A Salute to Veterans Parade

The Inland Empire Community cordially invites you to attend the 11th annual Salute to Veterans Parade. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 10am to noon and will feature veterans from every branch of the service, as well as representatives from over 100 organizations. The Parade will start at Magnolia and Ramona in downtown Riverside and continue to the beautiful historic Riverside County courthouse.

The parade will consist of active military personnel, marching bands, floats, tanks, horses, vintage cars, airplane flyover, dancers, marching bands, military hardware, and more. This is an amazing opportunity for children and grandchildren to gain a better understanding of Riverside’s rich history and commitment to serving our country. It is also an opportunity to honor all the veterans in the Inland Empire.

This year’s Grand Marshall will be Riverside resident, Rear Admiral Allen E. “Boot” Hill. Hill was born and raised in Riverside; attending West Riverside Elementary School, Poly High School and Riverside Community College before joining the Navy in 1946. He earned his wings in 1950 and over the course of his impressive 32 year military career he logged 5200 flight hours. Adm. Hill served in both the Korean and Vietnam War. Additionally, he created the staff training program which is still used to train naval officers. Adm. Hill received over 50 combat medals for his valor, commitment, and dedication to his country, including four Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze Stars, three Navy Commendation Medals, and a Purple Heart.

For more information on the Salute to Veterans Parade, please contact Dr. Cheryl-Marie Hansberger at cmhansberger@riversideca.gov.

Riverside Tamale Festival

The 4th Annual Riverside Tamale Festival takes place on Saturday, April 16, 2016 in White Park from 11 am to 6 pm. Admission is a $5 donation for an individual or for a family of four, children under 12 free. Come and enjoy the food, music, dancing, art and celebrate our communal culture. We are now familia!

2016 Festival highlights include a street fair called “La Placita” including local artists and performers (community stage), community non-profits, the Tamale Eating Contest, and the Zona de Ninos (Kids Zone) including story times and Pinata experience.

The Riverside Tamale Festival is part of a journey toward a restored and rehabilitated Trujillo Adobe—a structure of historical significance to all of Inland Southern California—with a vision that includes not only the restoration of the adobe, but ultimately the re-establishment of La Placita, “Spanish Town,” as an old town Riverside.

Visit www.riversidetamalefestival.weebly.com for more details including the full list of entertainment schedule, vendors, sponsors, pre-sale tickets, and
Show and Go Car Show

Riverside County’s largest car show is coming to town for the 18th year and counting. You can almost hear the roaring and rumbling of more than 1,000 engines, soon to take over parts of downtown Riverside. The annual Show and Go Car Show for Charity is a cruising car show organized by the Riverside East Rotary Club and the Old Farts Racing Team, a group of more than 2,200 hot rod enthusiasts. Proceeds from the event go to numerous local charities, including ARC Riverside, the Janet Goeske Center and the Riverside Public Library.

Over the past 17 years, the Riverside East Rotary Club has donated more than $300,000 to local charities from event proceeds. Car show entries have come from all over the region and even some from other states. This year the organization has added an area for top automotive companies to come and share their latest and greatest aftermarket products. Companies such as the presenting sponsor LKQ, Edelbrock, Gibson Performance, K&N filters, Eibach Springs, Black Widow mufflers and Fitech to name a few. Also returning will be a vendor and food area accompanied by beer gardens where you can grab a snack, cold one and see what the community is up to.

The Show and Go event is a family event attended by 15,000 people on Friday and 25,000 on Saturday annually. The fun begins on Friday, April 22nd at 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. that evening with a cruise. Then continuing on Saturday, April 23rd at 7 a.m. with a pancake breakfast hosted by a local Boy Scout troop, then open header cruising from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. In addition to the cruising there will be a Grand Marshall Parade at 12:30 p.m. and trophy presentation at 6 p.m. There will be a total of 51 trophies awarded in numerous categories including best in show, best paint, best wheels and best foreign car. The 1,000 classic cars, hot rods, imports, and motorcycles will be cruising down Market Street and Main between 13th Street and Mission Inn Avenue. Pre-registration is $50 per vehicle, $60 on event day. Celebrity guest Chip Foose, a hot rod enthusiast and star of the reality TV series “Overhaulin’,” will sign autographs Saturday afternoon. Disc jockey Surfer Dave will provide the entertainment, with music and commentary, for the two days.

