Riverside’s 27th annual Festival of Lights returns with changes to the event footprint. The Mission Inn Hotel and Spa’s holiday event runs November 29, 2019 through Tuesday, December 31, 2019 in beautiful Downtown Riverside. More than 750,000 people visit Riverside each year during the 4+ week event, including an expected 80,000 at the annual Switch-On Ceremony the day after Thanksgiving.

The annual Festival of Lights Switch-On Ceremony, produced by The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, and the City of Riverside is Friday, November 29, 2019 at 4:30 pm outside the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa. When the Roberts’ Family will flip the switch at 5:30 pm, the glow of 5 million lights decorating the Mission Inn will fill the streets, causing people to clap and cheer that the holiday season has begun. A magical fireworks show follows the Switch-On Ceremony.

The City of Riverside enhances the event with additional holiday lighting, specialty food vendors, and family friendly entertainment. Family-friendly entertainment will include horse-drawn lighted carriages starting on Saturday, November 30, a Century Wheel, Vintage Carousel, seasonal music and entertainment, and photos with Santa. Attractions have moved to the parking lot next to City Hall located at 10th and Main Street. The Artisans Collective, an innovative arts market where the community can purchase original art from local artists, hear local musicians and participate in free public arts workshops, will be open Thursday through Sunday from 3 pm to 10 pm starting November 30 during the holiday weeks. Additionally, this year UCR presents an extra large Snow Globe for all to enjoy and take photos with.

NOTE: Businesses in the downtown core will be impacted by street closures on the day of the Switch-on Ceremony. Streets will start closing down at 2 am and will not reopen fully until Midnight. You will need to plan your deliveries for the day of the Switch-on Ceremony as access will be limited and in the case of Mission Inn Avenue from Market Street to Lime Street, prohibited completely.

Due to safety concerns with increased traffic and pedestrians, streets will be closed Thursday through Sunday from 3 pm to Midnight. Businesses within the event footprint should plan accordingly. Carriage routes will stay the same as will the three pickup/drop-off locations. Bus drop-off and pickup locations will also remain the same.

Parking information –
On Friday, November 29, Garage 1 and Lot 16 are not accessible due to street closures. As shown on the attached Parking Guide for the day, the City garages will be charging $10 per vehicle entry with no in and out privileges. Garage monthly parking permits will be honored on Friday, November 29 between 5 am and 6 pm and will have in and out privileges so long as space is available. Business owners and employees who do not have parking permits will be required to pay the $10 fee but will be allowed in and out privileges after showing their receipt for initial payment and if space is available.

Prepaid online parking can be made at the Festival of Lights website or by visiting ParkRiversideCA.com and selecting one of the available locations.

The three County of Riverside parking structures, one located on Ninth Street and two on Twelfth Street, will be open to the public during Switch-On and the duration of the festival. The parking rate and hours of operation will mirror the City parking garages.

The city parking lots and on-street metered spaces will be free of charge on a first-come first-serve basis.
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS from page 1

The designated bus loading zone for tours and other groups is located on Sixth Street between Lemon Street and Orange Street.

Streetplus and the RDP Ambassadors will be patrolling the parking facilities for the duration of the event. Nevertheless, please store valuables out of sight prior to arriving to any parking facility, always lock the car doors and roll up the windows when parking the vehicle.

For more parking related information, please visit http://www.riversideca.gov/fol/information.asp.

Other Events Downtown

Riverside Day of the Dead takes place on Saturday, November 2 – Riverside Day of the Dead will be celebrating its 16th annual Day of the Dead celebration in Downtown Riverside on November 2 from 1 pm to 10 pm in White Park and on Market Street (road closures in effect). The event has become one of the largest and most popular events in Riverside and the Inland Empire because of its attention to tradition and the cultural significance that it celebrates. The goal of the organizers is to educate both youth and community about the culture of Día de los Muertos, to achieve a better understanding and carry on the traditions. Through art, music, and ritual Día de los Muertos honors ancestors and celebrates community. The customs and culture are completely enveloped in the making of the altars, the food, music, decorations and crafts of this special celebration.

