



# NEWS



## News Headlines 05/06/2020

- COUNTY FIRE EXPLAINS RED FLAG WARNING
- YUCCA VALLEY PUTS TRASH SERVICE ON TAX BILLS, CANCELS SUMMER EVENTS
- County gives food to senior, disabled residents of remote areas

## COUNTY FIRE EXPLAINS RED FLAG WARNING

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: May 6, 2020



As Santa Ana winds and the possibility of wildfires loom on the horizon, your local **San Bernardino County Fire Department** has implemented some important programs to keep this county safe. Rebecca Havely has some quick reminders during Wildfire Awareness Week...

To promote wildfire readiness in San Bernardino County, the county fire department uses the Red Flag Community Notification program. When conditions for extreme fire danger arise and the National Weather Service posts a Fire Weather Watch or a Red Flag Warning, residents will see a red flag flown below the American Flag at all county stations in the affected area. Residents will then know to prepare by focusing on preparation and prevention in and around their homes.

County fire also asks residents to be its eyes and ears. If you see something, say something. One spark is all it takes to start a devastating wildfire, especially during a Red Flag warning.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-fire-explains-red-flag-warning/>

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## YUCCA VALLEY PUTS TRASH SERVICE ON TAX BILLS, CANCELS SUMMER EVENTS

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: May 6, 2020

Tuesday's meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council began with the council members wearing sporty BMX shirts with the Yucca Valley logo on the front, and their names on the back. The shirts were courtesy of Mayor Jeff Drozd, who is a big supporter of the BMX track in Yucca Valley. The council learned that due to the COVID-19 outbreak, field operations for the 2020 census have been temporarily suspended. It's hoped that census operations can resume June 1. Due to the temporary suspension, the Census Bureau is asking Congress to give it an extra 120 days to deliver the final counts. Managing editor Tami Roleff says the council made a couple of big decisions that will affect trash and the town's summer programs...

The Yucca Valley Town Council approved a new contract yesterday with Burrtec for solid waste and recycling services that was years in the making. While fees for trash pick-up will not increase, the way payment is collected will. All residential property owners will have their trash bills placed on their property taxes. The council learned yesterday that 20 to 25 percent of residential households in the town do not have trash pick-up, despite being a town requirement. The town hopes this new method of payment will bring all households into compliance with trash service and reduce illegal dumping in the town.

In other business, the council reluctantly agreed that due to social distancing—which is expected to continue into the summer—the Fourth of July fireworks and celebration will be cancelled. It's hoped that fireworks can be held either Labor Day weekend or for Veterans Day. In addition, the first three concerts in the park will be cancelled; the town will know within the next few months if the last three concerts will also be cancelled.

Sheriff's Captain Lucas Niles said that it would be difficult for law enforcement if the town held large-scale events like the fireworks or concerts, since the Morongo Basin Sheriff's station relies on its Citizens on Patrol and volunteers to help at these events. Most of the volunteers are senior citizens, and in the group most at risk, and therefore would not be able to help at the events.

In addition, the town's aquatics program will be greatly cut back, if classes are held at all. Classes for new and inexperienced swimmers will be cancelled, although the town hopes to still hold lap swim and classes for more experienced swimmers, and water aerobics.

A determination on which enrichment classes can be held will be made on a case-by-case basis. The town will require a minimum number of participants for the class to be held, but it must also restrict the number of participants to ensure proper social distancing.

The Yucca Valley Senior Center and its lunch program will most likely be last on the list to reopen.

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum has postponed all its children's interactive activities and exhibits to next year. Exhibits in the museum for the remainder of the year will be visual only.

**County Fire** Battalion Chief Mike McClintock told the council that of the 600 firefighters in the county, only four have tested positive, and none of the firefighters in the Morongo Basin have tested positive for COVID-19. He attributes that low number to the fact that firefighters have been wearing personal protective equipment since early March.

Town Manager Curtis Yakimow told the council that according to Karen Faulis, the CEO at Hi-Desert Medical Center, the hospital is ready and able to treat residents who test positive for COVID-19. However, the outbreak has had a deleterious effect on the hospital as well; it has 59 beds, but only six patients.

In related news, Yakimow said 230 Morongo Basin residents were tested at the COVID-19 testing event at Copper Mountain College two weeks ago, but only 12 tested positive for the virus. Only people who had one of three symptoms—coughing, fever, or shortness of breath—were tested for COVID-19. Yucca Valley is working with the county to bring a testing event to the town in the near future.

<http://z1077fm.com/yucca-valley-puts-trash-service-on-tax-bills-cancels-summer-events/>

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## **County gives food to senior, disabled residents of remote areas**

Leslie Shaw, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: May 5, 2020



San Bernardino County Department of Aging and Adult Services Office of Public Guardian employees Chris Kulka and Robert Dougherty check people in at the Landers food distribution Thursday. The distribution was targeting seniors and disabled persons in the Landers community.  
Leslie Shaw Hi-Desert Star

**MORONGO BASIN** — Older and disabled adults were invited to get free food at the former **county fire** stations in Landers and Wonder Valley Thursday.

Held by the San Bernardino County Department of Aging and Adult Services, the giveaways were open to adults 60 and older and adults of any age with disabilities. No proof of age or disability was required. Residents picked up the food at the curb, with no person-to-person contact.

The Aging and Adult Services Office of the Public Guardian coordinated these giveaways and may hold more.

“(We) will continue to assess the needs of the community and schedule food drive events as needed,” DAAS District Manager Claudia Harris said via email.

People coming to the Landers distribution were checked in by county employees Cherish Kulka and Robert Dougherty and directed to fellow employees Breanna Parker and Jessica Duran, who were loading food boxes into vehicles.

“This is a regular USDA food distribution with shelf-stable foods,” explained Parker.

Harris was at the Landers fire station Thursday morning along with two deputy directors of the Office of the Public Guardian, Chris Tarr and Glenda Jackson.

“We are partnering with the Community Action Partnership food program and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department here today,” Jackson explained.

County funds senior center nutrition sites

The county offers other food services for people 60 and older and disabled adults in the Morongo Basin, Harris said.

The nutrition programs are held at three Basin senior centers and are funded by the Office of the Public Guardian through a state grant.

“Our contracted provider is Family Service Association, who distribute meals on curbside or for home delivery,” said Harris.

The three locations are:

- Twentynine Palms Senior Center at 6539 Adobe Road in Twentynine Palms. Residents should call FSA for a delivery schedule at (951) 342-3057.

- Joshua Tree Community Center at 6171 Sunburst Ave. in Joshua Tree. Curbside pickup is held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays.

- Yucca Valley Senior Center west of Town Hall. Curbside pickup is held 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays.

“(We) have partnered with (CAPSBC) in order to provide free food commodities to our aging and disabled population during these challenging times,” Harris added.

For more information, call the senior information lines at (800) 510-2020 or (909) 891-3810 or visit [www.sbcounty.gov/daas](http://www.sbcounty.gov/daas).

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_b4cbd052-8f3b-11ea-81b7-f36e73a3ff3d.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_b4cbd052-8f3b-11ea-81b7-f36e73a3ff3d.html)