



## Bob Hafner named district's Volunteer of the Year

Temescal Valley resident recognized by county for his long-time effort in keeping the community clean

Congratulations to **Bob Hafner**, a **Horsethief Canyon Ranch** resident who has been named **2020 Volunteer of the Year** for Riverside County's 1<sup>st</sup> District.

According to **Jeff Greene**, chief of staff for **Supervisor Kevin Jeffries**, this is the first time formal recognition has been given to outstanding volunteers for each of the county's five districts.

This is quite an honor for Bob considering the supervisor's district has about 450,000 residents and encompasses the cities of Wildomar, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake and most of Riverside. The district also covers the unincorporated communities of DeLuz, Gavilan Hills, Good Hope, Lake Hills, Lakeland Village, Lake Mathews, LaCresta, Mead Valley, Meadowbrook, Spring Hills, Tenaja, Warm Springs, Woodcrest and, of course, **Temescal Valley**.

The award was presented to Bob and honorees from the four other districts at the Tuesday, April 20 Board of Supervisors meeting.

As chairman of the We Are Temescal Valley Beautification Committee, Bob has a regular presence on social media inviting folks to join an upcoming cleanup and after the cleanup, posting photos of the volunteers in action.

**Q:** How long have the community cleanups been happening?

**A:** I have led cleanups in Temescal Valley for over seven years. We average between three and four events each year. Some years we have done as many as six. I think we have accomplished 25 to 30 cleanups in the seven-plus years.

**Q:** What happens at a cleanup?

**A:** We first determine an area that needs a little TLC. We've pretty much done cleanups all over Temescal Valley roadways and in out-of-sight areas. We pick a date and then invite people to join us. It's a good opportunity for high school students to earn community service hours. The cleanups are on a Saturday



**DEDICATED:** Bob Hafner for many years has led cleanups in Temescal Valley. Bob also was responsible for the neighborhood identity signs, similar to the historical marker pictured here.

from 7 to 10 a.m. -- that way they don't take a big bite out of the volunteers' weekend hours. During the average three-hour event, we fill at least two pickup trucks with 700 to 3,000 pounds of trash plus discarded junk and tires. Some of our larger cleanups on the east side of the freeway take several truck trips to the landfill to dispose of the trash.

**Q:** Are there any cleanups that stand out in your recollection?

**A:** Years ago, we did one in the **Cleveland National Forest** above Horsethief Canyon Ranch that resulted in four, 40-yard roll-offs – about 48,000 pounds of trash – 24 tons worth! Another memorable cleanup was in 2015 and involved the two historical markers on **Temescal Canyon Road**. About 60 community members gathered and cleaned up about four truckfuls of trash – about 2,500 pounds. People donated drought-tolerant plants from their yards, and we planted these around the monuments and then spread a donated dump-truck load of DG (decomposed granite) all over the area.

**Q:** Are you involved in other volunteer efforts?

**A:** In addition to my We Are Temescal Valley activities, including ordering and installing the community signs seen throughout the valley, I am a 10-year board member on the **Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council**. I'm currently the secretary. I also serve on the **Temescal Valley Community Faire Committee** and I am chairman of the **5k-10k Walk/Run** with our inaugural race held at the Faire in 2019. I'm a 15-year board member of the **Horsethief Canyon Ranch Homeowners Association**. I enjoy helping at our HOA events such as Movie

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# SOUND OFF!

Got a gripe? Need an answer? Have an opinion?  
Sound off here. Send your submittal to  
[WeAreTV.org@gmail.com](mailto:WeAreTV.org@gmail.com)

This Month:

## Support I-15 free lane NOW!

By **JANNLEE WATSON**  
Wildrose Ranch resident

The opening of the **I-15 Express Lanes** has done little to correct the traffic bottleneck into Temescal Valley caused by the southbound lanes narrowing from five to three at Cajalco Road.

What would help, though, is the new southbound “free” auxiliary lane approved in October by the **Riverside County Traffic Commission**. The new lane, known as the **15 Corridor Operations Project (15 COP)**, would run from the Cajalco Road southbound I-15 on-ramp to the Weirick Road off-ramp, a distance slightly less than one mile.

Funding for the **\$38.3 million** lane is being made possible by \$25 million in unspent funds designated for the Express Lanes project with the \$13.3 million balance hopefully paid for with federal funds. RCTC says it has adopted an aggressive schedule for engineering, environmental studies, project design and construction. Work already has begun on the engineering and environmental studies.