The 15th Annual A Salute to Veterans Parade and Expo takes place on Saturday, November 9 – Scheduled to start at 10 am, this fun and free family event will feature marching bands, airplane fly-overs, equestrian units, color guards, marching units, antique cars, military vehicles, active duty military personnel, floats, and of course, veterans. The parade honors veterans of all ages and eras in all branches of the military. In special commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Riverside’s very own March Air Reserve Base, Colonel Matthew Burger will be leading this year’s parade. Colonel Burger serves as commander of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, at March Air Reserve Base which is the Air Force Reserve’s largest wing supporting worldwide airlift and refueling operations.

In addition to the parade, an Expo located on Main Street near the Old Courthouse will feature organizations sharing opportunities of special interest to veterans and their families. Street parking is free and food trucks will be available during the parade. The parade committee is seeking sponsors, volunteers, expo participants, and parade participants. Those interested in contributing to this important event are encouraged to contact Jeffrey Crumbaker at patriciangle2@aol.com or visit the website at www.asalutetoveterans.org.

Note to Downtown Businesses: There will be morning street closures on Saturday, November 9 for the parade on Market from RCC to 10th Street and then down Main.

The 42nd Annual Mission Inn Run takes places on Sunday, November 10, with a Health and Fitness Expo on Saturday, November 9 - This Signature Event takes place in Historic Downtown Riverside and is an Inland Southern California Tradition! The Mission Inn Run offers a 5K, 10K, and a 1/2 marathon. Run courses wind through the historic parks, sites and neighborhoods of Riverside, making a picturesque event for participants and spectators alike. The Mission Inn Foundation is proud to announce that it will offer a special Veterans & Military entry price for the 2019 event.

The event kicks off on Saturday afternoon, November 9, 2019 on 6th Street and Main Street at the Clark’s Nutrition Health & Fitness Expo offering pre-registration, packet pick-up, live demonstrations, booths, a bench press contest, and a Crossfit competition! The Expo is open from 1 pm to 5 pm.

On Sunday morning, November 10, 2019 is race day! The Health & Fitness Expo continues and at the Finish Line Festival, awards will go to the overall men and woman in each race and to the top three male and female finishers in each age division.

Families are encouraged to have their children participate in the 1/2K or 1K events, and have lots of fun at the Grove Community Church Kid’s Fitness Festival on Sunday, November 10, 2019 from 6 am to noon.

Finish Line festivities, complete with an award ceremony, and live music.

Note to Downtown Businesses: There will be street closures on Sunday, November 10 for the event. Full street closures will start at 5 am and continue until Noon. The finish line is in front of the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa. As the event brings thousands of participants and spectators to downtown Riverside, we encourage you to be open and ready for the crowds.

The kick-off for the 7th annual Miracle on Main Street Toy Drive and Health Fair will take place on November 13 from 6 pm to 8 pm at Bella Terranea & Historic 1929 located at 3252 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507 (old Sevilla Building). Entry is $20 with all proceeds going towards Miracle on Main. The event itself will take place on December 8th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm between 5th and 6th Streets. The event will include Santa distributing toys, a Fun Zone featuring games, prizes, face painting, a reading corner, free hair cuts, free fund and free health screenings for adults and children in attendance. Last year’s event provided toys, health screenings, and a day of fun for over 1,600 children.

Note to Downtown Businesses: There will be morning street closures on Saturday, November 9 for the parade on Market from RCC to 10th Street and then down Main.

RDP Welcomes New Businesses to Downtown

Norma Loza (antiques) • Slater’s 50/50 • John Moreno (antiques) • Carol Attic (antiques) • Nicholas Mariotti (antiques)
Riverside Game Lab • Mahsi Lifestyle (retail) • Red Roses Restaurant • Define Tu Belleza (service)
Happy Fall Greetings to everyone in Ward 2 and the City of Riverside!

Lincoln Park Neighborhood Group: will be hosting their Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 22 from 5 pm to 8 pm at Lincoln Park located at 4261 Park Ave, Riverside, CA 92507. The dinner is FREE and open to the public. This has been an annual tradition of the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Group as part of their mission to promote positive activity during the holidays along with building comradery around their community park. Everyone is welcome to attend, please share with others and join us for a delicious dinner cooked by volunteers! If you would like to donate food or sponsor the event, please contact Ralph Martinez at 951-756-4569.

