



# The Posting

Code Enforcement Newsletter

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## Hauled Away - District 2

Code Enforcement Technician Lucero observed two inoperable vehicles in the Highgrove area. She stopped and spoke with the property owner's parents, who live next door, and explained the vehicle abatement ordinance and issued a Notice of Violation for the inoperable vehicles.

The property owner, subsequently called Lucero and informed her that the white Chevrolet vehicle was repaired but that she would need extra time to repair the Buick. She stated the Buick belongs to her son who lives out-of-state and that she has called him several times; however, he has not returned her calls.

Lucero reviewed the Department of Motor Vehicle printout she had on hand and revealed to the property owner that the vehicle was also in her name. Then she proceeded to inform the owner of the available program, "Junk Your Clunker", that will tow vehicles away from a property free of charge. When she asked the owner if she would be interested in participating in the program, she stated, "Oh my goodness, I would love that, but I will have to discuss it with my son. What all do I have to do?" Technician Lucero provided further explanation about the program and instructed her to complete the necessary application and return it to the Code Enforcement Department. The owner said she would do as instructed but only after speaking to her son. She, later, did sign the "Junk Your Clunker" form authorizing the removal of the inoperable Buick vehicle only.

Consequently, Lucero made arrangements with our towing service to tow the vehicle away from the property. The owner was very happy to see the vehicle gone. She stated she was grateful for the program as she was worried about the fines she might have to pay due to the inoperable vehicle.



## JUNK YOUR CLUNKER PROGRAM

As a public service of the Abandoned Vehicle Authority (AVA) Program, residents within unincorporated Riverside County can arrange to have the junk vehicle(s) removed from your property absolutely **FREE** of charge, if you qualify!

Visit our website [www.rctlma.org/ce](http://www.rctlma.org/ce) for more details.



### Teaming Up Against Trash - District 5

A report of rubbish strewn on Sunset Avenue in the unincorporated area of Banning led to a team effort to clean up the community. The area Code Enforcement officer responded to the complaint and identified the location where he viewed rubbish dumped along the roadside. The officer got the ball rolling by contacting the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources and completing an online referral for roadside rubbish. A few days later the rubbish had been removed, which greatly improved the appearance of the community. **To request a pickup of illegally dumped waste on a county road, please use the IMPACT referral form at [www.rcwaste.org/illegal](http://www.rcwaste.org/illegal) or call 1-800-870-6600.** By working together with our communities and partners in other county agencies, we can find solutions for the betterment of the communities.



### Cultivating Marijuana Still Illegal in Unincorporated Riverside County With Limited Exemptions for Qualified Medical Marijuana Patients, Allowances under Prop. 64

California voters legalized recreational use of marijuana on Nov. 8 by approving Prop. 64, called the Adult Use of Marijuana Act. Under Prop. 64 each county and city in California may place “reasonable” restrictions on marijuana cultivation for personal use but may not completely ban cultivation of up to six plants. Prop. 64 allows an adult, 21 years of age or older, to cultivate six plants inside a private residence or within a locked area on the grounds of the private residence in an area that is fully enclosed, locked, and not visible from a public place. Under Prop. 64, no more than six marijuana plants may be cultivated per private residence, no matter how many people live there.

More than a year before the Prop. 64 vote, the Board of Supervisors approved Riverside County Ordinance 925. The ordinance prohibits marijuana cultivation in the unincorporated area, i.e., outside city boundaries. Ordinance 925 includes a **limited exemption from enforcement for qualified medical marijuana patients and their primary caregivers.** Because the prohibition under Ordinance 925 remains in effect today, **cultivating marijuana in unincorporated Riverside County remains illegal, beyond the limited exemptions** in Ordinance 925 and Prop. 64.

Under Ordinance 925, individual qualified patients and primary caregivers may cultivate up to 12 plants, for medical purposes only, on a parcel where the patient or caregiver resides. To qualify for the exemption, the qualified patient or primary caregiver must meet **ALL** the requirements listed in Section 12 of the ordinance.

If an individual cannot meet **ALL** the requirements listed in Section 12 of Ordinance 925, then the provisions of Prop. 64 govern cultivation. In that case, a resident of a property who is at least 21 years old can cultivate only six marijuana plants indoors or in a fully enclosed locked area, and no other marijuana plants may be grown on the property.

Additionally, **all marijuana dispensaries remain prohibited in unincorporated Riverside County** under Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of Ordinance 348. Visit our website at [www.rctlma.org/ce](http://www.rctlma.org/ce) for more details.



