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Rusty Bailey

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Recognizing that easy access to the City’s financial data is of increasing importance today, the Finance Department recently partnered with a company called OpenGov to increase the transparency and availability of the City’s budget and financial transaction data online. Finance Department staff continue to work with OpenGov to improve the portal’s functionality and expand access to the City’s financial data. The latest version of the portal is linked from the Finance Department’s webpage and is accessible directly at http://riverside.opengov.com/transparency.

Currently, the portal contains information regarding five years of the City’s budget and actual information at the account level of detail. New functionality currently under development will expand the capabilities of the portal to include transaction-level and vendor-level detail.

Riverside’s local economy has long benefited from the economic impact generated by having almost 50,000 college students in the city. A host of retail, food service and entertainment establishments get a boost every time a student plunks down a few dollars for a meal, a cup of coffee or a show. The institutions themselves are major employers, including faculty, staff and support jobs. And that level of employment has grown.

The University of California, Riverside has added more than 300 jobs since April 2012, increasing the overall economic impact of UCR, estimated at $1.4 billion annually. UCR students spend $450 million per year in the area, which helps UCR support 16,300 local jobs.

California Baptist University has increased employment by 44 jobs in the past year, the latest step in a long-term growth pattern. Under the leadership of Dr. Ronald L. Ellis, enrollment has grown nearly nine-fold at CBU from 808 in 1994 to 7,144 now. During that same period, the university’s operating budget has increased from $11.3 million to $189.5 million in fiscal year 2014, an increase that has an immediate and positive impact on the City’s overall economy.

Riverside City College increased employment in 2013 by 35 full-time-equivalent positions, while La Sierra University increased its full-time-equivalent jobs by 42. La Sierra also enjoyed worldwide attention when its new Tom and Vi Zapara School of Business at La Sierra University was named the #1 Most Beautiful Business School in the World by TopManagementDegrees.com.
The City of Riverside Community Development’s Historic Preservation, Neighborhoods, and Urban Design Division will be collaborating with the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership (RNP) and Riverside residents to create 26 neighborhood strategies in a 26 month time frame, 26 in 26.

With a citizen-led vision to bring neighbors closer together, the City and RNP hope to help identify available assets, define the needs of neighborhoods, and facilitate connections.

Through 26 in 26, Neighborhoods staff and RNP will develop a public process and neighborhood strategy that will be applied to help each neighborhood maintain or advance towards its full potential. Implementation of each strategy will be borne by the residents of the neighborhoods and other partners, in addition to the City for a collaborative result and ongoing effort.

The public will be engaged throughout the entire process beginning in early 2014 with kick-off events where all residents are welcome to attend. The kick-off events will be followed by several smaller community meetings throughout the process.

Neighborhoods staff recently authored a Public Engagement Grant application for the Davenport Institute through Pepperdine School of Public Policy for the 26 in 26 project. In what was the most competitive year for the Davenport Institute grant program, with nearly 40 municipalities and civic organizations applying, the City of Riverside was awarded one of four grants for consulting services that will be utilized for the 26 in 26 project for leadership training.

For more information on the 26 in 26 program call (951) 826-5168.

In Progress: Ysmael Villegas Community Center and Park improvements

The City of Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is thrilled to announce improvements coming to Ysmael Villegas Community Center and Park! Due to be completed in November 2014, the Community Center renovations include a 1,300 square foot expansion for a new entry and lobby, renovation of the 6,100 square foot multi-purpose room, a full-service kitchen, renovated interior offices, community meeting rooms and a new youth recreation room. Park improvements include parking lot renovations, new courtyard entry plaza with veterans memorial, soccer field renovation and extensive landscape and irrigation improvement. For more information visit RiversideCA.gov/parks_rec.
Riverside residents intrigued by the possibility of streetcars coming back to the city were able to tour one in downtown Riverside this past November through a cooperative arrangement with its manufacturer, Siemens, and the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS).

The 80-foot, bright red state-of-the-art vehicle manufactured in Sacramento made a full-day stop in Riverside en route to San Diego, and rested on a temporary rail system on the streets of Downtown. Allowing over 2,500 visitors to get an up-close view, the streetcar showcased the kind of transportation that is transforming mobility in cities around the country.

Streetcars once rolled through Riverside as part of a regional network that connected Southern California. The proposal to bring streetcars back to the city through the “Riverside Reconnects” program received a boost when Caltrans awarded the City a $237,500 transportation planning grant to cover much of the cost of a year-long feasibility study.

The study will examine costs and ways to pay for such a system, as well as how a system could affect property values and attract investment to areas along the proposed routes, where approximately 200,000 people live, work or attend school nearby.