Annual Nuestra Navidad Breakfast: Latino Network will once again be hosting their Annual Nuestra Navidad Breakfast on December 11 from 7:30 am to 9 am at the

Downtown Goings On

There is much progress in downtown projects. Here are a few quick updates:

The new Main Library reached an important milestone in October with pouring of the second story floor. This is also the ceiling of the walkway area between the pillars the library will sit on. This required a continuous concrete pour and sets the stage for construction of the second story, which is the new library proper, now. It is anticipated to open in 2020.

The Stalder Project has completed excavation of the subterranean garage portion and begun pouring concrete for the building foundations and garage itself. This requires closure of one lane of northbound Market Street on occasion and this will continue with additional concrete pours and crane placement for construction of the above ground floors. Opening is now anticipated in early 2021.

The Hampton Inn Hotel is nearing completion and is scheduled to open before the end of this year. It will add 140 rooms to downtown hotel stock and is scheduled to open on December 12. A unique feature of the hotel is an interactive public art piece on the Market Street frontage of the building. It is a swing people can sit on and take a photo using the permanently installed tripod as depicted.

Main and 9 Lofts are completed and approaching half leased. The 36 unit development has larger units than the similar Imperial Hardware Lofts project. Some of the office and retail space is leased, but more is still available.

The Centerpointe Apartment project on Market between 1st and 2nd is progressing nicely. The 135 unit project is scheduled to open in 2020 and includes 129 market rate units and six affordable units.

Election: November 5 is election day. Riverside has City Council elections in Wards 1, 3, 5, and 7. All elections are important, but this one is particularly important because at least three seats will have new Councilmembers elected. Please be sure to vote.

Mike Gardner
Revitalization. This specific area was chosen for its historic significance and because it is one of the oldest communities in Riverside. The first mural that kick-started the Park Avenue Revitalization Project is almost completed and will be unveiled in mid-November. To learn more unveiling or to be a part of the group call 951-826-5419.

**Ward 2 Development:** As we look for ways to strengthen our economy, provide better quality of life, and build on local assets we look to our partners and community members to help us create the appropriate atmosphere. We recently held a grand opening for an innovative and unique business that brings a taste of Chicago to Riverside.

- **Sweets It Is:** is a brand-new desert eatery located in the Canyon Springs Shopping Center at 2692 Canyon Springs Parkway, #E, Riverside, CA 92507. If you feel like having a delicious pastry or a sandwich that has the unique taste of Chicago then Sweets It Is will be your next stop. The owners Mike & Lisa came to Riverside to settle in and provide our residents the opportunity to taste the delicious pastries and sandwiches that you would only find in Chicago. For more information or to call in an order, please call 951-656-4700.

**Highlander Sport Update:** Come root for our Gold and Blue UCR Men and Women’s Basketball teams. This year our Bears have an amazing lineup of games including a friendly rivalry match against Cal Baptist University in December. For a detailed list of all games and to purchase tickets, visit gohighlanders.com/calendar.aspx - **GO HIGHLANDERS!!!**

**Andy Melendrez**

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**Business Spotlight: Bloom & Butter Bakery**

The Bloom & Butter Bakery is located at 3540 9th Street in Downtown Riverside and is owned by the Duong sisters, Jenny and Katie, along with their father. Ever since opening CakeBox on Main Street in 2014, they had the desire to expand their business and open up a space where they can hold different classes, birthday parties for kids, tea parties, and more. As owners of CakeBox and Bloom & Butter, the Duong sisters are ready to conquer all of your dessert needs. They are available to create custom desserts, including cakes for weddings, birthdays, and baby showers. So, if you have a need for a delicious piece of art, be sure to contact Bloom & Butter Bakery! The three of them are so excited to be able to serve the Riverside Community through their desserts.

