



# The Posting

Code Enforcement Newsletter

## Code Enforcement Volunteer Program

The Code Enforcement Volunteer Program began in early 2015 as an effort to bring volunteers on board to work together with the County to preserve and improve residential neighborhoods and make the County of Riverside a better place to live and work. Since its inception, the Department has had three volunteers who have worked at Code offices.

Currently, two remarkable young ladies, Stephanie Morales and Minerva Santini, volunteer at the District 3 French Valley Code office. Both volunteers come in to the French Valley office on a part-time, flexible schedule during regular business hours. Ms. Santini began working with Code staff in mid-August 2016, and Ms. Morales began in early October 2016.

Ms. Santini applied for the program after learning about it from Thomas Ketchum, Supervisorial District 1 Legislative Assistant, whom she met while attending a *Listos!* Emergency Preparedness training. Ms. Santini states that she would like to find permanent employment with a Code Enforcement team.

Ms. Morales applied for the program after a chance encounter with Supervising Code Officer Ortiz in the French Valley Airport terminal building. Ms. Morales states she enjoys learning new skills and building her resume.

Both young ladies went through a thorough application process that included: completing an application packet, providing references, two interviews, fingerprinting, and a criminal background check.

Their duties have included assisting staff with telephones, receiving and researching complaints, opening code enforcement cases, preparing and mailing departmental notices, and filing. Ms. Santini has been instrumental in boxing, organizing, and cataloguing previously closed code enforcement cases, which will be sent to the archives. This is no small task, and it has been a tremendous asset to the team!



Minerva Santini



Stephanie Morales

### Volunteer Today

If you or someone you know is interested in a great opportunity to build skills and experience, check out the Code Enforcement Volunteer Program on-line at: <http://rctlma.org/ce/Home/Code-Enforcement-Volunteer-Program>





Supervising CEO Christian and CEO Game spend time with the children.

## Thanksgiving in the City Of Perris

For the fifth year, Code officers and staff assigned to the City of Perris Code Enforcement office collaborated with Goodhope Elementary School to bring a bountiful Thanksgiving to a family in Perris. Code Enforcement staff teamed up with the local Stater Bros. Markets and gathered additional resources to present a complete Thanksgiving dinner (turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, rolls, and a pumpkin pie) to a single mother and her young children.

On November 17, 2016, officers met with Principal Jennifer Lujano at the school and then paid a visit to the family’s residence. The family was grateful for the meal. The officers took a few minutes to visit, read to the kids, and tackled some homework that one of the children brought home. The officers and school staff were quite moved by the joy and happiness they had generated.

## Christmas Cheer - City of Perris

Riverside County Code Enforcement officers assigned to the City of Perris service contract and County Code Enforcement officers assigned to the Waste Tire Enforcement Grant program came together for the fifth consecutive year to spread Christmas cheer to a deserving family in the community. The staff coordinated with Goodhope Elementary School and Stater Bros. Markets and gathered resources to present Christmas gifts to a family of six.

Goodhope Elementary School Principal Jennifer Lujano took on the challenge of sorting through the school’s enrollment records to find the “most appropriate” family. Ms. Lujano identified the Lozada family, obtained their consent and their willingness to participate in the Christmas Cheer program.

The Code Enforcement staff took the Lozada’s information and quickly formulated a plan to assist the family with much needed items. Officers and staff dug into their pockets and generously contributed to the family’s fund. Staff was able to purchase each of the five children a new pair of shoes, clothing, and toys for the youngest ones. Code staff also prepared a “family basket” for Mr. and Mrs. Lozada and purchased a gift card for the family with the remaining funds. Additionally, Stater Bros. Markets provided a gift card for a ready to eat, all-inclusive holiday dinner.

On December 14, 2016, the Code Enforcement staff and Principal Lujano met with the Lozada family and presented the gifts. The Lozada family was thankful for the gifts and the generosity that was extended to them.



## Roadside Vending - City of Perris

Responding to local business operators’ complaints and tips from residents regarding public health concerns of illegal food facilities and roadside vending, Riverside County Code Enforcement officers assigned to the City of Perris service contract conducted enforcement programs on three evenings. During the course of each operation, teams observed food sales taking place at illegal roadside food

facilities located in the City of Perris - Ethanac & Murrieta, Nuevo & Wilson, Perris Blvd. & Ramona Expressway, and Diana & San Jacinto. The responsible parties at each location were issued criminal citations and ordered to appear in court for violations of City of Perris Municipal Code, State Health and Safety Code, and Labor Code. As a result of their investigation, officers collected evidence or seized various items associated with the illegal activity, such as EZ Up tarps, cooking surfaces, monies, lights, tables, and chairs. Perishable food items were also seized and voluntarily condemned for public health reasons (potentially hazardous food - raw or partially cooked meats, condiments, tortillas, raw masa, and cheeses). Roadside vending and illegal food facilities of this kind expose the public to possible hazardous food and foodborne illnesses.

## Working Smarter Not Harder Tire Program and City Of Perris



Through a collaborative effort between Riverside County Code Enforcement officers assigned to the City of Perris service contract and County Code Enforcement officers assigned to the State of California Cal-Recycle, Waste Tire Enforcement Grant program, several points throughout the City of Perris were identified as illegal roadside dumping locations. These areas qualified for abatement through a limited term program as part of the awarded annual Waste Tire Enforcement Grant.