Additionally, the study will determine if a streetcar network can link downtown Riverside with UC Riverside along University Avenue and connect downtown Riverside with much of the rest of the city along Magnolia Avenue.

“Riverside Reconnects has the potential to strengthen connections between neighborhoods while spurring increased economic development,” Mayor Bailey said. “Such a streetcar system also would help us attract the emerging workforce of young professionals who are embracing a lifestyle that does not necessarily include a car. These next-generation workers are looking for places that fit their needs, and Riverside can be just such a place.”
Public Works activity continues throughout the City to improve our community

Grade Separation Projects
The City’s $220 million program to construct grade separations along the City’s most heavily traveled corridors is making steady progress as the Iowa Grade Separation was just constructed, and is soon to be landscaped. The Riverside Grade Separation kicks off as the sixth grade separation project in six years to start construction. Four grade separation projects are now complete on Jurupa, Columbia, Magnolia and Iowa.

Over the next two years, the Riverside and Streeter Avenue projects will be completed bringing $68 million in investment to our community, supporting jobs and economic growth, while also improving our overall quality of life. Completion of all six projects will eliminate delays for thousands of cars daily, reduce train horn noise and eliminate 24 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Quiet Zone Update
The City is in the final stretch to establish the first section of Quiet Zone in Riverside along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) corridor from Buchanan Street to Jane Street. Since February 2011, the City

has developed and implemented the first two phases of work to establish a Quiet Zone along this stretch of railroad tracks by installing new concrete panels, closing Jane Street, and constructing street and pedestrian improvements. Next, BNSF will replace the existing railroad warning devices with new devices which will allow the horns to be silenced. This phase should be completed by the end of 2014. The next section of the Quiet Zone will include Cridge Street and Panorama Road. This area will be improved after completion of the Highway 91 HOV project currently under construction.

Arterial Road Improvements
Our 3-Year Pavement Preservation and Rehabilitation Program is well underway with improvements to several arterial corridors completed with more planned for this year. Over eight miles of arterials have been improved so far:

Completed:
- Canyon Springs (Eastridge to Day)
- Jackson (California to Van Buren)
- Main (3rd Street to SR 60)
- Magnolia (Central to Jurupa)
- Market (Houghton to 14th)
- Van Buren (Garfield to Jackson)

Under Construction:
- Jackson (Indiana to Lincoln)
- La Sierra (Diana to Schuyler)

Upcoming:
- Cole (Van Buren to Krameria)
- Indiana (Victoria to Tyler)
- Magnolia (Jackson to Arlington)
- Trautwein (Alessandro to Van Buren)
- Victoria* (Tyler to Van Buren)

*to be completed after construction of storm drains.
The country’s leading provider of live entertainment will operate Riverside’s historic Fox Performing Arts Center and the Riverside Municipal Auditorium.

The City Council approved a contract with Live Nation, the country’s leading provider of live entertainment, to operate Riverside’s historic Fox Performing Arts Center and the Riverside Municipal Auditorium.

“This is an exciting opportunity for the City of Riverside,” Mayor Rusty Bailey said. “This contract will provide Riverside with a world-class entertainment provider to match our world-class facilities.”

Live Nation officials have said they expect the Fox Theater to expand upon the current programming to include theater, family events and a wide range of musical artists, including adult contemporary, classic rock, R&B, Latin and country.

The contract for the Fox Theater took effect December 1, 2013 and management immediately began recruiting staff and booking shows. The contract for the Municipal Auditorium takes effect March 1, 2014 with both contracts including two three-year renewal options. Ben Weeden, chief operating officer for Live Nation’s House of Blues Entertainment division said, “These are world-class venues and we look forward to booking them, managing them and operating them as such.”

The Fox Performing Arts Center contract includes promises to schedule four to six Broadway series subscriptions and promote a variety of programs and events. The goal is to promote 60 events in the first year, 65 events in year two, 70 events in year three, 75 events in year four and 80 events in year five.

The Riverside Municipal Auditorium has promised to promote, produce, present, or provide 50 events in the first year, 55 events in year two, 60 events in year three, 65 events in year four and 70 events in year five.

Live Nation’s fresh and modern vibe will surely serve as a welcomed accent to Riverside’s bustling arts and culture scene. Live Nation has extensive experience with operating such historic venues including the Hollywood Palladium, The Wiltern in Los Angeles and The Fillmore in San Francisco. The company produces more than 6,000 shows at 70 venues worldwide each year, now including two in Riverside.

To sign up for future show announcements visit FoxRiversideLive.com.
Riversiders proud to call Riverside home

The Riverside Community Quality of Life Survey results are in and community and civic leaders are learning a lot about the perceptions of Riversiders.

