

EXPLORE



WINTER/SPRING 2020

RIVERSIDE

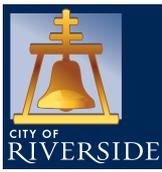


Just a
Normal Dude in a Chair

PG. 4

Public Art Grants

PG. 74



City Hall
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92522
City Hall Hours:
Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

ExploreRiverside.com
Explore@RiversideCA.gov • (951) 826-5311

Mayor
Rusty Bailey

City Council Members

Erin Edwards	Ward 1
Andy Melendrez	Ward 2
Ronaldo Fierro	Ward 3
Chuck Conder	Ward 4
Gaby Plascencia	Ward 5
Jim Perry	Ward 6
Steve Hemenway	Ward 7

City Manager
Al Zelinka

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ACTIVITY GUIDE

To view the Parks
and Recreation
Activity Guide

[Click Here](#)

**REGISTER
NOW!**
RivReg.org
(951) 826-2000

FRIENDLY STARS



Friendly Stars is a social recreation program for developmentally disabled adults ages 18 and over. Activities encourage participants to interact with each other and staff in a social and enjoyable atmosphere. Revel in arts and crafts, karaoke, movies, a weekly dance with music and one special event each month.

For more information, please call
La Sierra Senior Center at
(951) 351-6435 or visit **RivReg.org**.

EXPLORE COVER: Bryan Ibarra of Riverside Public Utilities

Trevor Kamhiriri

Printed on recycled paper

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ENJOY THE RIDE! SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION

Established in 1975, the City of Riverside, Special Transportation is a paratransit bus service that provides disabled residents and seniors age 60 and over rides to the mall, doctor's appointments, group events, senior centers or to visit friends.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

Yearly Days of Operation

362

On-time Performance

96.75%

Total Passengers

139,878

Service Miles

647,418



Trips to Seniors

31,109

Trips for Disabled Individuals

38,867

Wheelchairs Trips

22,715

Total One-Way Trips

119,740

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Saturdays,
Sundays & Holidays**
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(Service not provided
on Thanksgiving, Christmas
and New Year's Day)

For more information, visit RivReg.org.

Reserve your spot by contacting (951) 687-8080

BE SURE TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING READY:

- The **date, day and time** that you want to be picked up and returned
- **Your name** and **telephone number**
- If you are going to a **medical appointment**, give your appointment time and the doctor's telephone number
- Number of **passengers** riding (A required attendant may ride for free; a companion is required to pay)
- If you use a **wheelchair**, and if you need to use the lift
- The **address** for pickup, destination & return pickup

JUST A NORMAL DUDE IN A CHAIR

BRYAN IBARRA

NO REGRETS AND NO LIMITS



As a Customer Service Representative with the Riverside Public Utilities Customer Resource Center, **Bryan Ibarra** serves the community with his friendly disposition and helpful attitude. Like many people his age, he enjoys spending time with his wife, off-roading, camping and hanging with his friends; the only difference is he does it all in a wheelchair.

Three years ago, a motorcycle accident changed his life forever. After his brakes malfunctioned, Bryan was thrown from his motorcycle 48 feet in the air. Had he not landed next to a stranger, he may not be here to tell his story. "He saved my life," Bryan says. "I remember him using my phone to call for help, then he put it on my chest and left."

The accident resulted in a T4 spinal cord injury, leaving Bryan paralyzed from his chest down. He was forced to adapt and re-learn how to do every-day tasks. Through his recovery process, Bryan met a man that would put his new normal into perspective.

"That day I was really messed up, and he was just staring at me." After a short introduction, the gentleman approached Bryan and pointed out that he still had the use of his hands and the ability to do things for himself, which many others do not, then he proceeded to remind Bryan to focus on the good, to put his life in perspective.

"After that, I will never complain; that opened me and I thought I'm not done," Bryan explained. He has worked tirelessly to maneuver his way around a world that is not always

designed to be accessible for his wheelchair. After all, resourcefulness and perseverance were not foreign to him.

Bryan began his journey with the City of Riverside as a RESET employee. (RESET is a City-sponsored program that assists young adults in achieving their education, civic, personal, and social development as responsible individuals and community members through temporary full-time employment for a period of 12 to 18 months.) He returned to work after the accident as a 311 call center employee and ultimately settled in to the new Customer Resource Center.

