

April 29, 2021

National Zipper Day

Community Update

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

Public Improvements Continue to Progress

The Engineering and Public Works Departments continue their progress on various projects around the City upgrading existing infrastructure and adding new infrastructure, that overall, will improve the quality of life within Cathedral City.

The Ofelia Bringas Memorial Bridge Project:

The Ofelia Bringas Memorial Bridge Project (Project) has been under construction for almost a year and significant progress can be seen from the bypass roadway as the bridge construction has now risen from the bottom of the Whitewater River Channel. (Remember that the Project was formerly named the Cathedral Canyon Low Water Crossing at the Whitewater River Channel) The new Project's improvement will span from Paseo Azulejo at the south end to Canyon Shores Drive at the north end.)

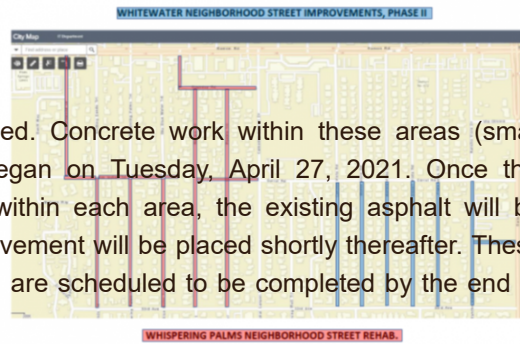


Motorist can see that the bridge piers (vertical supports that hold up the deck) are completed; abutments (supports for the deck at each end) work at each end of the bridge is in progress and formation of the deck (surface to cross bridge on) is well underway. In conjunction with these concrete and steel features, related storm drains and flood protection components at the banks and channel floor are also being constructed. Related utility relocations and bridge integration (where utilities are hung under the bridge) work continues.

The \$24 million Project is on schedule and is projected to be completed on May 10, 2022.

The Whispering Palms Neighborhood Pavement Rehabilitation Project and the Whitewater Neighborhood Street Improvements, Phase II Projects:

The Whispering Palms Neighborhood Pavement Rehabilitation Project and the Whitewater Neighborhood Street Improvements, Phase II Project, both have started. Concrete work within these areas (small portions of sidewalk and ADA corner ramps) began on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. Once this contractual concrete work has been completed within each area, the existing asphalt will be removed and trucked off for recycling. The new pavement will be placed shortly thereafter. These Projects, combined, will cost over \$1.6 million and are scheduled to be completed by the end of May.



HSIP Cycle 8 – 20 Intersections Project:

Projects, especially projects that are grant based, take time to progress to the construction phase. This is especially true for the current HSIP Cycle 8 – 20 Intersections Project (Project) that is currently under construction. Motorists might have noticed that some of our intersections signal timing is not the same as it was the day before as the project attempts to use new technology for better traffic management.

It has been a while since I discussed this Project with you, so I will provide you with a brief recap on this grant Project's history. Way back in 2016, the City submitted a Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Cycle 8 – 20 Intersections Project (Project) grant application to Cal Trans to modify 20 existing City traffic signals with upgraded traffic signal equipment, advance dilemma-zone detection features (the zone where you make a decision to stop when you see the yellow light), countdown pedestrian heads and enhanced vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle recognition at the Project designated intersections shown on map above.



In November of 2016, Caltrans notified the City that the HSIP Cycle 8 funding grant application was approved for 100% grant funding in the amount of \$1,674,000. Subsequently, after all the required Federal/State paperwork was completed, in July of 2017, the City contracted for the engineering design services (plan and specification preparation) for this Project.

With all the preliminary work completed, we finally got to the stage where the Project sought bids for construction and a contractor was selected to complete the actual signal modifications with the new and sophisticated equipment including cameras and radar. In July of 2020, the City Council awarded the construction contract for this Project in the amount of almost \$1.4 million.

The contractor immediately ordered the long lead time materials and has been working on the signals and related equipment at City intersections since November 2020. This Project, as equipment is received, is progressing daily, with installation of new equipment, rewiring of signals and modifying the signal timing coordination. This Project will be completed in August 2021.

