

April 2, 2020

## Community Update

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



Since my last update, significant changes in how we are operating daily have occurred due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, but please be assured that construction and project planning related to transportation, public works, medical and housing are continuing per the Federal, State and Local Orders.

Over the past few weeks, I have received several phone calls from constituents regarding the ongoing construction projects around the City and that the “Stay at Home” orders are not being followed. Just for clarification, the Governor’s order on March 19, 2020 and reinforced by the Governor at today’s press conference, construction projects can continue unless a County specifically issues a shutdown order for construction projects. To date we have not received an order such as this.

With respect to the above, your City’s Engineering Staff will continue working on the current projects under construction and are accelerating the planning of our next fiscal year’s projects. Why accelerate plans? Our goal is that once the Pandemic is over and our lives get back to normal, we will do our part in getting the Coachella Valley back to humming along once again.

With all the above stated, let’s look at the status of key Projects that we reviewed in the last Community Update:

### **Roadwork and Paving**

**Phase 6 of the City’s Pavement Management Program** (Project) is nearly complete. All that is left to do on the below listed \$2,068,000 Project is cleanup, safety signage, striping and red curb painting: This paving and roadway work Project, completed by Hardy & Harper, Inc. (Contractor) to complete this work as part of the overall Project cost. As a reminder the four areas where work will be completed are:

- **The West Whitewater Neighborhood Street Improvements.** This Project repaved Shifting Sands, Whispering Palms Trail and Sky Blue Water Trail from Ramon Road to Mission Indian Trail.
- **South Panorama Neighborhood Street Improvements.** This Project repaved Avenida La Paloma, Avenida La Gaviota and Whispering Palms Trail from Ramon Road north to Baristo Road and Baristo Road from Landau to Whispering Palms Trail.

- **Avenida Ximino Neighborhood Street Improvements.** This Project repaved and fix drainage on portions of Vega Road, Avenida Ximino, Susan Drive, Paulina Avenue, Walker Street, Joaquine Way and Perlita Road.
- **Avenida Maravilla (La Pasada) Street Improvements.** This Project, completed today, paving on Avenida Maravilla from Vista Chino to the northerly limits of Avenida Maravilla in the La Pasada Community.

We appreciate the cooperation the residents that live on the above area streets gave our contractor by moving cars and putting up with the inconveniences associated with the work.

### **The Ofelia Bringas Memorial Bridge Project (Project)**

The Ofelia Brings Memorial Bridge (formerly The Cathedral Canyon Bridge) Project construction contract has been approved! After weeks of waiting for Cal Trans' final approvals, at the March 25, 2020 the City Council approved a \$19,176,882.00 construction contract to Ames Construction, Inc. (Ames). All totaled with contingencies the City Council approved \$21,094,570.20 in Project funding for this construction phase that included a 10% contingency, tribal monitoring and other construction related support services.

Ames is listed as a top 100 Heavy Civil and Industrial contractor in the United States, with significant past experience completing, and not limited to, bridge and interchange projects, power plants, dams and reservoirs, freeways and mines. The Project is scheduled to start this upcoming mid-June and scheduled to be completed within 2 years. Currently, Engineering Staff is waiting for the return of the contract, surety and insurance documents in anticipation of holding a preconstruction meeting to kick off the Project. The onsite construction Project Management firm for the Project is TY Lin International, Inc., which was selected and approved by the City Council this past summer of 2019.

As mentioned in my past update, this overall \$26,721,250 Project will cost the City \$766,232 in participation funding with the Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) Grant and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) picking up the other portions.

### **Staff and Work During the COVID -19 Pandemic**

The City is committed to serving the needs of its residents. The Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Departments have changed how we are doing business, but not what we are providing. Residents should not see a change in the essential services that we provide on a day-to-day basis. The roadways, traffic signals and bridges are still being maintained, facilities such as our fire stations and police facilities, are in excellent operational order and engineering is providing essential support services. Many employees in these Departments are working remotely, which the average caller and or/emailer would not notice. The employees that do have to report to City facilities for work, have incorporated all the prescribed safety guidelines outlined by the various health and safety organizations during this COVID-19 Pandemic.

Please practice "Social Distancing" and "Stay at Home." Even though there is less traffic on the roads right now, please drive within the speed limits and be safe.

If you have any questions regarding this Community Update and the Projects discussed, please call me, John A. Corella, P.E. at 760-770-0327 or email me at [JCorella@cathedralcity.gov](mailto:JCorella@cathedralcity.gov) .



## Business Support

Cathedral City Economic Development



## Mayor Aguilar Provides Information on How You Can Help Stop the Spread

There is so much information out there on what you should do or not do when dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic. Mayor Aguilar presents this video on the six simple prevention tips that will help keep your family safe and to stop the spread. Take a look. [Read more.](#)

Independent  
Contractors and Gig

## Workers May Qualify for Unemployment Benefits

As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Response, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) passed by Congress, independent contractors and gig workers are eligible for unemployment benefits for the first time. Typically, these types of workers are not eligible due to not being an employee and not paying into the system over time. However, due to these unprecedented times and a ...