But even with an “aggressive schedule,” ground isn’t expected to be broken for the project until mid-2023 with a hoped-for completion date of late 2024. This lane was meant to offer interim traffic congestion relief until the Express Lanes extension from Cajalco to Route 74/Central Avenue in Lake Elsinore opens in 2028.

We need the new auxiliary lane as soon as possible and must let RCTC know we support the 15 COP project.

The Commission has a page on its website that lists four current projects it’s seeking federal funds to help finance. The I-15 Corridor Operations Project is one of the four.

Please take a minute to show support for the lane by selecting it as your preferred project.

<http://www.rctc.org/support/>

Updates on 15 COP lane can be requested here.  
Click on “Contact Us”

<https://www.rctc.org/projects/interstate-15-corridor-operations-project/>



**COMMUNITY EFFORT:** 2015 cleanup at historical monuments.

## HAFNER: FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

in the Park, Community Fair and Snow Day. Over the last few years, my famous Dodge pickup used in the cleanups turns into “Rudolph” for all the children in Horsethief. The truck is covered in inflatables and over 3,000 lights, and carries Santa and his elves throughout the community giving little gifts to the children and receiving toys that are donated to **Fire Station 64** for the Spark of Love campaign. I’ve had American Red Cross training as a First Aid, CPR, AED instructor and am a member of the **Temescal Valley Disaster Response Team**. I also help local Boy Scouts with their Eagle Scout projects.

**Q:** Where are you from originally?

**A:** I was born and raised in Griffith, Indiana. It’s located in the northwest corner of the state at the tip of Lake Michigan, about 30 miles southeast of downtown Chicago. We left Indiana in 2003 and this is our 18<sup>th</sup> year as Horsethief residents.

**Q:** What do you do for a living? Where do you work?

**A:** I am a Regional Health, Safety, and Environmental Manager. I am the person who ensures our company meets regulatory compliance for both CAL/OSHA and CAL/EPA. I’ve been employed with **STERIS** for eight years. STERIS is known as a leading provider of infection prevention with primary focus on healthcare, pharmaceutical and medical device customers.

**Q:** Tell us about your family.

**A:** I have had the pleasure of a wonderful life journey so far with my partner since the age of 15. That person is my wife, **Cindy**. This June 5 we will have been married 39 years. I have been fortunate that Cindy puts up with all my activities over the years. We have been blessed with two wonderful children who are now grown. **Mary**, 30, attended Luiseno School, Terra Cotta Middle School, Temescal Canyon High School and UC Riverside. She achieved a B.A. degree in Psychology and now works as a manager of Enterprise Car Rentals in Salt Lake City, Utah. **Billy**, 25, also went to Luiseno and Temescal Canyon High, but attended Elsinore Middle School. He recently achieved a B.A. in Kinesiology at Cal Poly Pomona and is now working at establishing his career.

**Q:** When you’re not leading cleanups, what do you do for fun? Hobbies?

**A:** I run, bike, swim and weight train. I enjoy reading and gardening.

**EARTH DAY CLEANUP**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 24**  
**SEE FLIER IN THIS NEWSLETTER**



# Here's how Sheriff deals with area's homeless issues

## Homeless sweeps are norm for Special Enforcement Team

The **Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station Special Enforcement Team (SET)** is a specialized unit that focuses on targeting the specific needs of a community.

In response to the ongoing issue with homelessness, homeless encampments, and the crime and debris associated with it, the SET team has made this issue an ongoing priority in Temescal Valley and surrounding areas.

The SET team, led by **Sgt. Jeff Reese**, has begun a weekly routine focused on quality of life / homeless outreach operations. At least one day a week is specifically spent in the city of Lake Elsinore, the second day is spent between the city of Wildomar and the unincorporated areas of Lakeland Village, Warm Springs and **Temescal Valley**.

When the SET team performs these operations, they generally include **the Social Workers Action Group (SWAG)** as well as **Code Enforcement** for the respective city or county area.

As part of the outreach operations, the SET team contacts homeless individuals to offer services to help them end the vicious cycle of homelessness in which they are entangled. This includes medical services, assistance with obtaining identification cards or drivers licenses, and up to possible placement into a residence or recovery facility.

Additionally, arrests are often made when criminal activities are discovered or when individuals are determined to have outstanding warrants. The county jail system is able to continue the outreach and even has further resources in place specifically for homeless veterans.

