

February 28, 2019

Community Update

by John A. Corella, P.E. – Director of Engineering/Public Works



On February 14, 2019, the Coachella Valley received a record-breaking flash flood that wreaked havoc on arterial roads that pass through the Whitewater River Channel. Road closures along the Wash caused tremendous traffic backups throughout the city during the peak of the storm. Using the statistical data collected from the rainstorm at Palm Springs locations, Cathedral City received approximately 3.51 inches of rain. This was the wettest day in 76 years of keeping records and the third rainiest day on the record books. According to the Riverside County Flood Control Agency, this was a 200-year, 12-hour storm. What does this mean? A lot of water runoff with no immediate place to go!

At the onset of the storm there were significant full and partial road closures. Specifically, having occurred at Cathedral Canyon at the Whitewater River Channel low water crossing, Date Palm Drive at Los Gatos Road, Ramon Road east of Date Palm Drive, Date Palm Drive south of Ramon Road, Vista Chino at the Whitewater River, Varner Road west of Edom Hill Road, Varner Road east of Date Palm Drive and Tortuga Road east of Santoro Drive. Exasperating the traffic in our city, the City of Palm Springs had to close Vista Chino, Indian Avenue and Gene Autry Trail at the Whitewater River Channel as well. Additionally, Cal Trans closed Highway 111 at Windy Point, a major arterial road that connects Palm Springs with I-10. This caused extensive traffic delays in Cathedral City as the only means to reach I-10 from Palm Springs was Ramon Road and Date Palm Drive, both in Cathedral City.

Were we prepared for this kind of storm event? YES.

Did the City roadways sustain damages? YES.

Did the City Public Works, Engineering, Police and Fire Crews respond to the dynamic situation? YES.

I am happy to report that our city departments worked together to methodically complete strategic road repair as well as temporary modifications to get streets open so that residents, visitors and emergency responders could move around the city safely.

Significant closures and repairs in detail occurred at:

- Cathedral Canyon low water crossing at the Whitewater River Channel lost the 2 northbound lanes of this 4-lane crossing. With water flows estimated at 15,000 to 22,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), this portion of roadway sustained significant damage and will be out of service for the next three to four weeks. Since February 14th, this crossing area has been evaluated by the City Engineer's office and repairs are underway to restore 2 lanes of the original 4 lane crossing. (This decision is based on the fact that the proposed Cathedral Canyon Bridge Project at this location has been designed and is shovel ready. The City should be getting the Federal funding necessary to start this Bridge Project toward the end of this year, if not sooner.) City crews are working with SCE and Spectrum to protect exposed utility cables under this crossing, and as soon as their work is complete, the City's emergency repair contractor will commence with the repair work on the crossing, which will include new striping and traffic safety signage.
- Date Palm Drive at Los Gatos Road suffered severe flooding along with a sink hole. All 3 southbound lanes on this section of roadway were closed as well as the number 3 northbound lane where the sinkhole occurred. By the end of day on February 14th, city crews had cleared the drains and repaired the sinkhole in the roadway.
- Date Palm Drive south of Ramon Road and Ramon Road east of Date Palm Drive had lanes that were closed due to the flood waters compromising a developer's power line trench work. This contractor is working on future SCE underground power lines to support a project on Ramon Road. The contractor responded to the City inspector's immediate requirement to abandon the excavations and fill in the trenches with base dirt in order to get the road back open. Once these trenches were filled, the lanes on both the roadways were reopened that afternoon. The contractor will be restarting the work in this area this week.
- Vista Chino at the Whitewater River Channel was closed initially by the City of Palm Springs, as this is their section of roadway. In kind, our City crews closed the roadway at the Cathedral City limits on the east bank of the Whitewater River Channel. This section of roadway was cleaned up by the City of Palm Springs and was reopened two days after the rain event.
- Varner Road west of Edom Hill was closed for short time as water passing over the roadway at the Willow Hole drainage path started eroding the downstream portion (eastbound lane) of the roadway. After the Engineering Department staff evaluated the damage, minor repairs were made to make the roadway safe for the short term, and the roadway was reopened in less than two hours. More significant and permanent repairs will be made in the upcoming weeks as the road remains open.
- Varner Road east of Date Palm suffered an eastbound shoulder washout, thus making the roadway unsafe for vehicle passage. City crews evaluated the damage and assessed that this portion of roadway was within the County of Riverside sphere and not within Cathedral City's. The City corresponded with the County of Riverside Road Department and the County responded with shoulder repairs that allowed the road to be reopened in a few hours.

- Tortuga Road east of Santoro received large volumes of water and mud, which flooded the street up to the right of way line at the back of the sidewalks. Once flood waters receded, city crews responded with mud and debris cleanup efforts to allow residents a safe passage to their homes. The efforts to clean up the street took a few days as the volume of mud was significant.

City Staff estimates that over \$1.5 million in damage to roadways occurred as a result of the storm. Most of the significant damaged happened at the Cathedral Canyon Whitewater River Channel low water crossing.