All of these Projects will disrupt the normal flow of traffic within the City. We ask for your patience during these construction activities and respect the temporary traffic control measures (cones, signs, delineators, etc.). Please be mindful of the workers on the street and please follow the prescribed speed limits for their safety and yours.

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

COVID-19 INFORMATION

COVID-19 Info

Get the latest on Coronavirus Disease 2019



Business Support

Cathedral City Economic Development

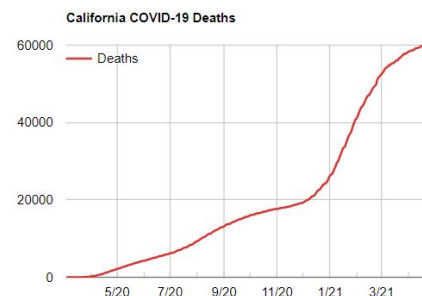
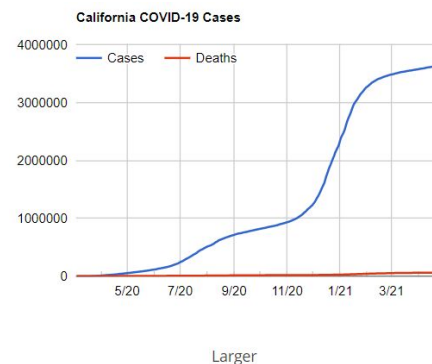


By the Numbers:

As of April 29, 2021, Cathedral City had a total of 7,120 confirmed COVID-19 cases (+4 since last week) and 110 reported deaths (+1 since last week). Other Coachella Valley cities are reporting the following:

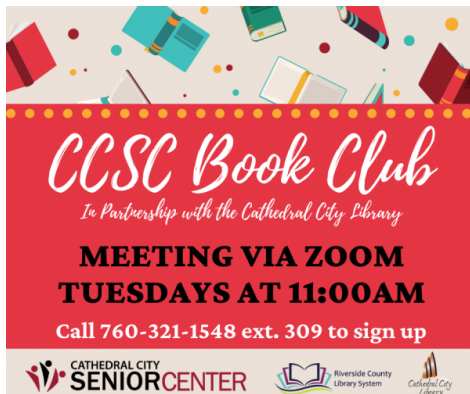
Coachella 7,897 cases (+9), 95 deaths (+1)
Desert Hot Springs 4,209 cases (+8), 73 deaths (+1)
Indian Wells 195 cases (+2), 6 deaths (+0)
Indio 12,271 cases (+9), 223 deaths (+0)
La Quinta 3,415 cases (+7), 61 deaths (+0)
Palm Desert 3,940 cases (+7), 118 deaths (+0)
Palm Springs 3,733 cases (+8), 125 deaths (+0)
Rancho Mirage 1,099 cases (+3), 49 deaths (+0)

Riverside County has reported 298,366 COVID-19 cases (+596), 4,568 deaths (+13), and 291,978 recovered cases (+664).



Entrepreneur with a Cathedral City Connection Wins Innovation Award

Information Supplied by CVEP: Technology entrepreneur Bear Simerson, a graduate of Cathedral City High School, is the first entrepreneur from the Coachella Valley to come in first at the Fourth Annual Riverside County Fast Pitch Finale held on April 28, 2021. Simerson was one of five Riverside County entrepreneurs who qualified for the Finale by taking top honors at an ... [Read more.](#)



New Book Club Sponsored by the Public Library and Senior Center

Most of us know about the Oprah Book Club, but did you know that Cathedral City has its very own? The Cathedral City Public Library and the Cathedral City Senior Center have teamed up to bring our residents a book club that connects neighbors through shared reading and healthy discussions. Best of all, the book club is virtual so you ... [Read more.](#)