Due to his determination to continue to enjoy his life and daily activities the same way he did before the accident, Bryan still participates in the things he loves to do which includes sky diving, modifying his truck to go off-roading and taking part in the *Possibilities 5k*. "I still live my normal life, I'm just a normal dude in a chair, and I keep it real," he says.

While Bryan is confident in his ability to figure out how to solve problems and muscle through situations that arise from lack of accessibility, he does worry for those in the community who may not be physically able to do so and acknowledges there are many benefits to more awareness in the community for those with disabilities.

"People don't go out because they don't know things are accessible," he says. "It can be a rushed life because you always have to think ahead of everything you do. Everything is planned out."

WHEELCHAIRS

THINGS TO CONSIDER

FROM BRYAN IBARRA



DOORS

Heavy doors can be difficult to open for a person in a wheelchair. Doors must be **10 LBS OR LIGHTER** to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and positioned within a large space where a person in a wheelchair can maneuver with ease.



RESPECTING ACCESS TO RAMP ON THE STREET

When driving and making a right turn, drivers should **avoid blocking the ramps** on the sidewalk. People in wheelchairs cannot go around and must wait for drivers to finish their turn.



RESTROOM FACILITIES

Large, well lit, and ADA compliant restroom facilities can be hard to find. People with disabilities often have to travel away from their destinations to find adequate facilities.



MEETING ROOMS

During meetings, leaving an **empty space at the table near the door** can make it easier for a person in a wheelchair to join without feeling excluded.



WAITING AREAS

Waiting areas should include a space where a person can wait **comfortably in their wheelchair** and not feel isolated or in the way.



JUDGMENT

Disabilities do not look the same on everyone. When in doubt **avoid staring or unnecessary commentary.**

Bryan shares his story in hopes of helping able-bodied people gain a **new perspective** and inspiring those with disabilities to **continue living their normal lives.**

"I'm open about my injury and I tell people, 'Ask anything and I can give you a response.' I like to educate people," he says. Looking towards the future, he hopes to inspire people through different mediums and tell them his story of living a life with **"no regrets and no limits"**.

To learn about current ADA regulations, visit [ADA.gov](https://www.ada.gov).



CITY OF RIVERSIDE
FIRE DEPARTMENT

1

CITY OF
ISO CLASS
RIVERSIDE



YOUR MEASURE Z DOLLARS

AT WORK

The City of Riverside Fire Department, with help from Measure Z funding, was able to elevate its rating from Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 2 to the highest awarded level – **ISO Class 1**. This highly regarded distinction is a reflection of the City of Riverside Fire Department's commitment to providing quality public safety services to the citizens, businesses, and visitors to Riverside.

The ISO process has resulted in the department now offering:



FASTER RESPONSE TIMES

Automatic Vehicle Location uses GPS technology to dispatch the closest piece of equipment, reducing response times, resulting in fire resources getting to emergencies quicker.



ADDITIONAL PARAMEDICS

Every fire apparatus in the city is now staffed with a paramedic, providing the highest level of medical care on every call for medical aid.



MORE FIREFIGHTERS

All truck companies in the city are now staffed with four people, ensuring adequate personnel are available to provide firefighting and rescue operations.



ADDITIONAL TRUCK COMPANIES

Truck companies were increased by 25%. With four truck companies, the Fire Department can now provide enhanced coverage throughout the city.



LOWER INSURANCE RATES

Insurance companies use ISO information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance — sometimes offering lower premiums in communities with ISO Class 1 classification.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The ISO program provides an objective nationwide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training.



DECREASE IN PROPERTY LOSS

The most significant benefit of the ISO Class 1 program is its effect on losses. ISO Class 1 departments report a lower loss of life, property, and damage to the environment.

For more information, visit RiversideCA.gov/Fire.

FAST FACTS



ISO Class 1 Departments
348 in the United States | **33** in California



77

Departments that are both ISO Class 1 and Commission on Fire Accreditation International Accredited Nationally



6

Departments that are both ISO Class 1 and Commission on Fire Accreditation International Accredited in California

- Riverside
- Burbank
- Pasadena
- Torrance
- Culver City
- Anaheim



BRAILLE INSTITUTE

RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

“Our new Riverside Neighborhood Center’s dedicated volunteers are eager to serve and help those with low vision. Your independence can be regained at our center or through in-home visits.”
- Frank Pefley, Regional Manager

With 100 years in business, the Braille Institute helps blind and visually impaired persons of all ages seeking assistance with job preparation and life skills. The Braille Institute provides a broad range of free programs and services including: career counseling, training in adaptive technology, independent living skills, job readiness skills, sensory efficiency, social interaction skills, and college and career readiness. They offer in-home services, low vision rehabilitation, and programs such as the music program and telephone reader program.

