

May 28, 2020

## Community Update

by Chris Parman, Communications & Events Manager



### A Doctor's Call for Help Nets 90,000 Masks, 20,000 Gowns, 1,000+Volunteers and Lucie Arnaz

Back in March when the Coronavirus began appearing in the Coachella Valley, Dr. Richard Loftus, an infectious disease expert here in the Coachella Valley, realized the vast quantity of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that was going to be needed in order to protect the frontline medical providers at local hospitals, nursing homes, health clinics, and social service organizations. He sounded the bells, raised his voice, and called some friends. One of the first people he called was local activist Shelley Blume who he has worked with helping the homeless. She and her friend Kay Gerhardt asked, "what do you need?" Dr. Loftus replied PPE and lots of it. Shelley and Kay began making a pattern for medical masks that required no sewing.

Within hours, Dr. Loftus contacted me and asked if the City could make a video with Shelley and Kay that could inform people of the need for masks and help recruit volunteers. I contacted CCTV Host Conrad Angel Corral to see if he would be willing to offer his support during a pandemic. Conrad replied, "You Bet!" Later that Saturday, Conrad and I filmed a video of Shelley Blume demonstrating how to make a mask for local doctors and nurses without having to sew a single stitch. The video received nearly 10,000 views on YouTube and 10,000 views on Facebook. The group's goal of 200 volunteers making 5 masks a day turned into over 1,000 people calling Shelley and Kay to volunteer including Judith Britt, who organized several large groups at various country clubs throughout the Coachella Valley.

At the same time, Dr. Loftus contacted a local celebrity friend, Lucie Arnaz. He said, Lucie, I need your help recruiting people to make masks and gowns or we are going to be in big trouble. Lucie

replied, “Whatever you need, I’m there for you!” She began calling trusted friends who are in the entertainment industry including costume makers and designers from local entertainment venues, such as CVRep Playhouse and The Purple Room. They began ramping up PPE production of their own at the 500 Building in Palm Springs.

Over a short amount of time, the two groups realized their separate existences and combined forces to help our frontline workers. Each group called in their volunteers and donors and the result was approximately 1,400 volunteers that produced more than 90,000 masks and 20,000 medical gowns to protect Coachella Valley frontline healthcare workers.

All of this happened because one doctor reached out to people he knew who had different life skills and networks and said, “Can you help?” They each answered his call, went to work, and helped save lives in the Coachella Valley. I know of many Cathedral City residents who heeded the call and went to work making masks and gowns. This is a prime example of how we are in this together!

Now that we are several months into this pandemic, it our collective hope that normal medical supplies lines can maintain the flow of PPE for our frontline healthcare providers to keep them safe.

## NEWS



### COVID-19 Information

Get the latest on Coronavirus Disease 2019



### Business Support

Cathedral City Economic Development



## City Council Honors the Retirement of Fire Chief Paul Wilson

At last night's city council meeting, Cathedral City reached another milestone with the retirement of Fire Chief Paul Wilson. Mayor John Aguilar praised Chief Wilson who has served our great city with honor, respect, and professionalism for the last five years. He played an instrumental role in bringing our fire department up to the standards we enjoy today with three ... [Read more.](#)

Mayor John Aguilar's  
Update on the  
Coronavirus and the  
Great Plates  
Delivered: Home  
Meals for Seniors  
Program



## Mayor John Aguilar Speaks about the Coronavirus Situation and the Great Plates Meal Program for Seniors

Watch the following video as Cathedral City Mayor John Aguilar speaks about the current situation with the coronavirus pandemic and how your actions will help us slowly open the economy in a safe manner. He also speaks about a new and exciting meal program for seniors earning less than \$75,000 a year that delivers local restaurant meals to their homes ... [Read more.](#)

Coronavirus Storytime with  
Councilmember Rita Lamb





As school children are required to Stay at Home during the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the reading to children programs have switched from the classroom to online. Councilmember Rita Lamb has taken the “Coronavirus Storytime” challenge that many people, including celebrities from around the world, are doing to keep children interested in reading. Councilmember