It is the SET team's goal to assist homeless individuals in getting them back on the right track and off the streets. Currently, there are two deputies on the SET team specifically assigned to the unincorporated area, as well as a homeless liaison deputy, however, the entire nine-person SET team works together as a unit in the specific areas when completing these operations. So far for this year, the SET team has assisted in housing nine individuals full time and has made numerous referrals to assist homeless individuals wanting to be helped.

As part of the quality of life operations, County Code has joined the SET team on several operations to cleanup significant amounts of debris left from homeless encampments. They also are responsible for coordinating with property owners to clean up private properties and/or make efforts to eliminate areas that are conducive to homeless encampments, such as areas with thick brush or poor lighting.



**MESSY LEFTOVER:** From a homeless camp in Temescal Valley.



**TEMESCAL VALLEY SWEEP:** Special Enforcement Team deputies search for homeless encampments here.

Typically, once an area has been cleaned, the SET team works with property owners to sign a **602 P.C. (No Trespassing)** letter and maintain it on file for one year at a time. This allows all law enforcement to have ability to enforce trespassing violations.

It also provides the authority for Code Enforcement to remove any items left behind by the homeless individuals. When Code Enforcement and the SET team work with the property owners, they seem to see the most long-term success in helping to clean-up areas and keep them clean.

If anyone has concerns or complaints about homeless encampments, they are encouraged to reach out to the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station and contact **Deputy McCracken, Deputy Yu, Deputy Wilson** or Sgt. Reese: **951-245-3300**.

## Temescal Valley calls for service, arrests increase during March

**Lt. Sarah Mack**, with the **Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station**, has provided information on Part I crimes that occurred here during **February** and **March**.

The station received **376 calls** for service from Temescal Valley during March – **14 more** than received in February.

**Thirty-nine** calls in February were for Part I crimes and **32** calls were received in March. No homicides or sex crimes were reported for the two-month period. Here's the breakdown:

**Assault** – 1 in February and **5** in March.

**Burglary** – 7 and 3.

**Grand/Petty Theft** – 10 and 13.

**Theft from Vehicle** – 7 and 3.

**Vehicle Theft** – 14 and 6.



There were **eight arrests in February** – two felonies, including one warrant and one for causing injury to a spouse or cohabitant. There were six misdemeanor arrests – five for outstanding warrants and one for drug possession.

**March saw nine arrests** – five felonies including two outstanding warrants and three for causing injury to a spouse or cohabitant. There were four misdemeanors including obstructing an officer, violation of a restraining order and domestic battery.

There were **nine vandalism**s reported for February and **five** for March. **Disturbing the peace** calls numbered **31** for February and **27** for March.

# Developer favors commerce center over 355 homes

Complex near Horsethief Canyon would combine small businesses and light manufacturing

Joel Morse of T&B Planning presented plans at the March Zoom meeting of the Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council for a 157-acre commerce center adjacent to the Horsethief Canyon Ranch community. The property is owned by Richland Communities.

Morse told the audience the proposed plan for the **Renaissance Ranch Commerce Center** replaces the 355-home development approved for that acreage in 2005. “We could start building homes tomorrow,” Morse said, “but we think a more beneficial use of the property is a combination of business park and light industrial buildings.”

The concept is similar to the **Wildrose Business Park** at 22420 Temescal Canyon Road which was built in 1999 and is the location of small businesses such as **Hunnys Café** and **Citrus Cyclery**, and light manufacturing companies such as **Spectra Color**.