### Another Man's Treasure - District 5

The current owner of the property pictured above inherited the land from her father, who had a love for anything and everything that could be turned into art. A good portion of the property was filled with pieces of wood, glass, and other items that had been collected over the years. The owner persevered in gradually reducing the amount of items being stored on the property to an allowable amount, while still maintaining the artistic character of the property. She also removed all of the rubbish that was on the property.



### Quality of Life - District 4

Mesa Verde is a beautiful community that is just miles away from the City of Blythe. Recently, Officer Rusty Hannah with the Palm Desert Code office had the opportunity to bring a blighted property back into compliance. What originally started as an accumulated rubbish (trash) violation ended up progressing into a multifaceted case involving vehicle, trailer, rubbish, and mobile home removal. The surrounding neighbors can now feel comfort knowing that this property will no longer interfere with their quality of life on the mesa.



**Supervisor John Benoit**  
Code Enforcement wishes to express their heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the late Supervisor John Benoit who passed away December 26th, 2016. He will be remembered for his kindness and dedication to the people he served.

### Point-in-Time Count

Twenty-one Riverside County Code Enforcement staff members from several of our offices participated in the annual Point-In-Time Count during the early morning hours of January 24th, 2017. The Point-In-Time Count is a one-day street and service based count of the homeless population within Riverside County. The count is organized by Riverside County Department of Social Services (DPSS) and meets the requirements set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The information collected from the count is required for all cities and unincorporated areas that receive HUD funding to provide ongoing programs and resources for the County's homeless population. The data is also used as a benchmark to create and implement strategies that will assist with the long-term goal of ending homelessness. The Point-In-Time Count was a large-scale effort that required the assistance of approximately 500 volunteers. Volunteers came from several county agencies, community groups, schools, non-profit organizations, and many other people who were willing to give their time to help their communities. The results will be released in May.



## Looking Out for the Underdog - District 1

It seems as if all Code Enforcement staff are animal lovers. So it was no surprise what occurred at the Cajalco office one day. Senior CEO Mimi Johnston ran out of the door saying, "They're gonna hit him." Officer Sara Cervantes was standing on the end of the driveway while the busy Cajalco Road traffic passed by. If you know the area near Cajalco Road and Harley John, you'll know how busy and scary that winding roadway is. Looking across the street there was a large, tan dog - probably a lab-sheepdog mix - who was jogging along the road. The officers were trying to cross over to reach him to make sure he would not be hit by a vehicle. They got across - one on foot and the other in her vehicle. The dog then ran down the hill and turned the corner onto a much quieter dirt road. The officers met up with him down that road. Some neighbors were outside and recognized him. The officers were able to get the dog to go back into his own yard through a hole in the fence, which explained how he had gotten out in the first place. This is just a story from one day, but similar situations have happened many times when the officers are out in the field. They have rescued puppies from under structures and have taken many dogs to the local shelters. 🐾 🐾



## Mending Fences in the City of Perris

During the course of investigating a reported substandard house in Perris, Code Enforcement officers learned that the subject house was not only substandard but was also unsecured, heavily vandalized, and most recently used by someone other than its owner as a "house party." While investigating the reported violations, Code officers were contacted by a neighbor who informed them that the Perris Police Department responded to the residence the previous night for a reported assault and noise complaint. Upon the arrival of the police, the partygoers scattered in all directions with several of them kicking through the neighboring rear wood fence, running through the backyard, and kicking over an adjoining section of fence in the same yard.

The house to the rear appeared to be vacant based on the tall grass and substantial weeds growing in the backyard. The Code officers decided to knock on the door and were surprised to learn that the house was occupied by an elderly female who lived alone. The elderly tenant was overwhelmed by the recent events and also terribly worried about the prospect of having to rebuild the damaged fence as she is on a fixed income.

Over the next two days, Code officers pooled their resources together and made a Home Depot run. They returned to the woman's house with a remedy in hand. After about 20 minutes of hammer, nail, and saw work, the fence was whole again. The elderly woman was quite surprised and deeply appreciative of the officers' kind gesture.



**Local Code Enforcement Offices:**

**District 1** - 17650 Cajalco Road, Perris, 951-776-3233  
**District 2** - 4080 Lemon Street, 9th Floor, Riverside, 951-955-5650  
**District 3** - 37600 Sky Canyon Drive, Suite G #507, Murrieta, 951-696-1606  
**District 4** - 77588 El Duna Court, Palm Desert, 760-393-3344  
**District 5** - 581 South Grand Avenue, San Jacinto, 951-791-3900  
**City of Perris** 137 North D Street, Perris, 951-385-4131  
**Administration** 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, 951-955-2004

**To verify which district your community is a part of, please visit our website: [www.rctlma.org/ce](http://www.rctlma.org/ce)**