Hope to see you at this year’s Show and Go Car Show for Charity. Public admission is free. For more information contact: www.showandgo.org or info@showandgo.org or (951) 295-0534.
COUNCIL CORNER
Ward One Council Update
Contributed by Councilman Mike Gardner

Riverside’s Budget and Budget Process
For years Riverside has used a one year budget and has initiated the public side of the budget process fairly close to the late June budget adoption date. The city has generally had balanced budgets and often found extra money at the end of the year to pay for unforeseen expenses from one time revenues or an unanticipated increase in revenue. The Finance Department was generally in charge of budget development and monitoring with limited involvement from individual departments. The system seemed to work well until this fiscal year.

When the FY 2015-16 budget was adopted there was a forecast of a $1 million surplus, but we knew that would not hold up because we were in negotiations with the Police Officers Association for their new three year contract. The Council consciously did not put a block of money in the budget to cover the expense because we did not know how much it would be, and to put a dollar amount out might have disrupted the negotiations. The plan was to cover the cost of the new contract by unanticipated revenue increases, additional cost savings and the accustomed one time revenues. During the first quarter budget review the Council learned that due to the roughly $4 million cost of the new police contract coupled with revenues being lower than projected and expenditures in some departments being higher than projected it appeared we had a projected $6.5 million deficit rather than the originally stated $1 million surplus. Recently Council received news that the projected deficit was more likely $9 million, again due to lower revenue and higher expenditures than budgeted. A day later that number fell to $8 million because word was received from that county that property revenue was climbing.

All of this caused the Council and the senior staff to begin asking more about the budget and how city finances were trending. We discovered that we do not have solid answers to some important questions and this has resulted in some significant changes. Both the Finance Director and the Budget Director are leaving the city. A new Acting Finance Director has been brought in and a new Assistant Finance Director was promoted from another department. We believe that we will have solid budget numbers in late May and can begin the process for the next budget in earnest shortly thereafter.

None of this is good news, but it isn’t disastrous either. The senior staff and the Council believe that the next two or three years will be lean years and that we will almost certainly have to reduce some city services in ways that constituents will see. No decisions on what services or what level reductions have been made at this point and the city is actively seeking input on what services constituents feel cannot be reduced and what ones they feel could be reduced. Please share your views in this regard with your councilmember.

The other budget change which was planned before we discovered this problem is to change to a two year budget process. This is a concept our new City Manager John Russo and his team bring from their previous jobs. A two year budget has proven to be a stabilizing factor and one that requires more conservative assumptions. In this process if a department underspends its budget in the first year it can carry over the surplus to the second year. If they finish the two year cycle with a surplus they carry over half of the savings to the next budget cycle. Similarly, if a department exceeds its budget the first year it must make up the difference in the second year. If there is no surplus at the end of the second year there is no surplus to carry over. This incentivized departments to manage their budgets wisely and to save money where they can.

Things sound a little grim, but they really aren’t. Our

Ward Two Council Update
Contributed by Councilman Andy Melendrez

Drown Proofing Clinic: Each year approximately 5,100 pool or spa-related injuries occur each year involving children younger than 15. An average of 390 children drown each year in the United States, younger than 5. To help raise awareness about these statistics, the Vivian Stancil Olympian Foundation will be hosting their yearly drown proofing clinic on April 23 at the RCC Cutter Pool at 10:00 am. Registration forms can be found online at: http://www.vsofoundation.org/drownproofing - please share this information with friends and family as we approach the summer months to help educate our community on this important lesson.

Eastside HEAL Zone Announcement:
I would like to invite and welcome everyone to join the Eastside HEAL Zone Collaborative and local churches for the 3rd Annual Walk by Faith gathering! The gathering will be on Sunday, April 24 from 2-6pm for a 3.5 walk that promotes health and unity in the Eastside. Please meet at Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church: 1910 Martin Luther King Blvd, Riverside 92507, the walk will begin at 2:30 pm. The event is free but registration is required and can be done by visiting http://walkbyfaith2016.eventbrite.com or call the Riverside Community Health Foundation at 951-788-3471.

Winning Basketball Season: A big congratulations to John W. North High School Boys’ Basketball team for becoming the 2016 CIF Southern Section 1AA Basketball Champions! And congratulations to the UCR Women’s Basketball team who went UNDEFEATED in the Big West Conference! GO HUSKIES & GOOO HIGHLANDERS!!!

Andy Melendrez

continued on page 4
An international movement is coming to Riverside. The City of Riverside in partnership with the Old Riverside Foundation, the Riverside Arts Council, the Riverside Downtown Partnership, and the Mission Inn Museum and Foundation are hosting the city's first Doors Open event. Doors Open Days began over 30 years ago in France and has since spread across Europe, North America, and Australia. These events provide free access to captivating historic sites that are often closed to the public. By opening the doors to these architectural gems, event organizers hope to increase awareness of historic architecture and the community's collective heritage.