The survey was conducted in April 2013 by the City of Riverside as a way to measure progress toward the Seizing Our Destiny vision. The purpose of the survey was to gather, analyze and share actionable data about the opinions of Riversiders regarding their quality of life. Highlights of the survey demonstrated both positive perceptions and areas where Riversiders show concern.

“These results confirm what a lot of Riversiders know in their hearts – they love their city and they feel good about living here,” Mayor Rusty Bailey said. “The survey also provides valuable insight into where we can do better in changing conditions, perceptions or both.”

On the positive side, Riversiders think the city is a good place to raise a family and are happy with the schools and educational opportunities (with positive ratings for the full educational pipeline); they see their community as a good place for affordable living or to locate a business, to be active and healthy, and, by a sizable majority, Riversiders see their community as a good place to enjoy and participate in arts and culture opportunities.

While it is important to celebrate the positive, some of the key feedback identified areas that could still use some attention or have Riversiders concerned. For example, although a strong majority felt Riverside “is a good place to own or operate a business or nonprofit organization,” the perception of Riverside being business-friendly and the awareness of business and entrepreneur resources is not as strong as desired. It is an area that the City, Chambers and organizations such as the Small Business Development Center have made a priority over the past several years; these results indicate that more creative methods of sharing information need to be explored.

The complete report is available to the public at RiversideSurvey.com.

Business First

Riverside’s Business First Program gives small businesses, large companies and budding entrepreneurs the tools, information and guidance they need to be successful. The City of Riverside is proud to have had more than 600 new businesses join the City in the last six months. The City’s Office of Economic Development was happy to have provided assistance in some of those businesses locating in Riverside. ExploreRiverside.com
Save valuable time and money with ePlan Review

Business Ready Riverside is a commitment from the City of Riverside to enhance customer service options and make it easier to do business with the City. One of the first initiatives was the July 1, 2013 launch of ePlan Review, a state-of-the-art online workflow management system.

ePlan Review saves businesses and homeowners valuable time and money during the plan check process by providing an online solution for customers to electronically submit drawings and documents for items normally brought to the Building and Safety or Planning Division counters. This optional online solution provides more streamlined routing and faster communication regarding projects. ePlan Review routes the plans to all applicable City departments allowing for simultaneous review of the project with all reviewer comments returned to the applicant by email.

Applicants have online access to the system to communicate with staff and if required, new versions are submitted online and the review process starts again until the permit or project is approved. Completed plans and projects are electronically stamped providing applicants immediate notification and online access to download their approved files.

While the fees for plan checks remain in place, use of ePlan Review is free for applicants and accepts all file types for submission.

For more information and a link to the application visit RiversideCA.gov/eplans.

Exciting news for Riverside!
Convention Center Reopens February 2014

After a $45 million dollar renovation and expansion, the 65,000 square foot Riverside Convention Center will open with a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting on February 26, 2014 and a Community Open House and Tour on March 1st.

The new venue serves as the only convention center in western Riverside County and includes an expanded 30,000 square foot exhibit hall and an additional 4,000 square foot banquet room. The Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau books a wide range of events, from national and international conventions to local conferences and private parties.

The Center has been built with leading-edge technology in exhibit halls, ballrooms and meeting rooms. The sustainable design includes high-efficiency LED lighting, occupant sensors for energy management, recycled materials, and drought-tolerant landscaping. Also on site is a full-service kitchen and full catering service.

With the new Center, downtown Riverside continues to experience its own revitalization and renewal. The Riverside Convention Center is sure to draw visitors from across the globe to Riverside, offering a state of the art meeting location in a charming, welcoming, yet sophisticated and modern atmosphere.
Riverside conservation rebate programs help cut energy cost

It’s always the right season to take part in Riverside Public Utilities’ conservation rebate programs. They not only pay you back for making your home more efficient, they can also help to lower your utility bills year-round.

Weatherization – Installing insulation is one of the most cost-effective ways to quickly improve your home’s efficiency. Our Weatherization Rebate Program provides rebates for select exterior wall and attic insulation, duct and house envelope sealing and more.

Energy Star – If you have older, inefficient appliances in your house, upgrade them with new, high efficiency Energy Star rated ones. Great rebates are available on a variety of qualifying products including: dishwashers, high efficiency clothes washers, ceiling fans, refrigerators, televisions, and more.

Pool Saver – Whether you use your pool in the winter or not, you still have to run the pool pump to keep it clean. But older motors can waste energy and money. Install a new, high-efficiency pump in your pool or spa and receive a rebate.

WBIC – It’s raining out, but your sprinkler system turns on anyway. That’s a waste of water. Avoid this by installing a Weather-Based Irrigation Controller (WBIC) that can automatically adjust watering schedules.

