Riverside County measures. We know many of you may need help getting the financial and medical support you need during this time. We are here to help.

Live Chat: We also want you to have confidence that we can assist you virtually anywhere, anytime. Visit our Live Chat option on our website, riversidechildsupport.com, during regular business hours, and you can speak to a live agent to answer your child support questions.

Customer Connect: Customer Connect is California Child Support's online self-service portal, where you can see information about your child support case, set up notifications and make or arrange appointments with a child support specialist. You can log in to your Customer Connect account and communicate directly with your caseworker for assistance.

Phone: You can contact us by phone and speak to a representative. The toll-free telephone number is 866-901-3212. Live operators are available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We provide services in both English and Spanish.

Ways to Pay: If you need to make a child support payment, we have a variety of ways to make your payment: PayPal, PayNearMe, Money Gram, Touch Pay Kiosks, postal mail, and online payments. For more information on how to make a payment, visit the RivCoDpss website.

If you would like to make a payment in person, our Riverside (2081 Iowa Ave, Riverside, CA 92507) branch is for TouchPay kiosk payments only! If you don't have a case and have questions, you can also contact us by phone using the number above.

During this time of crisis, California Child Support Services knows that the need for financial support for your children will continue, and you may have lost wages or are worrying about missing payments. *(cont'd p. 5).*



A Riverside County DPSS employee provides services to constituents.

RivCoDCSS – We are Here to Help! (cont'd)

California Child Support Services is now temporarily stopping the automatic placement of bank liens and suspension of drivers' licenses, effective on March 17, 2020. Please note there may be instances where actions were already in the process, and you will need to contact the agency handling your case.

As always, the health, safety and well-being of our community are of paramount concern. We will continue to monitor this quickly evolving situation, and we are here to assist customers as needed. For more information about we can better serve you, please visit our RivCoDCSS's website: riversidechildsupport.com.

Third District Staff Update

During the COVID-19 crisis, the Riverside County Third District Supervisor's office is working remotely to answer your questions about property taxes, COVID-19 orders, obtaining benefits and other County-related matters. Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 951-955-1030 or send an email to d3email@rivco.org, and your case will be forwarded to the appropriate party. There are eight professional and responsive staffers in the Third District office, each one with a different specialty. We've had some staffing changes recently, so see the descriptions below and feel free to reach out directly to our staff members according to their area of expertise.

- Michelle DeArmond (MDeArmond@rivco.org) serves as chief-of-staff.
- Opal Hellweg (OHellweg@rivco.org) specializes in social services for individuals over the age of 50 and is the liaison to Economic Development.
- Sundae Sayles (SSayles@rivco.org) specializes in social services for individuals under the age of 50 and is the liaison to the County's public health system.
- Claudia Maunz-McLellan (CMaunz@rivco.org) serves as scheduler for Supervisor Washington and liaison to Animal Services.
- Robyn Brock (RBrock@rivco.org) handles transportation and land management and property tax questions.
- Sarah Rodriguez (SArrodr@rivco.org) is our communications director and is liaison to the County's mental health programs.
- Pacifica Hoffenberg (PHoffenberg@rivco.org) oversees youth affairs and serves as liaison to Veterans' Services.
- Our newest staffer, Andrea Mares (AnMares@rivco.org), manages public safety affairs.