On Thursday, May 12th from 6 pm to 9 pm, fifteen buildings in downtown Riverside are opening their doors. Guests will be taken on a riveting tour of each exquisite building and will learn about each building's intriguing history. Be sure to stop by one of the six information stations located at: the Main Library, Main and Mission Inn, Lemon and Mission Inn, Lemon and University, and Mission Inn and Vine. A number of downtown restaurants located in historic buildings will be offering specials before, during, and after the tours.

Buildings that will be opening their doors include: Fox Theater, Metropolitan Museum, Municipal Auditorium, First Church of Christ Scientist, First Congregational Church, Universalist Unitarian Church, Riverside Art Museum (former YWCA), the Life Arts Building (former YWCA), the RCC Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties (former Citrus Trust), the Culver Center for the Arts (former Rouse Department Store), and the California Museum of Photography (former Kress Department Store), the Arcade Building occupied by Krieger & Stewart, Loft.84 in the Aurea Vista Building, the Bonnett Building, and the Old City Hall occupied by Tilden-Coil Constructors. Both www.riversidedowntown.org or www.riversideca.gov will have more information on the event as it becomes available.

by Scott K. Watson, Assistant Planner – City of Riverside Historic Preservation Division

Riverside Metropolitan Museum Holds Second Annual Insect Fair

On Saturday, April 30th, get a little bugged out as you touch a tarantula, buzz by the bees, or smell a stink bug. The Riverside Metropolitan Museum and the UC Riverside Entomology Graduate Student Association host the Riverside Insect Festival to give our community the opportunity to learn how insects impact our lives. The free event will take place from 10 am to 4 pm at the museum located at 3580 Mission Inn Avenue.

With more than 50 booths, guests will be able to make a tie-dye shirt with dye from ground-up insects, enter a world of butterflies, and encounter a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach. Bug Chef, David George Gordon, will be our special guest creating culinary masterpieces using ants, grasshoppers, centipedes, scorpions and their kin. His programs are fun, educational and extremely popular with grownups and kids.

There will be crafts and learning tools, books and jewelry, and experts to ask those pesky questions about the creepy crawly critters found around us. All are welcome for the free family fun day

Business Spotlight: Sam’s Bann Thai

Just off Mission Inn Avenue near the Old Spaghetti restaurant you will find the Thai restaurant known as Sam’s Bann Thai. This is one of two locations located in Riverside, CA. Thai cuisine relies on five primary flavors in a traditional meal, which are salty, sweet, sour (tangy), bitter and hot (spicy). Owners Sam and Pawaena Arch wanted to share their homeland and cuisine with others. You can find the menu online at their website which includes traditional Thai dishes such as Pad Thai, Pineapple Fried Rice, Red Curry and Green Curry as well as Panang. Make sure to try out one of the two locations next time you’re craving Thai Cuisine.

Website: http://www.bannthairiverside.com
Time Management Tips

Do you feel the need to be more organized and/or more productive? Do you spend your day in a frenzy of activity and then wonder why you haven’t accomplished much?

Time management skills are especially important for small business people, who often find themselves performing many different jobs during the course of a single day. These time management tips will help you increase your productivity and stay cool and collected.

1. **Realize that time management is a myth.**
   
   No matter how organized we are, there are always only 24 hours in a day. Time doesn’t change. All we can actually manage is ourselves and what we do with the time that we have.

2. **Find out where you’re wasting time.**
   
   Many of us are prey to time-wasters that steal time we could be using much more productively. What are your time-bandits? Do you spend too much time ‘Net surfing, reading email, Facebook posting, texting, or making personal calls?

3. **Create time management goals.**
   
   Remember, the focus of time management is actually changing your behaviors, not changing time. A good place to start is by eliminating your personal time-wasters. For one week, for example, set a goal that you’re not going to take personal phone calls or respond to non-work related text messages while you’re working.

4. **Implement a time management plan.**
   
   Think of this as an extension of tip #3. The objective is to change your behaviors over time to achieve whatever general goal you’ve set for yourself, such as increasing your productivity or decreasing your stress. So you need to not only set your specific goals, but track them over time to see whether or not you’re accomplishing them.

