



LAKE MATHEWS SHERIFF'S STATION: The county is leasing a 20,000-square-foot building in the new Latitude Business Park in the city of Corona that will provide Sheriff's services to eight unincorporated communities, including Temescal Valley.

NEW STATION TO SERVE ENTIRE TEMESCAL VALLEY

Sheriff Bianco says response times for 8 communities will be reduced

As work progresses on the construction of a new Sheriff's station that should bring faster response times to eight unincorporated communities, a decision was made last week to keep all **Temescal Valley** within that station's service area.

Sheriff Chad Bianco first announced plans for a new station at a county budget hearing in June of last year. He told the **Board of Supervisors** the population of the Temescal Canyon area was rapidly increasing and with the area being served by three patrol stations – **Lake Elsinore**, **Jurupa Valley** and **Perris**, long distances and highly congested commute times were impacting deputies' response times to calls for service. The plan was to locate the new **Temescal Canyon Station** in **El Cerrito**, one of the eight unincorporated communities.

While the search in El Cerrito for a building that met the requirements of a patrol station was not successful, a suitable building was found in the **Latitude Business Park** under construction in Corona, just north of **The Crossings** and adjacent to El Cerrito.

In recent months, the news the station will be named **Lake Mathews**, and that the **Horsethief Canyon Ranch** and **Lemon**

Grove neighborhoods would remain in **Lake Elsinore Station's** service area, was met with objection by many Temescal Valley residents who saw no advantage in splitting the community.

"Keeping the entire valley together is important because we already have so many other things staggered across different borders or spheres. Keeping our safety services together keeps the continuation of services uniform for Temescal Valley residents," according to **Kelli Noss**, a **Temescal Valley MAC** board member and **Horsethief Canyon Ranch** resident.

According to **Tracy Davis**, **WeAreTV Identity Committee** chairman, Temescal Valley's boundaries coincide with the boundaries of the community's Municipal Advisory Council created by the county Board of Supervisors decades ago. "It's still one unincorporated community with 22 neighborhoods even though there are two spheres of influence, two area plans, and two water districts and school districts."

Longtime **Horsethief** resident **Rachel Kuehn** also questioned, "Will we be included in the law enforcement calls and crime statistics presented each month at the MAC meeting? Will the **Lake Elsinore Station** be allowed to keep the current staffing levels if they will not be servicing most of the **Temescal Valley**?"

Representatives of the **WeAreTV Public Safety Committee** met with **Lake Elsinore Station's Capt. Jim Rayls**, **Lt. Mike Portillo** and **Lt. David Clark** earlier this month to get an update on the new station. Capt. Rayls was not aware of the committee's concerns and said he would inform Sheriff's Administration.

In an email sent to the group the following day, the captain related, "I was advised this morning that the set boundaries for the new station will go all the way to the City of **Lake Elsinore**, almost to **Lake Street**. This will ensure all Temescal Valley stays together. I am sure as we get closer to the station opening and naming a commander for the station you will get further information."

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **We'll have new county Supervisor in January**
- **County approves grant to fund local fuel break**
- **Assistance League branch helps Todd readers**
- **GoFundMe created to clean Indian Truck Trail**
- **Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station changes command**
- **Only you can prevent ankle-biter infestation**

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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

This Month:

Political Whack-a-Mole?

By SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES
Riverside County First District
From the November Jeffries' Journal Newsletter

Political Contributions: The flow of campaign contributions is about to undergo a big change, maybe for the best, but maybe not. We all pretty much subscribe to the view that large campaign contributions to political candidates can be corrosive if a candidate does not have a good moral compass to guide them.

A new state law (SB1439) was recently passed that will “sort-of” limit contributions from some sources to \$250 or less to local government candidates. I say “sort-of” because candidates can still accept the larger contributions, BUT if they do, they will not be able to vote on matters involving either licensing, permits or other entitlements from the big donor for 12 months. This change will undoubtedly have a notable impact on big money players with large developments.

The one downside to this change is that it will likely drive the large contributors underground. How would that be legal, you ask? They are called PACs (Political Action Committees), or IEs (Independent Expenditures) from business and/or union groups that have different (read: less) timely public reporting/disclosure standards compared to individual candidates.

The money may still flow, we just won't be able see it so clearly or timely. Welcome to Political Whack-a-Mole!

Fire Hazards: Suppose for the moment that you live in an unincorporated community and located directly behind your home is a field full of dried out weeds that pose an immediate fire hazard to your home and property.

The odds are the owner of the field would be promptly cited, and if the weeds were not cleared, a contractor would be hired by the County to mow down the weeds.

Now, change out that field of weeds for a field of illegally stacked wooden pallets, hundreds, perhaps thousands brought in by a pallet business with no permit, no spacing, and no fire hydrants. That is a tinder box waiting for a tragic spark.

You can stop imagining, because that is actually occurring in a handful of communities. I cringe when I drive by those locations because every neighboring house is at risk. The next problem is that our County Ordinances are so inadequate that it can take the county years to force the landowner to clear away the pallets.