"Swiss Cheese" Art Sculpture Reinstalled at Panorama Park

On Monday, City crews installed the "Swiss Cheese" art sculpture at the northwest corner of Panorama Park (Calada Road and Peladora Road). Commissioned by the self-taught artist, Simi Dabah, this beautiful metal art piece is left in its natural state, rusting to a warm patina. Mr. Dabah donated this sculpture to the Cathedral City Public Arts Commission many years ago. ... [Read more.](#)



Getting Vaccinated in Riverside County Just Got Easier



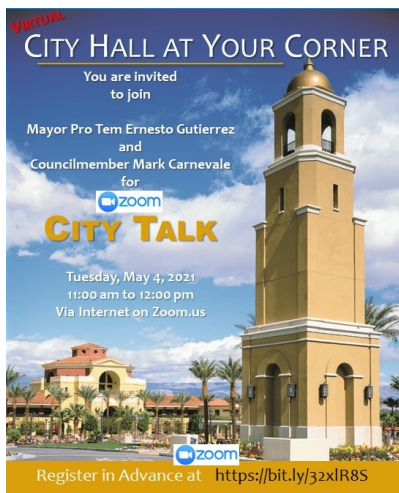
Riverside County has made some recent changes that makes it easier to get the COVID-19 vaccine. First, all eligible persons are able to go to a Riverside County vaccine location and not have to prove Riverside County residency. Second, you no longer need an appointment to get vaccinated, you can simply walk into a vaccination location and ask to be ... [Read more.](#)

Grocery Outlet Bargain Market Holding a Job Fair in Cathedral City

The new Grocery Outlet Bargain Market coming to Cathedral City at the former ACE Hardware location near 30th and Date Palm Drive is looking for employees. The new grocery store will hold a Job Fair on Saturday, May 8, 2021 from 7 am to 11 am at Panorama Park, 28905 Avenida Maravilla. Grocery Outlet is looking to hire for ... [Read more.](#)



EVENTS



“City Hall at Your Corner” Happens May 4th – Register Now

Register now for May’s virtual “City Hall at Your Corner” as Mayor Pro Tem Ernesto Gutierrez and Councilmember Mark Carnevale host the event for an informal discussion of issues in Cathedral City. This virtual event will take place on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm on Zoom.us. You must register for the event in ... [Read more.](#)

Free PPE Equipment for Cathedral City Businesses, Workers, and Clientele

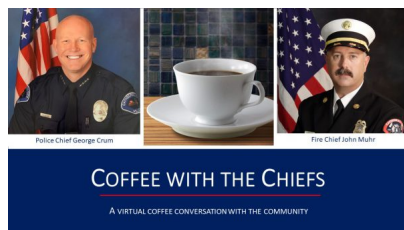


Do you operate a business in Cathedral City and want FREE PPE items, such as face coverings and hand sanitizer for your employees, workers, or clientele? Thanks to Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP), Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce and the City of Cathedral City, PPE items will be available for pick-up at the Chamber of Commerce every Wednesday ... [Read more.](#)



First Fridays Art Walk on Perez Road

Looking for an opportunity to walk and view some amazing art at the same time? Then come wearing your face mask and social distance at the First Fridays Art Walk on Perez Road from 5 pm to 8 pm. The nine art galleries are located at 68845 & 68895 Perez Road in the “H” and “I” buildings. Due to ... [Read more.](#)



“Coffee with the Chiefs” Scheduled for June 28 - Register Now

The City of Cathedral City is hosting a new event called, “Coffee with the Chiefs” that will provide an opportunity for the community to discuss issues about public safety in an informal manner with our two public safety leaders. The conversation will include both Police Chief George Crum and Fire Chief John Muhr. In June, Fire Chief John Muhr ... [Read more.](#)



Give the Gift of Life

To schedule an appointment, click below, call 800-879-4484 or download the LifeStream mobile app! Patients need your help. We are taking extra steps to keep donors safe.

“Click on the following link for a list Blood Drives in Cathedral City and to schedule an appointment. You may also call 800-879-4484 or download the LifeStream mobile app! Patients need your help. LifeStream is taking extra steps to keep donors safe.”

<https://www.lstream.org/ccbd/>



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