*Also, don’t forget! They will be serving desserts outside of the CakeBox location (3557 Main Street) during the Festival of Lights on the weekend!*

Open Mon. – Fri. from 8 am to 4 pm | Classes posted online at cakeboxonmain.com.

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**Shop Local (and get ready for Small Business Saturday)**

Get ready for this year’s Small Business Saturday on November 23rd. American Express who launched the movement has a number of tools available for small businesses on their website, https://www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/Shop-Small/. These tools include printable signage and free online ads, plus loads of tips on how to promote your small business.

Check https://www.facebook.com/SmallBusinessSaturday as well for more information on how other small businesses are getting ready and encouraging customers to Shop Small Shop Local.
Geoff Gouveia is a local Riverside muralist. He has lived in Riverside his entire life and began his creative journey when he was in high school. While in college at California Baptist University studying Visual Arts, he discovered his passion for doing murals. He had a desire to paint as large of scales as he could and has taken every opportunity to do so since. He paints and writes in order to connect people to hope. He finds inspiration from classic literature and the Bible and his style is a combination between Shel Silverstein and Vincent Van Gogh.

He has been able to utilize his skills in crafting whimsical visual language through art and design all over the world by creating for companies, big and small. Companies like Adidas, Starbucks, Coca Cola, Facebook, Inaria, Vayner, Baron Fig, the US Soccer Foundation, and more have invited Geoff Gouveia to generate pieces of work that cultivate deeper meaning, represent their brand, and add vibrant colors to mundane locations. Some of his work ranges from stickers and prints, soccer cleats and personal merchandise, to large scale murals on basketball courts to the sides of coffeehouses. He has also painted murals in Downtown Redlands, with the original mural of a fox located behind the red building where Augie’s Coffee was located prior to moving to their new location.

Recently, with the help of Sandals Church and the City of Riverside, Geoff completed his first ground mural at the Bobby Bonds Skate Park located at 2060 University Avenue in Ward 2 as a test case to be able to pitch to other clients in the future. On Saturday, October 12, thousands of people gathered for the unveiling of the masterpiece along with Councilman Andy Melendrez of Ward 2. Because of the help of his team and participation from his Instagram followers, Geoff Gouveia was able to pull off yet another amazing piece of work.

If you are interested in contacting Geoff Gouveia about any creative opportunity, check out his work on social media @geoffgouveia or his portfolio at geoffgouveia.com.

Fun fact: his team is obsessed with plants.

Roy Hord Volunteer of the Year Award Nominations Open

The late Roy Hord was a former RDP board member who faithfully served the community of Riverside for over 25 years. RDP established the Volunteer of the Year Award in his memory in 2003. The award is given to those individuals who exemplify his spirit of volunteerism and presented each year at RDP’s Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony. The 2020 event will take place on February 19, 2020 at the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa.

RDP is currently accepting nominations for this award until Friday, January 3, 2020. Nominees should be dedicated to the community and have a history of volunteerism, particularly with youth. Nomination forms can be obtained on the RDP website’s Special Events Page under Annual Meeting or by emailing Janice@riversidedowntown.org.

Downtown Businesses - Stay connected with email alerts from RDP. Send your email address to janice@riversidedowntown.org to be added to our listing. And remember to follow us on Facebook.
BUSINESS BUZZ

Tips to Build Your Facebook Page Following

Are you interested in growing your home business through Facebook? Are you serious about creating a long-lasting online presence that will connect your business with millions of users from different parts of the world? Is it possible to grow a Facebook following over time and sell through the platform? The short, simple answer to all of these questions is yes.

As of 2019, Facebook is home to more than 360 million active users. Facebook is the only social media that best meets the marketing needs of big and small businesses. In fact, the number of Facebook users may continue to grow by leaps and bounds over the next three years, so if you are serious about growing a business following, Facebook is the best place to start.

Now that you understand that it is possible to market your business through Facebook, you need to ask yourself one last question: how can I build and grow a Facebook fan base? The better question is, is it possible to get a thousand fans and more and more and more? Yes, many marketing managers have done this for their businesses, and you can too.