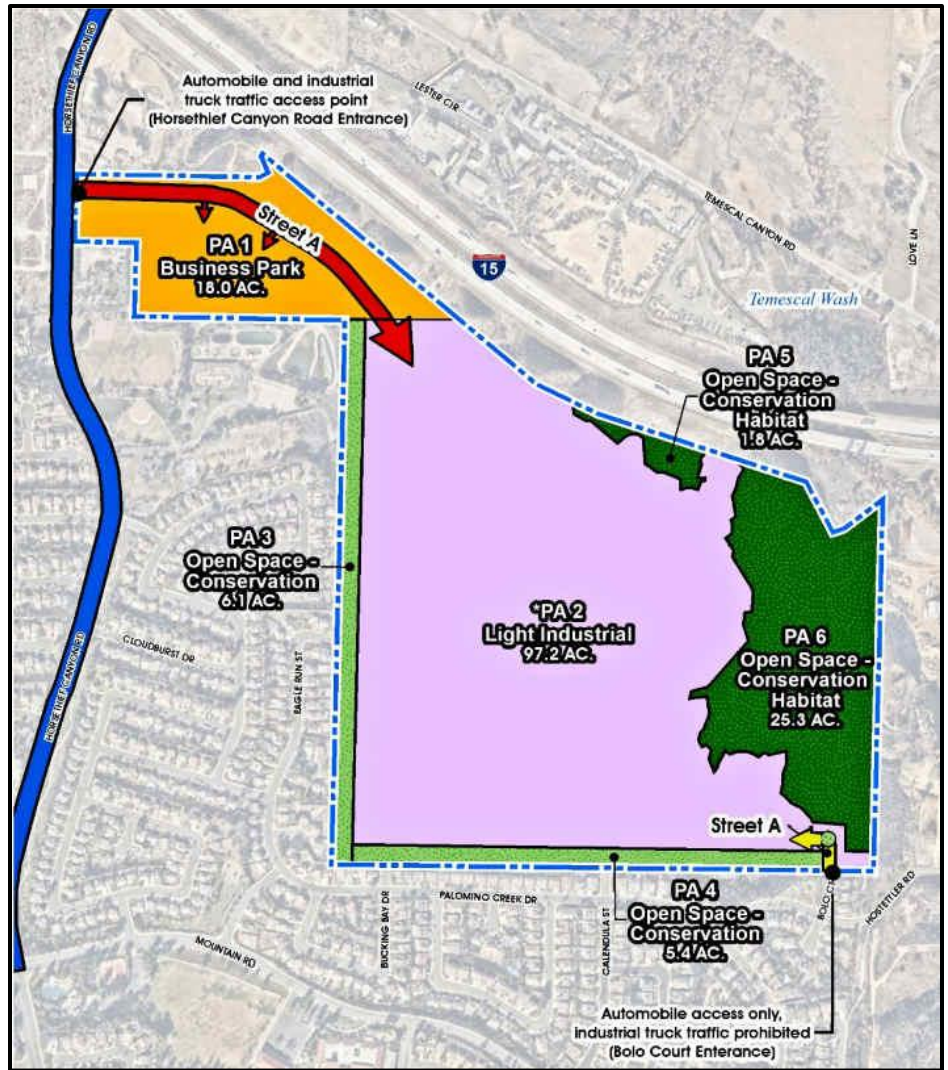
Eighteen acres would be devoted to the business park and 97.2 acres to light industrial. Morse said the remaining 38.6 acres would be undeveloped and set aside as open space conservation and conservation habitat.

The center would be bordered by the I-15 freeway on the north and adjacent to Horsethief Canyon Ranch homes on the south and the west. The land to the east is undeveloped.

Because the county requires two points of access for all developments, Morse said the one street planned for the center, “A Street,” would connect from **Horsethief Canyon Road** on the north, through the project to **Bolo Court** on the south.

According to Morse, truck access to the center will be restricted to the Horsethief Canyon Road entrance, while Bolo Court will be limited to automobile access only. A roundabout will be constructed at Bolo Court to further discourage truck traffic.

A 10-foot-wide community trail will be included along the street to accommodate the county’s Community Trail system.



Morse said privacy issues for residents in homes along **Eagle Run Street** and **Palomino Creek Drive** were a major consideration in the design of the center. Large industrial buildings will have a minimum 300-foot setback from residential property lines. The maximum height for a building will be 60 feet, and to protect current residential views, industrial buildings will be constructed from 30 feet to 90 feet lower than adjacent homes, preserving the privacy for residents.

Additionally, Morse said, the center’s lighting will be designed to minimize glare into surrounding neighborhoods. Noise impacts will be reduced by the buildings being situated lower than the residences, the construction of six-foot walls and landscaping between the center and homes. Trucks will be prohibited from using backup alarms.

Morse told the audience the benefits the commerce center brings to Temescal

**RENAISSANCE RANCH COMMERCE CENTER: The blue line is Horsethief Canyon Road.**

Valley far outweigh the approved residential development which would put further pressure on county services for 355 more homes.

The center would provide local job opportunities and bring additional small businesses to the area as well as increase Temescal Valley’s sales tax base. Morse said the development is required to contribute funds for local road improvement and \$5 million to upgrade the **Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District’s** Horsethief treatment plant. Compared to the homes, the center would place less demand on water and sewer services.

“An added benefit,” Morse said, “is that Bolo Court could serve as a shortcut to Horsethief Canyon Road for residents in that area.”