5. **Use time management tools.**
   
   Whether it’s a Day-Timer or a software program, the first step to physically managing your time is to know where it’s going now and planning how you’re going to spend your time in the future. A software program such as Outlook, for instance, lets you schedule events easily and can be set to remind you of events in advance, making your time management easier.

6. **Prioritize ruthlessly.**
   
   You should start each day with a session prioritizing the tasks for that day and setting your performance benchmark. If you have 20 tasks for a given day, how many of them do you truly need to accomplish?

7. **Learn to delegate and/or outsource.**
   
   In my experience, delegation is one of the hardest things to learn how to do for many business owners, but no matter how small your business is, there’s no need for you to be a one-person show - you need to let other people carry some of the load.

8. **Establish routines and stick to them as much as possible.**
   
   While crises will arise, you’ll be much more productive if you can follow routines most of the time.

9. **Get in the habit of setting time limits for tasks.**
   
   For instance, reading and answering email can consume your whole day if you let it. Instead, set a limit of one hour a day for this task and stick to it.

10. **Be sure your systems are organized.**
    
    Are you wasting a lot of time looking for files on your computer? Take the time to organize a file management system. Is your filing system slowing you down? Redo it, so it’s organized to the point that you can quickly lay your hands on what you need.

11. **Don’t waste time waiting.**
    
    For instance, lets you schedule events easily and can be set to remind you of events in advance, making your time management easier.

How to Survive Slow Seasons

As a retailer, it only takes a year or two to understand just how cyclical business can be. And while your business may vary depending on the seasonality of products you offer, many retailers find that January and February are two of the slowest seasons of the year. If this is true for you, what can be done to bring your sales numbers back to life?

Consider the following 4 tips to jumpstart sales at any time of the year.

1. **Host a sale to get rid of excess product.**
   
   In the post-holiday months, stores run tons of discounts on holiday products – which is precisely why the days after holidays are the best times for shoppers to snag deals on things like Halloween or Easter candy.

   The number of consumers who want to purchase Christmas ornaments two weeks after Christmas might surprise you, but it’s actually a super smart move on the shoppers’ part as they

2. **Perform an audit.**
   
   Think of the so-called off-season as more of a planning season. When business is quiet, it’s the perfect time to get organized. Take accurate inventory to see what products are selling and when – and to get a correct count of what’s in stock and what you need to order.

   It’s also a good time to review your overall processes and

BUSINESS BUZZ

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How to Determine the Best Store Hours

While it might seem logical to stay open as many hours as possible, the truth is there is a diminishing return on the investment. I have counseled many retail store owners and even cafe or coffee shop owners who are so stressed about the one customer that might come in between 9am and 10am or the one who might come in early on Sunday morning. The truth is, planning for the one who “might” come in costs you more many than it is worth.

Here are 3 Tips to help you determine the best store hours for your business.

1. Check your POS Data.

If you are using a point of sale system, then it will generate reports for you that will help you make a wise decision. Print out your sales and transactions by hour report. This is a report that will list your total sales and total number of transactions by hour for your business. The transactions (or number of tickets) is the more important metric. Sales can be deceiving. It may appear like you need to be open earlier, but the reality is, it may be 1 large sale that skews the data.

What you want to focus on is the number of tickets (which essentially is telling you the number of customers.)

Study the data and consider each day individually. It may show that 8am - 9am are busy times on the weekdays but not on the weekends. Look for patterns. It might show that business really dies off after 6pm every day except Thursday - Saturday in this case, you would stay open later these days - but only these days.

2. Calculate your Operating Costs

Here is the mistake retailers make, they only consider the payroll when extending hours. But the truth is, all of your expenses are impacted when you open the store longer.

Get your P&L statement for the last three months and calculate your operating cost per hour. To do this, divide the total expenses by the total number of hours open. Of course, you will need to figure your number of hours. Do it accurately. For example, don’t just use a basic number for averages. The more accurate this number, the better it serves you.


While the data may show different store hours for each day, the purpose of this exercise is not to match the data exactly. In other words, do not open at 8am on Monday and then 9am on Tuesday and then 8am on Wednesday. Find the patterns. Customers hate being confused by too much variance in store hours.

The best practice is to have a schedule that is the same every day. This may or may not be possible, but customers are used to stores having different hours on weekends than weekdays. In my stores, the hours on the door were 9ish to 6ish. Our culture was a little kitschy for sure, but the flex let customers know that if they showed up before 10am, then we would let them in. It also meant that I did not have to “staff” the store for normal business during that time.