For school-age youth with low vision, the Braille Institute offers workshops led by their Child Development Program that aim to create a solid foundation by working with educators and parents. With hands-on learning, students and their families explore key resources that include college visits, career-exploration, Johnny Mercer music program, and advocacy support to promote independence, ultimately leading to a better quality of life.

Additionally, the Braille Institute’s in-house library has services that benefit everyone. Visitors are encouraged to take advantage of the browsing area, patron computer, wi-fi connection, expert reader advisors, CCTV, BARD Station, scheduled BARD sessions, and the SHELF Project, which allows for downloads of locally-produced books.

“This is the only Braille Institute within the Inland Empire. We teach those with low vision to no vision cooking, independent living, and technology.”

For those with low or no vision, there is an extremely high need for services in this area; Riverside’s local Braille Institute location provides easier accessibility than traveling to other locations in Anaheim, Palm Desert, Los Angeles, Laguna Hills, San Diego, or Santa Barbara.

6974 Brockton Avenue Suite #100
Riverside, CA 92506
BrailleInstitute.org/Riverside



NOW OPEN

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES



**CUSTOMER
RESOURCE CENTER**
3025 MADISON ST., RIVERSIDE, CA 92504

**New services are now being offered to help
with all your water and electric needs**

 **Medical Support
Adjusted Rate
Structure Program
(Utilicare)**

 **Sharing
Households
Assist Riverside's
Energy (SHARE)**

 **Rebate Assistance,
Education and
Support**

 **Energy Savings
Assistance
Program (ESAP)**

WALK-IN HOURS

**Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Saturday & Sunday
CLOSED**

RiversidePublicUtilities.com/Rebates

ARTS IN THE CITY

Arlanza Carniceria
Market Mural

CITY OF RIVERSIDE ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of Riverside's **Arts & Cultural Affairs Division (ACAD)** is where the commitment to the arts is evidenced by the many opportunities for residents, visitors, artists and organizations to share in our city's cultural expression through the arts. Housed under the Community and Economic Development Department, ACAD provides support and creates local, regional and national partnerships with the many Riverside arts and cultural institutions.

Public art from local artists injects life into our public spaces that reflects our values as a community. Riverside is creating a **new public art application** to streamline the process through which public art is created and celebrated. The application, which can be filed at no cost, allows for a mutual approval process involving the property owner, the artist and the City, therefore reducing the potential for conflicts with city codes or ordinances. It also will enable the City to track and promote new pieces of public art as they are produced so the public can enjoy the work.

Finally, in order to assist in the creation of public art, the City is in its second year of offering micro-grants of \$500 to \$1,000 to help individual and/or emerging artists accomplish projects in Riverside that are accessible to

the public. The two-year pilot program is in its second year, which means the art must be completed by **June 30, 2020**.

These micro-grants are meant to assist artists who have a great idea or vision, but lack resources. The project funded by the micro-grant must be accessible to the public. For example, the work could end up in a coffee shop, a museum or gallery, or at the monthly Arts Walk event downtown.

Artists must be at least 18 years old, demonstrate the ability to complete the project described, and prepare a single-page application/proposal. Applicants may only receive one grant per year; and grant recipients must attend an annual reception. A single-page, post-project report also is required.

Information and applications are available at **RiversideCA.gov/arts**

For more information, please email **SpecialEvents@RiversideCA.gov**

Mission Statement: To champion and advance Riverside as the City of Arts and Culture in the broadest economic and social context possible.





RIVERSIDE INSECT FAIR

Get a little bugged out as you touch a tarantula, buzz by the bees, or smell a stink bug. The City of Riverside's Arts and Cultural Affairs Division, Riverside Metropolitan Museum and the UC Riverside Entomology Graduate Student Association will host the **6th Annual Riverside Insect Fair** to give you the opportunity to learn how insects impact our lives.

With more than 50 booths, interactive butterfly tent, your curiosities will be met and your questions can be answered by subject experts!



SATURDAY,
APRIL 25, 2020

10 AM - 4 PM

MISSION INN AVENUE

BETWEEN
ORANGE ST AND LEMON ST

RiversideInsectFair.com



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

THE CAROLYN E. WYLIE CENTER

"We are most proud of being able to meet the needs of the families in the Inland Empire for over 43 years. We are proud of being flexible and able to respond quickly to changing trends in the community."
- Melodie Amaral, CEO

Riverside's Carolyn E. Wylie Center offers early intervention services, the Autism Spectrum intervention program, mental health treatment, outreach counseling, and parent education.