[Read more.](#)

## CGA Offers Its Top 10 Tips for a Safe Grocery Shopping Experience

Grocery store employees are working diligently not only to keep store shelves stocked, but also to increase the frequency of cleaning to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

With Stay in Place orders extended at least another 30-days, Ron Fong, President and CEO of the California Grocers Association released the following statement along with...[Read more.](#)



## Governor and County Update the FAQs

On April 1, 2020, a new Frequently Asked Questions memo was issued based on the governor's and county public health officer's orders:

Download FAQs [Read more.](#)

## Ready-to-Go Recycle Art Boxes for Kids

Do your part. Stay at home. Recycle and make art! Get ready to reduce, reuse, recycle, cut and paste. Sign-up to receive an art box for kids to explore their creativity and help the planet. Each Ready-To-Go Recycle Art Box is filled with ideas, tutorials and a

Read more.

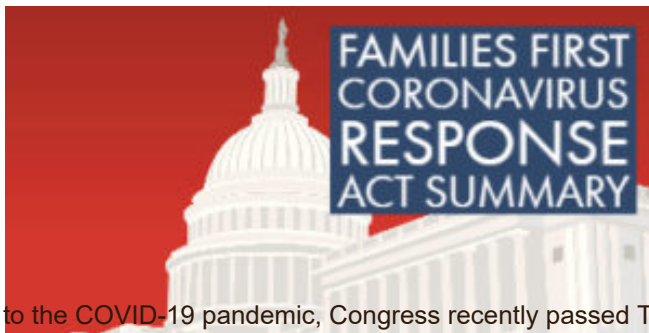


We are so grateful to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for their generous donation of the much-needed N95 masks for our city fire fighters. The Tribe donated 520 masks. In addition, members of the

Read more.

On March 30, 2020, the Health Officer for the County of Riverside issued an Amended Order clarifying the Governor's "Stay-at-Home" Order as related to Short Term Lodging Facilities prohibiting the rental or leasing of Short-Term Lodging Facilities within the County of Riverside, including the City of Cathedral City. This order by the City of Cathedral City's Director of Emergency Services ...[Read more.](#)





## Coronavirus Response Act Goes into Effect Today

In an effort to provide eligible employees paid family and medical leave and paid sick leave in response

to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress recently passed The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (the Act). The Act provides eligible employees with emergency paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19, such as medical care for ...

[Read more.](#)

## Don't Be a Fool – Complete Your U.S. Census Questionnaire Today

Today, April 1st is the U.S. Census Day! Wherever you are residing today is the place where you register for the U.S. Census. Be Counted, Cathedral City! It is incredibly important that every resident of Cathedral City gets counted for the U.S. Census. Each person counted in Cathedral City is estimated to bring \$2,000 in federal funding back to our ...[Read more.](#)

APRIL 1, 2020 IS

# U.S. CENSUS DAY!

BE COUNTED, CATHEDRAL CITY!



Information is confidential for 72 years



Each resident counted equals an estimated \$2,000 per year for health care, schools, roads and bridges, parks and much more...



All residents must be counted every 10 years

**Everyone counts.**

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.





BE COUNTED, CATHEDRAL CITY!

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¡EL 1 DE ABRIL DE 2020 ES

# DÍA DEL CENSO DE EE. UU.!

¡SÉ CONTADO, CATHEDRAL CITY!



La información es confidencial por 72 años



Cada residente que es contado equivale a un estimado de \$2,000 anuales para el cuidado de la salud, escuelas, carreteras y puentes, parques y mucho más ...



Todos los residentes Deben ser contados cada 10 años

**Todos cuentan.**

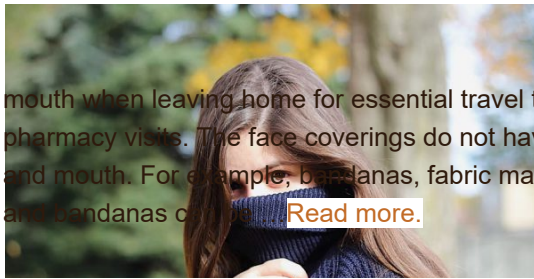
El censo cuenta cada persona que vive en los EE. UU. una vez, solo una vez y en el lugar correcto.