I have publicly challenged our County Counsel, Fire Marshal, and Code Enforcement to find a new legal path to speed up the process and protect adjacent homes. Let's see if they collectively step up and make a difference before a tragedy occurs.



MEETING AT LAKE ELSINORE STATION: Representatives of the Public Safety Committee meet with Capt. Jim Rayls earlier this month. From left, Lt. David Clark, Capt. Rayls, Jerry Sincich, Lee Wilson, Tracy Davis, Fred Myers, Rachel Kuehn and Lt. Mike Portillo.

NEW SHERIFF'S STATION . . .

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Good news but it didn't address the name issue. Apparently, the Lake Mathews name was chosen because in seven years the Sheriff's Department will change the location from Corona to Lake Mathews where a station will be built.

According to **Tracy**, the stations are usually named for the community in which they are located. “We suggested the name **Northwest Station** at our meeting with Capt. Ryals. It's a good name considering the eight unincorporated communities it will serve – Temescal Valley, **Coronita**, **Home Gardens**, El Cerrito, Lake Mathews, **Gavilan Hills**, **Lake Hills** and **Woodcrest**, are primarily located in northwest Riverside County.

“Giving the name Lake Mathews to the station doesn't make sense. Sure, it covers the Lake Mathews area but is not located there. Once it's moved to Lake Mathews in seven years, change the name and it will make sense.”

The Board of Supervisors in October approved a seven-year lease for the almost 20,000-square-foot building in the Latitude complex. Monthly base rent is **\$32,158.50** with a yearly increase of 4 percent.

The cost to customize the building is **\$2.72 million** and **\$1.7 million** to furnish it. The costs of computers and other technology is set at **\$311,000**.

This will be the first Sheriff's station in the county only serving unincorporated communities and no cities. According to Capt. Rayls, “If we have difficulty in purchasing the technology because of supply issues, the anticipated first-of-the-year opening for the station could be delayed.”

We change supervisors in January

Starting **Jan. 1, 2023**, **Supervisor Karen Spiegel**'s office will be taking over the responsibilities of the Temescal Valley area.

Her office will be responsible for County Land Use, Riverside County Transportation, Riverside County Code Enforcement, all other County agencies, and other constituent services in the Temescal Valley region.

In addition to those county agencies, the **Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council** meetings will be facilitated by Supervisor Spiegel's office including MAC Board schedules and specifics of future meetings. Supervisor Spiegel's Office can be reached at **951- 955-1020** or email district2@rivco.org

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE HOLY FIRE

22-mile fuel break project will protect Elsinore Front Country

A Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department project first announced three years ago received additional funding last month when the Board of Supervisors authorized Chief Bill Weiser to use a \$3.28 million grant for the second phase of the Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break.

The grant will continue the construction of a 22-mile, 300-foot-wide fuel break adjacent to a Wildland Urban Interface area located west of Wildomar, Lake Elsinore, Lakeland Village, and Temescal Valley, and east of the Cleveland National Forest boundary in an area known as the Elsinore Front Country.

A fuel break differs from a firebreak in that it is substantially wider and the flammable vegetation is reduced in quantity but not removed entirely. The intention is to reduce the heat-intensity of wildfires by reducing the amount of fuel that is available to burn.