Founded in 1976, the Wylie Center provides individualized intervention services to create a positive influence in the lives of children, youth, and families in areas relating to Autistic Disorders. The Wylie Center promotes intensive 1:1 behavior modification to enhance overall quality of living. Targeted areas include communication, social interaction, play, motor skills, cognition, academics, attention, executive functioning, adaptive skills, and behavior.

Mental health treatment is also offered for children 0 to 18 years old and their families, as well as for adults. Specialty areas of treatment include children with special needs, impulsive, anxious, or depressed youth, LGBTQ issues, and youth in foster care.



"We enjoy what we do because the community is responsive to the needs of their fellow citizens, which makes our work much easier. There are a number of government and community programs that guide us and support us in the work we do."

The Wylie Center aims to have a holistic approach to serving families. Here are some additional facts they shared with us:

- They offer services and advocacy in maternal mental health and are a sponsor in the Inland Empire Maternal Mental Health Collaborative.
- They offer immigration rights services.
- They have both a food and diaper bank for their existing clients.
- Also, they host a Color Run fundraiser on **April 18, 2020** at Jurupa Regional Park – visit **Unity5k.org** for more information.



"The community should know that we offer a multitude of services. It's not just mental health and it's not just autism; it's a wider array than that, so give us a call and we will help you with whatever your need may be."
- Melodie Amaral, CEO

4164 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501
WylieCenter.org • (951) 683-5193

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARCH 3, 2020

GET OUT AND VOTE!

Mayoral elections coincide and are consolidated with the statewide primary and general election dates in United States Presidential election years. The next Mayoral election will be held on **March 3, 2020**, for a term of four years.

If no one candidate receives a majority of all votes cast, a run-off election will be held on **November 3, 2020** for the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the March 3, 2020 general municipal election.



VOTE RIVERSIDE

For election details, visit RiversideCA.gov/cityclerk

THE 2020 CENSUS IS COMING

The Census is a survey taken every ten years with the intention of counting every person living in the United States. It is mandated by the Constitution and designed to count every person once.



HOW DOES THE CENSUS IMPACT YOU?

2010 CENSUS
LESS THAN

70%

RESPONSE
RATE

=

\$1 BILLION

OF **LOST** FEDERAL FUNDING TO
THE REGION DURING THE DECADE

Public services or programs are funded based on population-data derived from Census counts. Ensuring your group is properly counted in the 2020 Census means ensuring that these programs and services are set up to properly serve your community!

To learn more about the 2020 Census, visit RiversideCA.gov/Census2020

EXPLORE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RIVERSIDE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



The City of Riverside is filled with a variety of diverse events each year. The online community calendar showcases upcoming events hosted by the City, local non-profits, community organizations and businesses.

This **FREE** service is brought to you by the City of Riverside in an effort to combine exciting local programming to the diverse desire of our residents to stay busy and have fun!

To submit a calendar event request, an electronic sign request, or a City Hall light request, please visit [RiversideCA.gov/calendar](https://www.RiversideCA.gov/calendar)



LESS WATER **MORE COLOR**

FREE LANDSCAPE TRAINING WORKSHOP SERIES



Saturday, January 25, 2020

Planting for Pollinators



Saturday, February 22, 2020

Garden Design



Saturday, March 28, 2020

Turf Replacement



Saturday, May 30, 2020

Irrigation Trouble Shooting



Workshops are scheduled from 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Learn more and register now at: [RiversidePublicUtilities.com](https://www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com)

For more information, contact (951) 826-5311



RIVERSIDE TV

For all things Riverside – check out RiversideTV!

Check out exciting things to do with friends and family in the City, current events, local sporting events, City news and so much more.

Three Great Ways to Watch



YouTube.com
@CityofRiverside

Subscribe and be the first to know about the great things happening across the City!



WatchRiverside.com

Watch your favorite shows 24/7 online.



Watch from the comfort of your home

AT&T: Channel 99
Charter: Channel 3
Frontier: Channel 21

Show Us Why You Love Riverside! #ILoveRiverside



@warchiefcycling



@photog200832



@lasierrauniversity

Use the hashtag #ILoveRiverside and your image could be featured in the next ExploreRiverside magazine!

CONNECT WITH US: RiversideCA.gov/SocialMedia