## “Junk Drawer” Art Challenge for Kids and Adults

The S.C.R.A.P. Gallery is hosting an art contest for kids and adults on who can create a work of art out of items found in a “junk drawer”. Participants have up until June 30, 2020 to submit a photo of the art and be eligible to win prizes. Judges want to be impressed by your creation and immediately reply, “Wow! ...[Read more.](#)



## Barber Shops and Hair Salons May Reopen in Riverside County

Governor Newsom just announced that barber shops and hair salons may reopen immediately in counties with COVID-19 attestation plans, such as Riverside County. These business must follow State Guidelines for hair salons

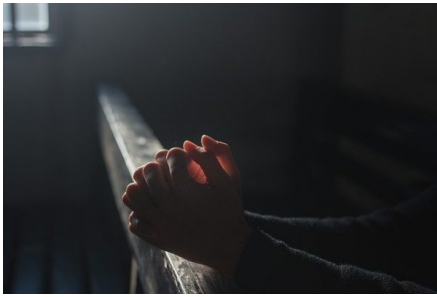
This allowance does not include nail salons at this time. [Read more.](#)

## Notice of Vacancies:

### Cathedral City Commissions & Committees



The City of Cathedral City announces vacancies on several Commissions/Committees. These terms will begin on July 1, 2020. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020, to the Office of the City Clerk, 68-700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero, Cathedral City, CA 92234, or by email to [tmartinez@cathedralcity.gov](mailto:tmartinez@cathedralcity.gov). Applications can be downloaded from the City’s website at [www.cathedralcity.gov](http://www.cathedralcity.gov) or ...[Read more.](#)



## Governor Allows Counties to Reopen Places of Worship with Modifications

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Public Health today announced the statewide reopening of places of worship for religious services and in-store retail shopping. Modifications are required to keep

Californians safe and limit the spread of COVID-19. Subject to approval by county public health departments, all retail stores can reopen for in-store shopping under previously issued guidelines. Under new guidance, ... [Read more.](#)

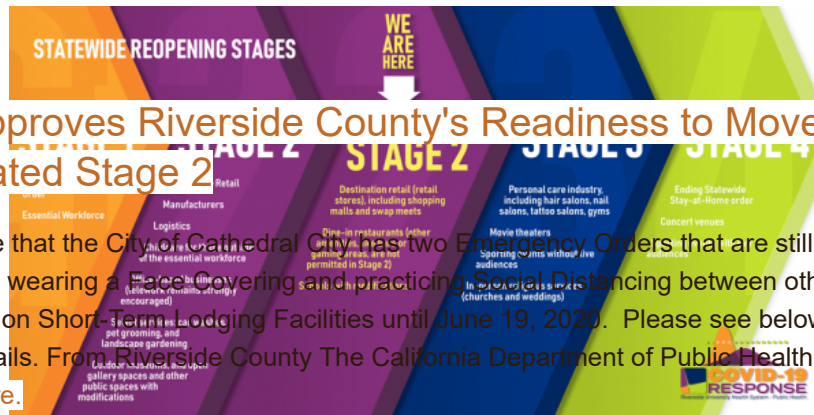


## Fresh Produce Donated to Cathedral City Senior Center

Thanks to the Coachella Valley farmworkers, seniors who utilize the free food pantry program at the Cathedral City Senior Center will have a great selection of fresh produce on Monday. Councilmember Rita Lamb along with Senior Center staff member Ron Casidine and Volunteer Thommy Kocan greeted Nancy and Lee who provided 10 boxes of fresh produce from local farms as ... [Read more.](#)

## State Approves Riverside County's Readiness to Move to Accelerated Stage 2

\*Please Note that the City of Cathedral City has two Emergency Orders that are still in effect. They include wearing a Face Covering and practicing Social Distancing between others as well as a prohibition on Short-Term Lodging Facilities until June 19, 2020. Please see below this article for more details. From Riverside County The California Department of Public Health approved ... [Read more.](#)



## EVENTS



## Cathedral City Postpones Special Events Until Further Notice

The Governor has issued a Stay at Home Order and the Riverside County Public Health Officer has issued social distancing orders through June 19, 2020. The City of Cathedral City will suspend all special events until further notice. [Read more.](#)



For Questions or Comments, Contact Chris Parman, Communications and Events Manager  
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