CATHEDRAL CITY, DEJATE CONTAR

Riverside County Issues New Public Health Recommendation to Stay in Your Place, Maintain Your Space, and Cover Your Face



mouth when leaving home for essential travel to doctor appointments, grocery shopping or pharmacy visits. The face coverings do not have to be hospital grade but need to cover the nose and mouth. For example, bandanas, fabric masks and neck gaiters are acceptable. Fabric covers and bandanas can be used. [Read more.](#)

Riverside County health officials are recommending residents cover their nose and

## Riverside County Seeking Donations for Medical and Non-Medical Supplies

Riverside University Health System is gearing up for a surge in the number of patients stricken with the coronavirus and they are asking for your help. If you have any of the following medical and non-medical supplies, please contact them at your earliest opportunity at [medicalsupplies@rivco.org](mailto:medicalsupplies@rivco.org): [Read more.](#)

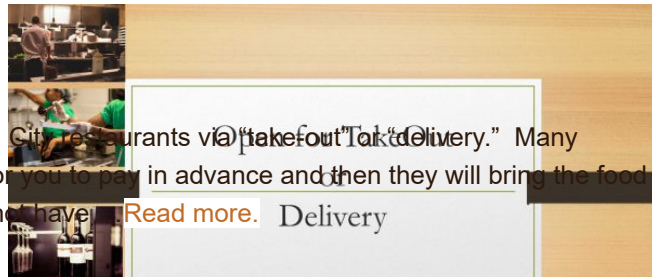


## Governor Newsom Asking for Licensed Medical Professionals and Student Medical Graduates to Care for California

California is preparing for an increase in the number of people who urgently need health care in our communities during the COVID-19 outbreak. To meet this moment, we're opening additional health care sites to treat people affected by COVID-19 and to relieve the pressure on our health care system by providing care for non-COVID-19 cases. To ensure adequate staff for ...[Read more.](#)

## Tired of Cooking? Support Cathedral City Restaurants With "Take-Out," "Delivery," or "Gift Cards"

As we abide by the “Stay at Home” order during the CoronaVirus pandemic, you are still allowed to enjoy your favorite dishes from Cathedral City restaurants via “takeout” or “delivery.” Many restaurants have devised new systems for you to pay in advance and then they will bring the food to your car (curb side service) if they do not have a “takeout” or “delivery.”



## Clean Your Smart Phone to Prevent the Spread

Watch CCTV Host Conrad Angel Corral as he interviews Dr. Benjamin Milam about the importance of cleaning your smart phone daily. Dr. Milam believes the smart phone may be one of the most contagious items we have that we then put against our

face. Learn a simple, smart way to clean your phone to prevent the spread of the . . . [Read more.](#)



## COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

Never Underestimate the Power of Community

## SCE Offering Assistance During the CoronaVirus Pandemic

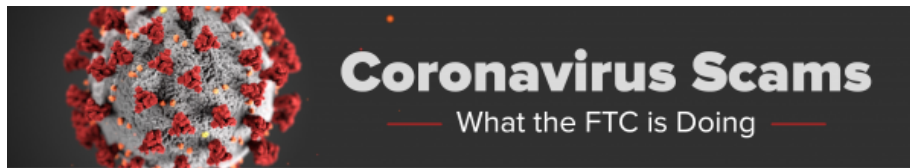
Download Resource Guide [Read more.](#)



## Pandemics Cause Stress and Depression – Help Is a Phone Call Away

Much like any natural disaster, the Coronavirus pandemic can cause stress, depression, and anger that can affect your emotional health. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline – 1-800-985-5990 (or text TalkWithUs to 66746) – provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to anyone who is seeking help in

copng with the mental or emotional effects ...[Read more.](#)



## COVID-19 Fraud Tips by the Federal Trade Commission

Any time there is a national or world crisis, there are always some people out to make a dishonest, quick buck. Here are tips from the Federal Trade Commission to prevent you from becoming a victim: Hang up on robocalls. Don't press any numbers. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from scam Coronavirus treatments to work-at-home schemes. The recording might ...[Read more.](#)

## Greater Palm Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau Restaurant List



Check out all the great flavors in Cathedral City offered by the Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau's Restaurant List. [Read more.](#)



## Coronavirus: Leaving and Returning Home: What to Do?

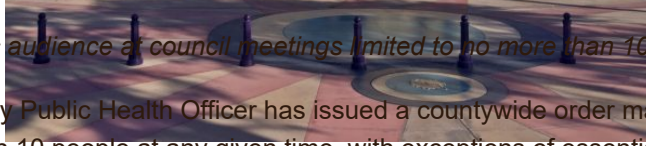
Watch this video as CCTV Host Conrad Angel Corral interviews Dr. Benjamin Milam, a Doctor of Internal Medicine, on what you can do if you must leave home and what to do

when returning home as it related to the coronavirus pandemic. Everyone will learn ... [Read more.](#)

## EVENTS



## Cathedral City Postpones April Special Events



*Public audience at council meetings limited to no more than 10 people*

The Riverside County Public Health Officer has issued a countywide order mandating all venues to have no more than 10 people at any given time, with exceptions of essential personnel, through the end of April. The City of Cathedral City will suspend all ... [Read more.](#)



For Questions or Comments, Contact Chris Parman, Communications and Events Manager  
[cparman@cathedralcity.gov](mailto:cparman@cathedralcity.gov)