For complete details on these and other rebate programs offered for customers of Riverside Public Utilities visit GreenRiverside.com.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January

11 Downtown Farmers Market
Downtown 8 a.m.
For more info call 826-5481

15 Read with the Mayor
Eastside Library 5 p.m.
For more info visit riversideca.gov/mayor

20 Martin Luther King Jr. Walk-A-Thon
Stratton Community Center 10 a.m. — 1 p.m.
For more info call 826-5355

23 Mayor’s State of the City Address
Riverside Auditorium and Events Center 7:30 p.m.
For more info call 683-7100

25 Riverside Lunar Festival
Mission Inn and Lemon 10 a.m. — 7 p.m.
For more info call 453-3548

30 GRCC Mega Mixer
Galleria at Tyler 4:30 — 7:30 p.m.
For more info call 683-7100

February

1 Downtown Farmers Market
Downtown 8 a.m.
For more info call 826-5481

Man of La Mancha
Fox Performing Arts Center 8 – 10 p.m.
For more info call 779-9800

8 Downtown Farmers Market
Downtown 8 a.m.
For more info call 826-5481

9 Amazing College Race
Downtown 2 – 5 p.m.
For more info call 826-5481

12 Read with the Mayor
Main Library 10 a.m.
For more info visit riversideca.gov/mayor

18 Second Annual Health Fair
Cesar Chavez Community Center 8 a.m.
For more info call 801-2570

22 Third Annual Health Fair
Cesar Chavez Community Center 8 a.m.
For more info call 801-2570

23 Dickens Festival
Main and 9th Street 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
For more info call 781-3168

26 Riverside Convention Center Grand Opening
3637 5th Street 5 p.m.
For info visit riversidecvb.com

28 The Sound of Music
The Box 7:30 p.m.
For info visit riversideblackbox.com

March

1 Riverside Convention Center Community Open House
3637 5th Street 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.
For info visit riversidecvb.com

2 First Sundays
Downtown 1 – 4 p.m.
For info visit riversideca.gov/museum

3 Arts Walk
Downtown 6 – 9 p.m.
For more info call 682-6737

6 Chief’s Breakfast
Mission Inn 6:45 a.m.
For info visit riversidepolicefoundation.org

8 Downtown Farmers Market
Downtown 8 a.m.
For more info call 779-9800

9 West Side Story
Fox Performing Arts Center 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
For more info call 779-9800

12 Read with the Mayor
Ardena Library 4 p.m.
For info visit riversideca.gov/mayor

16 The Pink Floyd Experience
Fox Performing Arts Center 8 p.m.
For more info call 779-9800

19 & 20 Grow Riverside
Citrus & Beyond Conference
Riverside Convention Center
7:30 a.m. — 6 p.m.
For info visit growriverside.com

23 Beauty and the Beast Jr. Auditions
Riverside Youth Theatre 4 p.m.
For info visit riversideyouththeatre.org

26 Downtown Farmers Market
Downtown 8 a.m.
For more info call 826-5481

April

3 Arts Walk
Downtown 6 – 9 p.m.
For more info call 682-6737

8 Adal Ramones
Fox Performing Arts Center 8 p.m.
For more info call 779-9800

16 3rd Annual Health Fair
Cesar Chavez Community Center 8 a.m.
For more info call 801-2570

20 A Capella Sing-Off Live Tour
Fox Performing Arts Center 8 p.m.
For more info call 779-9800

22 Third Annual Health Fair
Cesar Chavez Community Center 8 a.m.
For more info call 801-2570

23 Dickens Festival
Main and 9th Street 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
For more info call 781-3168

26 Riverside Convention Center Grand Opening
3637 5th Street 5 p.m.
For info visit riversidecvb.com

28 The Sound of Music
The Box 7:30 p.m.
For info visit riversideblackbox.com

April 12, 2014
2880 Hulen Place, Riverside, CA

The goal of this event is to raise $30,000 for the proposed laundry and shower facility at the Riverside Homeless Service Campus on Hulen Place. Participants will tour the homeless service campus and meet homeless service providers.

- Registration 6:30 a.m.
- Presentation 7:45 a.m.
- Walking begins 8:00 a.m.

Registration fee:
- $30 if registered by FEB 28th
- $35 after FEB 28th

EndHomeless.info

TO SUBMIT EVENTS AND SEE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON RIVERSIDE EVENTS CHECK OUT RiversideCA.gov/calendar

Riverside E H E L L O M E N S S

2880 Hulen Place, Riverside, CA

Calendart is subject to change.
Please confirm event information prior to participation.