

PUBLIC SECTOR NEWS

CVEP LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST HOSTS SENATORS EMMERSON AND VARGAS, ASSEMBLYMEN NESTANDE AND PÉREZ

On Friday, April 1 from 7:30-9:30 a.m., Senator Bill Emmerson, Senator Juan Vargas, Assemblyman Brian Nestande and a representative for Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez will converge on Bellatrix Restaurant at the Classic Club for the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership's (CVEP) Legislative Breakfast. The event will feature presentations and discussion sessions with the elected officials and their representatives covering the economic impact of California's budget on the Coachella Valley.

"There is no question that what goes on in Sacramento has substantial effects on the valley's economy," says Thomas Flavin, president and CEO of CVEP. "This event presents an opportunity for local community members to engage with their elected officials face to face, and to have their concerns addressed directly."

The fee to attend the event is \$35 for a CVEP investor and \$50 for a non-investor. Online registration is available at www.cvep.com. For more information about CVEP, call (760) 340-1575 or visit www.cvep.com.

INDIO TOWN HALL PRESENTS OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO DIRECTLY INTERACT WITH CITY OFFICIALS

The City of Indio announced that a second town hall meeting for 2011 has been set for Thursday, March 31 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Terra Lago Community Association Center located at 42-900 Lago Vista Boulevard.

"The town hall forum allows residents to put a name and face to city officials who work hard on their behalf on important items like police and fire protection, public works, economic development, finance and water service," said Dan Martinez, Indio's City Manager. "It also allows us to learn firsthand about issues going on in the community and answer residents' questions."

City Manager, Dan Martinez will be joined by city council members, department directors, and senior staff members who will provide information on their respective city service areas and departments. The event provides an opportunity for residents to ask any question of their city officials in a relaxing forum, as well as learn about city projects and services, budget information, events, and other information of interest. Most of the town hall meeting will be dedicated to answering audience inquiries. If there are questions in advance or if residents want a particular service highlighted they can email Chris Escobedo, Principal Management Analyst at cescobedo@indio.org or call (760) 541-4444.

NEW WEBSITE OFFERS INFORMATION ABOUT COUNTY BUDGET, PENSION AND LABOR ISSUES

Riverside County has introduced a new website that provides the community with information about county budgets, pensions and labor negotiations. According to county representatives, the website aims "to present a message that is paramount to fiscal reform and stability: Fair Pay, Sustainable Pensions, and Responsible Government."

The site, <http://rc-budget-labor.com/>, discusses the county's financial position and how the ongoing recession has affected county budgets. It provides information about employees' existing pension benefits, pension reforms that are being explored and tools that will help residents and county employees understand and answer sometimes complicated questions about the operations of county government. The site also discusses the status of ongoing negotiations with the labor groups that represent county employees. Like most public agencies in California, Riverside County is working its way through financial setbacks created by the worst recession since the Great Depression. As an example, general revenue in Riverside County has fallen by \$190 million a year compared to four years ago – about 25 percent.

The site includes links to media reports about budget issues statewide and to reports from university researchers and state officials about topics that affect recovery. Economists have warned that despite signs the economy is improving, recovery for the County of Riverside will lag because of the county's reliance on property taxes. In part, the lag will occur because of provisions in state law that reset the value of homes sold after foreclosure and that limit annual increases in taxable value.

In a video on the site, Board of Supervisors Chairman Bob Buster describes how the recession has transformed Riverside County. "There is no question that we must restructure the way Riverside County provides services that 2.2 million residents depend on and deserve," Buster says in the video. "The boom days are gone and we have several tough years ahead," he explains. "This is the new economic reality."

GOLDEN RAINBOW ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING SPRINGFEST

On April 9 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., the Golden Rainbow Center-SAGE will celebrate SpringFest 2011, a community celebration to welcome members and visitors from around the Coachella Valley.

"The Golden Rainbow Center-SAGE (GRC) is a resource and learning center, but most

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