Create High-Quality Sharable Content

Content is King, so to speak. But, people will not just read anything posted online. Instead, readers look for great content that can inform and add value. When you create content that impresses your current following, they will want to share the content on their profiles for others to see. This allows many people to see and interact with your content and like your page. The more content people share the more likely the opportunity for you to grow your Facebook Following.

Invite Your Facebook Friends to the Business Page

Inviting friends to like and follow your Facebook page is an alternative to Facebook advertising. Although there are limits to the number of invitations that you can send to friends, sending invitation is the best way to get started. By default, Facebook allows you to have only 5,000 profile friends. For your business page, this means up to 5,000 likes over time if you are inviting friends, although it is highly unlikely that every person you invite will like the page and become part of your following.

Luckily, when friends like your business page and they see valuable content on it, they will be recommending it to their friends. You can even ask your friends to suggest your page to their friends.

Invite Your Email Subscribers to Like Your Facebook Page

If you use email marketing, and you should, let your subscribers know about your Facebook page. Because your subscribers already know and trust you, chances are good they’ll also like your page.

Ideally, use HTML email, which better ensures the link will be clicked. Most email list providers offer templates that make it easy to have visually appealing emails that attract readers. You can include a direct request to like your page, such as “Please stop by and like our Facebook page to get more great tips and information.” You can also include a link to your page as part of your signature line.

Use Business Cards to Share your Facebook Page

Few businesspersons use business cards anymore. You’ve probably heard some say they’re outdated — that they don’t work anymore or that they’re a waste of time and money. Here is the truth:

• Business cards are still an effective direct marketing tool.
• Business cards are cheap and cost-effective. Further, they’re easy to carry, so they’re always available to give out, but also, easy for your customers to keep with them to refer to when needed.
• Business cards can help you create a personal link with a customer because you share them with a professional handshake and conversation.

But how can these cards help you grow your Facebook following? Include your page’s URL on the card and engage the recipient in a conversation about the Facebook page, then invite them to follow your business.

Use Business Letters to Share your Facebook Page

One of the easiest ways to interact with new and returning customers is via business letters. Even in a time where digital content is the craze, business letters are still very effective. In fact, personalized letters are even more effective because they offer a personal touch. Direct mail is often used to sell products or services, but it can also be used to build your Facebook following.

However, don’t just wing the letter. Before you write the letter, ask yourself a couple of questions:

1. How will your new Facebook page help your followers?
2. What values will they get from liking and visiting your page?

It is important to understand that you need to answer these questions in your letter before recipients will follow. They need to know what benefit they’ll get by following your page. What’s in it for them that they should bother following?

Promote Your Facebook Page for Just $20.00

Facebook is the second-largest advertising network after Google Adwords. As such, there is no doubt that you can leverage the power of Facebook Advertising to grow your online following. Moreover, the company offers the cheapest advertising and promotion rates on the Internet, starting at $5.00 per post. It’s an affordable price to pay to give your Facebook page exposure to millions in your target market. You can make your Facebook page much more attractive with Facebook templates that offer a classy and suave look.

There are many solid reasons why you should ask Facebook to promote your page, including:

• Your page will get many likes.
• Facebook will make it easy for people to find you for the right reason at the right time.
• Asking Facebook to help you promote you will give you the assurance of a high conversion rate — maybe beyond your initial expectations.

Compared to other advertising options, Facebook ads offer great value.

While building a Facebook following doesn’t happen overnight, you can help it along using the above tips. By offering value and a good reason for people to follow, and then reaching out to your current customers, as well as to potential prospects, you can steadily grow your following.

Source: www.thebalance.com
SECURITY CORNER

Perpetrators Use Various Methods to Deceive and Defraud Elderly Victims for Financial Gain

Each year, millions of elderly Americans fall victim to some type of financial fraud, racking up more than $3 billion in losses annually. Criminals use a variety of methods to deceive these victims, including romance, sweepstakes, charity, technology support, grandparent, lottery, and government impersonation schemes, to name a few. In each case, perpetrators try to gain their targets’ trust and may communicate with victims via computer, through the mail, in person, and by phone, TV, and radio. With the elderly population growing in the United States, it is likely perpetrators will find more and more victims.