**CONTINUED NEXT PAGE**



**VICTIMIZED:** This Wildrose Ranch mailbox was one of three broken into last week. Until the boxes can be repaired, residents must pick up their mail at the post office.

## Neighborhood cluster boxes targeted by mail thieves

It's the season for income-tax refund checks and mail theft again is occurring in Temescal Valley communities.

There have been recent reports of cluster mailboxes being broken into – two in **Wildrose Ranch** and one in **Montecito Ranch**. Additionally, a pile of discarded mail with **Sycamore Creek** addresses was found in a rural area on the east side of the I-15 freeway.

In social media posts, residents have suggested reverting back to door-to-door mail delivery. According to the **U.S. Postal Service**, this is cost prohibitive and the agency in 2012 required all new residential developments to have cluster mailboxes.

This is from a report last year on [NewHomeSource.com](http://NewHomeSource.com), a website for home buyers: "According to the USPS, at roughly \$30 billion annually, delivering mail is the largest single fixed-cost the service incurs. Put another way, door-to-door delivery costs about \$353 a year per address, while curbside delivery runs \$224. Cluster boxes cut the cost to \$160 per address annually."

USPS recommends, to thwart mail thieves, retrieve your mail as soon as possible after delivery and do not let it sit overnight in the mailbox.

If you believe mail has been stolen, file a report with the Sheriff - **951-776-1099** (option 5) and with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service -- **877-876-2455**. Both agencies need your name and address on file in case someone is arrested with your mail in their possession.

You also can report stolen mail to the Postal Inspection Service online: <https://www.uspis.gov/tips-prevention/mail-theft/>

If you see mail theft happening, try to get as much detail as possible (description of suspect, description of vehicle), but most importantly, a license plate number. Do not approach the suspect and call the Sheriff immediately.

## RENAISSANCE: FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

While the residential development received county approval in 2005, the commerce center has a long way to go. The project will require a Specific Plan which now is being prepared. It will require an Environmental Impact Report which, once drafted, will be available for public review and comments.

Next step in the entitlement process would be a public hearing at a county **Planning Commission** meeting and, if commissioners recommend approval, the final step will be a public hearing at a **Board of Supervisors** meeting where the five county supervisors will vote to either approve or deny the center.

Residents will be able to submit comments prior to or at the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings.

**Supervisor Kevin Jeffries** requires community outreach for all proposed projects in his district. Morse presented initial plans for the commerce center to the **We Are Temescal Valley Development Committee** in November 2019. He will be giving updates at future Municipal Advisory Council meetings and a special presentation for Horsethief Canyon Ranch residents also will be scheduled. The date for that presentation is yet to be established.

## Ranch RV & Self-Storage expects to open road and facility this fall

The **Rancon Group** continues to work on the widening of Temescal Canyon Road south of Hostettler Road to facilitate construction of its 7-acre **Ranch RV & Self-Storage** facility.

**Dan Long**, Rancon's Director of Development, sent us this update on the road widening which necessitated the construction of a temporary detour road.

"We were delayed on the street improvements because of a leak discovered in the water mainline system. This was an Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District issue and not due to our project. EVMWD has repaired the leak and we have since completed our water line construction at the intersection of Hostettler and Temescal Canyon roads. We are completely out of this intersection until we do final striping and paving of the street.

"We are finalizing the water line improvements along our frontage now; we still have to relocate some additional communication lines within the street before we start the box culvert storm drain under Temescal Canyon Road in about 60 to 90 days.

"We expect to complete the street improvements and open the new Temescal Canyon Road in late September and open for business in late October."

If you have questions or comments, contact Dan at **951-200-2367** or email: [dlong@rancongroup.com](mailto:dlong@rancongroup.com)



Did you know We Are Temescal Valley has a facebook page? Almost 8,600 members and a great assortment of news, tidbits and events happening throughout our Valley.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/682232085156639/>



**We Are  
Temescal Valley  
BEAUTIFICATION  
COMMITTEE**

**Temescal Canyon Road: Community Clean Up**

**Saturday, April 24, 2021**

**7:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**Cleaning up all along Temescal Canyon Road from 7 Oaks to Shell station.**



- **Meet at 7 Oaks Nursery and Deli, 21501 Temescal Canyon Road (Park nearest Arco in the lot)**
- **Volunteers needed: Student's community service hour forms will be signed.**
- **Wear masks, gloves and closed-toe shoes.**
- **Pickers and bags provided.**