As with any storm and flooding event, the city staff took this as an opportunity to see exactly where infrastructure weaknesses were. As a result, staff will be proposing in this next year's Capital Improvement Program specific projects that will mitigate some of the road closures that typically occur during these events. As for Cathedral Canyon Drive at the Whitewater River Channel, the city will do the necessary repairs to reopen the roadway with 2 lanes to create a safe passage for motorists in the interim period before the \$20 million Cathedral Canyon Bridge Project gets started later this year.

Storm events, as we just had, make driving around town difficult and stretches our level of patience. We saw firsthand the professionalism and dedication our city's roadway crews and first responders. Hats off to their extraordinary efforts and we thank you for your patience while we continue the work of reopening Cathedral Canyon Drive at the Whitewater River Channel.





City Council Calls for Special Election to Replace Seat Vacated by the Death of Mayor Pettis

After hearing from candidates and input from the general public, the City Council voted at the February 27th council meeting to call for a special election to fill the seat vacated by the death of Mayor Pettis. The special election will be a mail ballot only election in order to fill the seat at its earliest opportunity under the state ... [Read more.](#)



Cathedral City

Deadline for Applying for the Cathedral City Historic Preservation Committee is Thursday

At the January 9, 2019, City Council Meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance 821 which created the Cathedral City Historic Preservation Committee. This Committee shall consist of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the City Council. Two of the initial committee members shall be appointed to serve a two-year term and three of the initial members shall be ... [Read more.](#)

New Category for Cathedral City LGBT Days' Bed Race

Who will go home with the winner's trophy this year? Join Us. Promote your organization or business. Have a good time! Saturday morning, March 30 for the unique Cathedral City Pride Parade, the 5th annual LGBT Days



Bed Race. Host Bella da Ball will officiate the morning's activities that promise a little drama and suspense. Entertainment starts at 10:15 ...[Read more](#).



SCAM ALERT: Calls Related to an Arrest Warrant

Information has been received by the Cathedral City Police Department that someone is calling citizens at random and telling them they are a police sergeant with the Cathedral City Police Department and they have an arrest warrant for them. They are then requesting money or giving directions to deposit money into an account. This is not true, it is a ...[Read more](#).

The New Agua Caliente Elementary School Opens in the Dream Homes Neighborhood

On Wednesday February 20th, Councilmember Ernesto Gutierrez (4th District) along with Mayor Mark Carnevale and City Manager Charlie McClendon joined hundreds of proud students, teachers, school board members, and staff as they paraded from the old Agua Caliente Elementary School to the new \$40 million Agua Caliente Elementary School Campus in Cathedral City's Dream Homes neighborhood. The 82,544 facility is ...[Read more](#).





Cathedral City

Fourteen Candidates Apply to Fill Vacancy on City Council

The unfortunate passing of Mayor Pettis has opened a vacancy on the Council. The City Charter and State Law require City Council action to fill the vacated seat. During the Council meeting on February 13, 2019 the City Attorney outlined the options available to the Council to fill the vacant seat. After hearing extensive testimony from the public Council decided ...[Read more.](#)

“State of the City” Happens March 5th

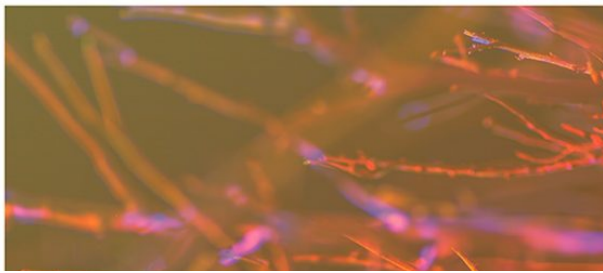
The Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce will host the annual “State of the City” on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. The event offers an opportunity to learn more about all the progress being made in Cathedral City and plans for 2019. This year’s theme is “The Year We Rise”. It will highlight all the ...[Read more.](#)



Events

Cristopher Cichocki's “Desert Sea” Exhibit (February 15 - May 5)

Internationally recognized, Coachella Valley artist, Cristopher Cichocki, will create his latest art installation entitled, “Desert Sea,” on the Festival Lawn, 68-600 East Palm Canyon Drive, in Downtown Cathedral City with a scheduled opening on Friday, February 15, 2019 through Sunday, May 5, 2019. Desert Sea unveils a fusion of materials derived from the Coachella Valley that include Salton Sea barnacles, ...[Read more.](#)



Stop Identity Theft Program

To help STOP identity theft and as a service to its residents, the City of Cathedral City is hosting FREE Document Shredding Events. The Shredding Events are the first Saturday of the month October thru May each year...[Read more.](#)

The City of Cathedral City

Stop Identity Theft Program

FREE!

To help STOP identity theft and as a service to its residents, the City of Cathedral City is hosting FREE Document Shredding Events. The Shredding Events are the first Saturday of the month October thru May each year.