Elderly individuals may encounter the following scams:

- **Romance Scam**: Perpetrators pose as interested romantic partners through dating websites to capitalize on their elderly victims’ desire to find companions.
- **Tech Support Scam**: Perpetrators pose as technology support representatives and offer to fix non-existent computer issues—gaining remote access to victims’ devices and, thus, their sensitive information.
- **Grandparent Scam**: Perpetrators pose as a relative—usually a child or grandchild—claiming to be in immediate dire financial need.
- **Government Impersonation Scam**: Perpetrators pose as government employees and threaten to arrest or prosecute victims unless they agree to provide funds or other payments.
- **Sweepstakes/Charity/Lottery Scam**: Perpetrators claim to work for legitimate charitable organizations to gain victims’ trust. Or they claim their targets have won a foreign lottery or sweepstake, which they can collect for “fee.”
- **Home Repair Scam**: Perpetrators appear in person and charge homeowners in advance for home improvement services that they never provide.
- **TV/Radio Scam**: Perpetrators target potential victims using illegitimate advertisements about legitimate services, such as reverse mortgages or credit repair.
- **Family/Caregiver Scam**: Perpetrators are relatives or acquaintances of the elderly victims and take advantage of them or otherwise get their money.

Once successful, perpetrators will likely continue to target vulnerable elderly victims with these schemes because of the prospect of significant financial gain.

**Defense and Mitigation**

Taking the following steps may help protect yourself from being victimized:

- Recognize scam attempts and end all communication with the perpetrator.
- Search online for the contact information (name, email, phone number, addresses) and the proposed offer. Other people have likely posted information online about individuals and businesses trying to run scams.
- Resist the pressure to act quickly. Perpetrators create a sense of urgency to produce fear and lure victims into immediate action. Call the police immediately if you feel there is a danger to yourself or a loved one.
- Be cautious of unsolicited phone calls, mailings, and door-to-door services offers.
- Never give or send any personally identifiable information, money, jewelry, gift cards, or checks—or wire information or funds—to unknown or unverified persons or businesses.
- Ensure all computer anti-virus and security software and malware protections are up to date. Use reputable anti-virus software and firewalls.
- If you receive a pop-up or locked screen on your device, immediately disconnect from the internet and shut down the affected device. Pop-ups are regularly used by perpetrators to spread malicious software. To avoid accidental clicks on or within a pop-up, enable pop-up blockers.
- Do not open any emails or click on attachments you do not recognize, and avoid suspicious websites.
- If a perpetrator gains access to a device or an account, take precautions to protect your identity; immediately contact your financial institutions to place protections on your accounts; and monitor your accounts and personal information for suspicious activity.

**Filing a Complaint**

If you believe you or someone you know may have been a victim of elder fraud, you should contact your local FBI field office. You can also file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov

When reporting a scam—regardless of dollar amount—be as descriptive as possible in the complaint by including:

1. Dates the perpetrator had contact with you, and the methods of communication.
2. Names of the perpetrator and company.
3. Phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses used by the subject.
4. Websites used by the subject company.
5. Method of payment.
6. Account names and numbers and the financial institutions to which you sent funds, including wire transfers and prepaid card payments.
7. Descriptions of interactions with the perpetrator and the instructions you were given.

Complainants are also encouraged to keep all original documentation, emails, faxes, and logs of all communications. Because scams and fraudulent websites appear very quickly, individuals are encouraged to report possible internet scams and fraudulent websites by filing a complaint with the IC3 at www.ic3.gov.

To view previously released public service announcements and Scam Alerts, visit the IC3 Press Room at www.ic3.gov/media/default.aspx

*Source: www.ic3.gov/media/2019/190919.aspx*
The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa Presents

THE 27TH ANNUAL

Festival of Lights

Window Decorating Contest

Invite the thousands of visitors to your business by decorating your storefront.

Submit the following by Friday, November 8 to rdpsarah@sbcglobal.net

Business
Address
Contact
Name | Email | Phone
Judging will take place between November 14 - 17.

*contest is only for businesses located along Main St. & in the Downtown area*