Having no investigative leads to follow up on and wanting to abate the blighted conditions promptly, officers from each team strategized and identified an abatement path that would be mutually beneficial. Staff responded to these locations, collected the illegally dumped tires, and hauled them to the regional landfill. Over the next few weeks, approximately **135** waste tires were collected and hauled away from several roadside locations in the City of Perris without impacting the daily responsibilities of the City's Public Works Department, the County's Waste Resources or Transportation Departments. This program is available throughout Riverside County.



## Inoperable Vehicle - District 5

The Code Enforcement Department received a complaint of an inoperative vehicle at a property in the community of Cherry Valley. Senior Officer Palmer responded to the location and observed a vehicle parked in the driveway that appeared inoperable as it was extremely dirty and had boxes piled on top of it. Notices of Violation were sent to the vehicle's registered owner, as well as the property owner, to educate and inform them of the violations and how to bring the property into compliance.

Officer Palmer returned to the property after 30 days and observed that the owners complied by removing the vehicle along with the boxes that were on it.

## Issues Affecting Our Communities

### District 2



While working in the Home Gardens area, Officer Parra observed a partially boarded house with accumulated rubbish throughout the yard. The front gate was

knocked to the ground making the property accessible to anyone. Upon further investigation, the officer discovered the house was being illegally occupied by transients. They were informed that they were trespassing and needed to vacate the premises. A referral was made to the Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) for the individuals who stated they would accept assistance and/or resources. When HOT contacted the individuals they refused assistance. Code Enforcement called the out-of-state property owner, who had the property's management company clear out the residence of the squatters and had the rubbish removed. A substandard carport at the location was also eradicated. The property remains vacant to this day; however, it is now secure and free of rubbish.





### Mecca Christmas Parade - District 4

On the 5th of December, the Code Enforcement Department participated in the 2016 Annual Mecca Christmas Lights Parade. Officers Lucero Iñiguez and Adam Hermanson along with Code Enforcement Aide Sara Nuñez paraded in a brightly decorated Code Enforcement vehicle. Prior to the parade, the officers and Aide Nuñez decorated the vehicle at the Mecca Sheriff's substation with bright Christmas lights, bells, bows, and various holiday decorations.

The Mecca parade attracts many of the community residents, who eagerly wait on the sidewalks in lawn chairs drinking hot cups of coffee and "champurrado" to keep them warm. Many of them waved, cheered, and took photos as the Code Enforcement unit paraded by playing holiday music on the speaker system while the Code staff waved back.

The parade was led by Code Enforcement and was followed by various school marching bands, cheer squads, and drill teams with drum squads, Riverside County Fire Department, and, of course, Santa Claus. The parade traveled through the streets of Mecca and ended at the Mecca Community Center.

Code Enforcement has participated in the Mecca parade for over 8 years. It is a great way to demonstrate to the community that the Department is involved, not only in the code enforcement aspect, but also in the moments that call for celebration.

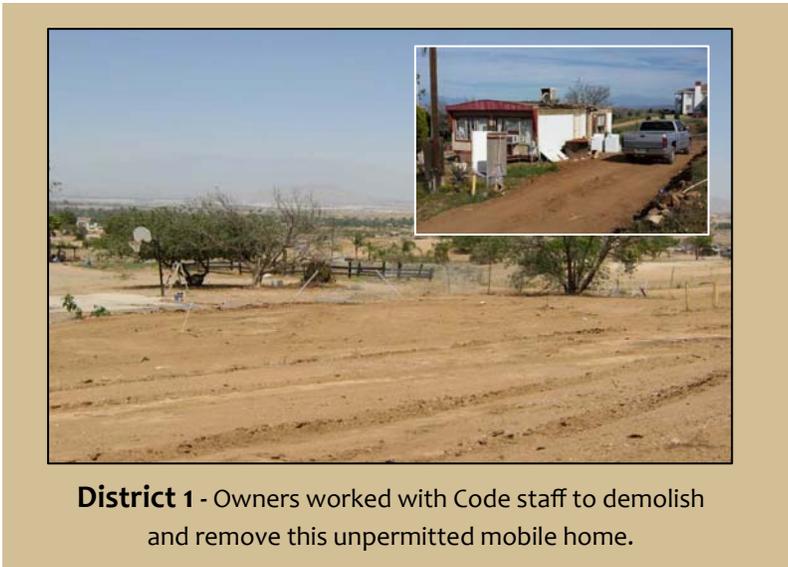


*This story was featured in the December edition with the pool full of rubbish (top right).*

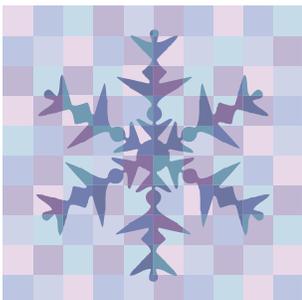
### Thousand Palms Update - District 4

Senior Officer Herrera had received several complaints about the drug activity and the deteriorated condition of the property pictured above. The swimming pool, front yard, and the interior of the house were full of rubbish.

A code violation case was prepared and submitted to the Office of County Counsel seeking a receivership. In the interim, a local investor who expressed interest in the property contacted Senior Officer Herrera. A property improvement agreement between Code Enforcement and the investor proved productive as the investor cleaned and secured the property with their own funding.



**District 1** - Owners worked with Code staff to demolish and remove this unpermitted mobile home.



**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)**