WHEN: 2018 **Saturday, October 6, November 3 and December 1**
2019 **Saturday, January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6 and May 4**

TIME: **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**
Arrive early – once the shredding truck is filled to capacity the event will end.

LOCATION: **68-510 East Palm Canyon Drive**

EXAMPLES OF DOCUMENTS:

- Legal documents
- Medical records
- Financial statements
- Accounting files/records
- Personnel files
- Payroll records
- Bank statements
- Tax records
- Contracts
- Receipts/invoices
- Cancelled checks
- Photographs
- Credit card documents

You're not limited to the items listed – bring all your sensitive documents.

TIPS:

- You do not need to remove paper clips, staples, file folders, report covers, envelopes or binder clips from your documents.
- You can bring your documents in boxes or plastic bags.

RESTRICTIONS:

- Limited to Cathedral City **RESIDENTS** only.
- Be prepared to show proof of residency or bring this postcard to the event.
- Limit 5 banker sized boxes per resident or household.
- **No businesses allowed.**
- Remove all trash items from your boxes or bags!
- Items like pens, pencils or regular household trash cannot be shredded.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL (760) 770-0369
EMAIL dpressgrove@cathedralcity.gov

MORE:

- Your documents will be shredded on site – you will be able to witness the entire process.
- Arrive early – once the shredding truck is filled to capacity the event will end.
- This is a free event – there is no charge to shred your documents.

Cathedral City
DiscoverCathedralCity.com

State of the City 2019

The Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce presents the annual “State of the City.”

The lunch portion begins at 11:30 am.

Tickets for the luncheon are available at www.gcvcc.org

The State of the City address begins at 12:30 pm and is free to the public...[Read](#)




more.

Two for Tuesday


Cathedral City residents can ice skate for half-price on the first Tuesday of every month (excluding holidays) at Desert Ice Castle. Just bring proof of being a Cathedral City resident, such as an Driver's license, copy of a utility bill, or any other form of residential proof. Ages 3 years and up. The Time for Public Skate Available for "Two ...[Read more.](#)

Two for Tuesday

at
DESERT ICE CASTLE
1st Tuesday of Every Month




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"the coolest fun in the desert"

DESERT ICE CASTLE
68-600 Perez Road
Cathedral City
(760) 324-0400
info@deserticecastle.com



Cathedral City

www.DiscoverCathedralCity.com

Day of the Young Child

Join the Consortium for Early Learning Services Eastern Region & Partners for the "Day of the Young Child" on Saturday, March 9, 2019 from 9 am to 12 pm. The event provides information from local resources and offers free snacks,



children's performances, entertainment, kids activities, special guests and more!

If you are interested in sponsoring or participating in the event, please contact Jennifer Haessley at (951) 778-5003 or jhaessley@consortiumels.org

[Read more.](#)

Speakers Series - Friends of the Cathedral City Library



New Speakers Series Comes to the Cathedral City Library The Friends of the Cathedral City Library invite you to join them for a new Speakers Series featuring bestselling authors, writers, and producers. This free event will host the following: Maggie Downs and Tod Goldberg, "Tales from the Open Book Radio Show & Podcast" Calling all book lovers! Join journalist ...[Read more.](#)



Food Truck Mash-Up

If you came to the 5th Annual Cathedral City Hot Air Balloon Festival and enjoyed the Food Truck Mash-Up, then you are going to LOVE the Food Truck Mash-Up on Saturday, March 16, 2018 from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm. More than 25 of the best food trucks from SoCal will be here for your enjoyment as well as musical ...[Read more.](#)

5th Annual Cathedral City LGBT Days

March 29 - 31, 2019

[Read more.](#)

Greater Palm Springs Fast Pitch for Entrepreneurs

The excitement is real as entrepreneurs from across the Coachella Valley compete in this Shark-Tank-style fast pitch competition. The audience will help select three winners who will take home cash prizes, and the top two contestants will advance to the countywide Fast Pitch Finale in Corona, CA. Part of Riverside County Innovation Month... [Read more.](#)



Fast Pitch

GREATER PALM SPRINGS
April 11, 2019 | 5 - 7 pm
UCR PALM DESERT CAMPUS
75080 FRANK SINATRA DRIVE

Entrepreneurs, it's time to submit your business idea for the 2019 Fast Pitch Greater Palm Springs!

Finalists will have the opportunity to meet with a business coach for training and feedback prior to pitching their idea to a panel of 4 judges and the 5th judge - the audience.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners compete for a share of \$1,000 in Cash Prizes

1st and 2nd place winners advance to the Riverside County Fast Pitch Finale

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply, and may the top entrepreneurs win!

e!evate

RIVERSIDE COUNTY INNOVATION MONTH

EAST VALLEY COALITION

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE EDA
Economic Development Authority

CVEP

3111 EAST TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY, PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92262
760.340.1575 | INFO@CVEP.COM | CVEP.COM



Easter Kidapalooza

For more information, [Click Here.](#)

For Questions or Comments, Contact Chris Parman, Communications and Events Manager
cparman@cathedralcity.gov