**If you have questions, email Bob Hafner: [bob.hafner@verizon.net](mailto:bob.hafner@verizon.net)**



**QUESTIONS? EMAIL BOB HAFNER: [bob.hafner@verizon.net](mailto:bob.hafner@verizon.net)**

# Rattlesnake Avoidance Training for Dogs

For one day only, join us at the Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center for a unique dog training experience. The skilled trainers with Snakeworx will work with you and your dog on rattlesnake avoidance skills. The Temescal Valley is a high snake area and late summer is the height of snake hatchling season. Anyone that hikes, bikes or walks with their dog can benefit from this class. Help your dog learn lifesaving skills. Snakeworx uses muzzled live snakes in their training sessions. No snakes are harmed during training.

All current Covid-19 guidelines will be followed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUSSELL RESCUE IN TENNESSEE



PHOTO COURTESY OF USFWS NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY

Western Diamondback Rattlesnake in striking position

**Saturday, June 5, 2021 • 9:00 am**

\$85 per dog, payable the day of class by cash or check only

To register: email [scic@rcrcd.org](mailto:scic@rcrcd.org)

*Please register by 3 PM Thursday, June 3rd*

**Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center**

11875 Indian Truck Trail • Temescal Valley 92883

(At intersection of Campbell Ranch Rd and Indian Truck Trail, off the 15 freeway)

Presented by the Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center & Snakeworx



**TO REGISTER: [scic@rcrcd.org](mailto:scic@rcrcd.org)**

# BECOME A ZERO WASTE HERO



Riverside County Waste Resources is looking for 40 households within the unincorporated Riverside County to participate in the FREE Zero Waste Hero Program.

**May 1st, 2021 - August 14th, 2021**

**Application Deadline extended to April 25, 2021**

Apply Here: [www.rcwaste.org/zwh](http://www.rcwaste.org/zwh)



For any questions, contact us at:  
WasteCommunityOutreach@rivco.org

To apply, visit [www.rcwaste.org/zwh](http://www.rcwaste.org/zwh)

- No cost to participants
- Receive hands-on, personalized coaching to assess the waste generated in your home
- Develop a customized waste-reduction plan
- Have opportunities to attend waste-reduction workshops
- Receive tips on waste reduction topic and access to supplies and educational materials
- Connect with other households striving to love lower waste lifestyles



Document available in alternative formats upon request





## COVID-19 Vaccine



### **WHERE TO GET VACCINATED FOR COVID**

<https://www.rivcoph.org/COVID-19-Vaccine>

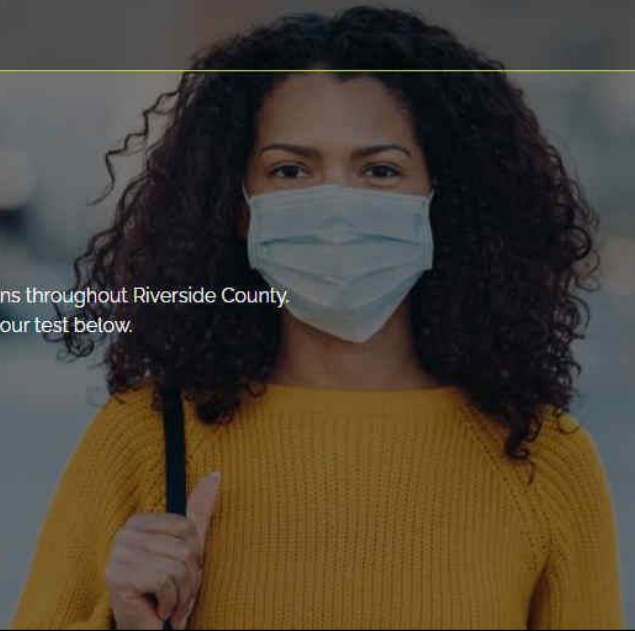
Check here regularly for information on all county-sponsored vaccination clinics and a list of community partners offering the vaccine

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### **Covid-19 Testing**

Covid-19 testing is now available at multiple locations throughout Riverside County. Find the testing facility closest to you to schedule your test below.



### **WHERE TO GET TESTED FOR COVID**

<https://gettested.ruhealth.org/>

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### **RIVERSIDE COUNTY CORONAVIRUS WEB PAGE**

This page has all the latest information – data, numbers, statistics, resources, news releases, videos and more, and is updated daily:

<https://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus>

[RIVERSIDE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE](#)