4. Start a referral or rewards program. Rewards programs are a great way to encourage loyalty and boost sales. This is a great method for food and drink stands. Give customers a buy-10-get-the-11th-free card for smoothies, sandwiches, or whatever other food product you sell, and then stamp the card anytime they come in. If your competitors aren’t offering programs like this one, you’ll enjoy an additional leg up.

Referral programs are another great way to gain new customers – as well as reward current ones. Offer cash rewards or significant discounts for new referrals, and be sure to offer equal rewards for the referring party as well.

Final Thoughts

While the season may be “slow,” it doesn’t have to bring sales to a freezing halt. By getting creative and taking the time to make sure every aspect of business is running the way it should, you’ll not only recoup some revenue, but you’ll also prepare your business for when things speed up again.
Security Issues with Home Wireless Routers

Many of us don’t think twice about our home wireless router after setting it up. And it might be tempting to rush through the set-up process. Here’s why you should pay close attention while setting up your router, and afterwards.

Heard of ASUSTeK? Among other things, they sell ASUS-branded wireless routers for home use. Some of their routers come with features — called AiCloud and AiDisk — that allow people to attach a hard drive to their routers and create their own “cloud” storage. According to the FTC’s complaint, ASUS routers had major security flaws that allowed hackers to harm consumers in several ways, including getting access to sensitive personal information — like tax documents — that people stored through these “cloud” services.

If you have an ASUS router at home, take these steps right away:

• Download the latest security updates for your router. According to the FTC, the ASUS router update tool often indicated that software was current when it wasn’t, putting people’s home networks at risk. Moving forward, ASUS is required to provide accurate information about software updates. So check the router’s software update tool and the ASUS support site again for the newest security updates.

• Check if access to your network storage is limited. Make sure access to AiCloud and AiDisk is limited to what you want. The FTC took issue with the default option during AiDisk’s set-up, which gave anyone on the Internet access to your storage. For more privacy, choose “limited” or “admin rights” access instead of “limitless.”

• Change pre-set passwords. According to the FTC, ASUS pre-set weak default passwords on every router. So create new passwords that are strong and unique for both your router and any “cloud” services — something only you know. This can help prevent hackers from getting easy access to your network.

And for anyone with a router at home — or getting ready to set one up — here’s how you can take charge of your router’s security:

• Be cautious when setting up “cloud” features. Before enabling any sharing or storage features, research what those features mean and who will have access. Make sure access is limited to what you’re comfortable with.

• Don’t just click “next” during the set-up process. Review the default settings carefully before making a selection.

• Check out more tips on securing your wireless network, including how to create a strong password and username for your router, and how to check for security updates.

by Aditi Jhaveri, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

Your Route to Security

Setting up your home network? To keep it secure, don’t forget about your router.

Why pay attention to that little box with the flashing lights? Your router lets you connect with the internet and communicate with other devices in your home. So, it’s your first line of defense in guarding against attacks by identity thieves and hackers.

How can you make your router more secure? Start with these steps:

• Change the name of your router. The name of your router (also called the SSID or service set identifier) is usually a default ID assigned by the manufacturer. Change it to something only you know.

• Change your router’s pre-set passwords. Your router also usually comes with a default password. Hackers know these default passwords. So, change yours to something unique, long and complex — think at least 12 characters, with a mix of numbers, symbols and upper and lower case letters.

• Turn off any “remote management” features. Some routers offer remote management for tech support. Don’t leave these features enabled. Hackers can use them to get into your home network.

Once your router is set up, don’t just stick it in a corner gathering dust. Instead, keep it up to date. Over time, the software that comes with your router may need updates. Visit the manufacturer’s website periodically to see if there’s a new version available for download. Or register your router with the manufacturer and sign up to get updates. If you lease a router, check if your internet service provider issues updates automatically.

For more tips on router safety and computer security, check out the FTC’s updated article on securing your wireless network. And if your system is hacked and your information exposed, visit identitytheft.gov for a recovery plan.

by Lisa Weintraub Schifferle, Attorney, FTC, Division of Consumer and Business Education

RDP Welcomes New Businesses to Downtown

A & K Treasure Antiques • Capfinancial Partners, LLC Consulting • Freedom Mortgage
Hope Haven Studio Retail • Maddilicious Catering • Magnolias Business Services
Mission Mel’s Vintage Antiques • Reclaim Design Home Furnishings
The Law Office of Angel Coleman • Tony Jimenez Property Rental
Submit press releases to:
Janice Penner by email at Janice@riversidedowntown.org
or fax at (951) 781-6951.

Press deadline is the 15th of each month prior to publication.

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