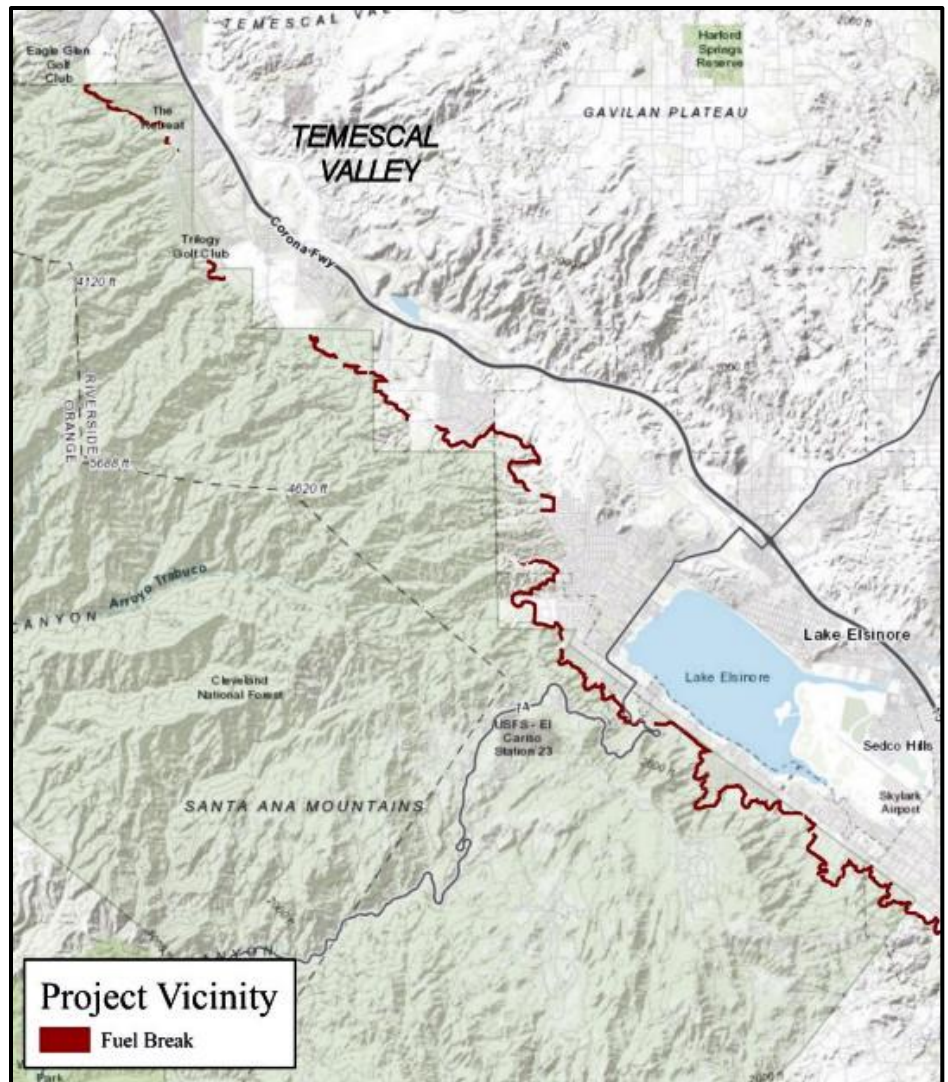
According to a fire department report, "The project area consists of almost 5,896 acres, involves 523 parcels of land and covers 1,057 treatment acres that will reduce the risk of fire hazard for 6,000 habitable structures."

The 523 parcels are privately owned land, and the county is seeking the owners' permission to include their property in the project. The project does not include property along the Front Country that is a State Responsibility Area or Cleveland National Forest land – both are already managed to reduce wildfire risk

Seventy-eight of the 523 parcels are in Temescal Valley and adjacent to the communities of **The Retreat, Wildrose Ranch, Glen Ivy Hot Springs, Sycamore Creek, Glen Eden, Horsethief Canyon Ranch and Lemon Grove.**

The California Environmental Quality Act documentation has been completed for the entire project area and was approved by the Board of Supervisors in December of last year.

The need for the fuel break was attributed to the **Elsinore Effect**, the name given to



FUEL BREAK: The red line shows where the 523 privately owned parcels are located. Seventy-eight of the parcels are in Temescal Valley adjacent to the communities of **The Retreat, Wildrose Ranch, Glen Ivy Hot Springs, Sycamore Creek, Glen Eden, Horsethief Canyon Ranch and Lemon Grove.**

the area's unique weather pattern that causes marine air to flow eastward over the **Santa Ana Mountains** and down through the northwest facing canyons of the Elsinore Front Country.

According to the grant application, "During the heat of summer, fires burning in the afternoon along the Elsinore Front would typically burn downslope – which is contrary to normal fire behavior – toward Wildomar, Lakeland Village, Lake Elsinore and Temescal Valley. The downslope movement of air generally abates around sundown and begins to burn upslope toward the wildlands that connect Riverside and Orange counties."

The application cited the 2018 **Holy fire**,

which burned 23,136 acres, as further evidence of the destruction caused by the Elsinore Effect.

According to the fire department, "The primary goals and objectives are eliminating wildfire starts, catching wildfires before they move into wildland and urban areas, facilitating firefighting efforts and general public safety."

The project must be completed by March 2026.

The supervisors also approved \$151,140 from the general fund to be used as matching funds toward the salary of a county employee to oversee the grant.

HEY, KIDS -- SAVE THE DATE!

The annual **Winter Festival** is scheduled **Saturday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, at Deleo Regional Sports Park, 25655 Santiago Canyon Road.



County OKs contract for improvements to Deleo

The county **Board of Supervisors** last month awarded a **\$2.5 million** design-build contract to **BrightView**, a landscape services company, for the improvement project at **Deleo Regional Sports Park**.

Improvements to the 10-year-old, 25-acre park include installing 12 exercise stations at intervals along the walking path that surrounds the park, and the addition of a sand volleyball court and two pickleball courts. More challenging workout equipment is planned for the dog park and the fencing around it will be expanded to include grass within the area.

The most significant improvement, however, is the mountain bike/BMX skills park to be constructed on three acres of the 14.35 acres of county-owned land adjacent to Deleo Park.

Michael Franklin, development manager of the county's **Office of Economic Development**, said the skills park will be modeled after **Sweetwater Regional Bike Park** in the Bonita area of San Diego but will have modular ramps instead of dirt.

The BrightView contract calls for the completion of exercise stations, and pickleball and volleyball courts by June of next year. A May 2024 opening is anticipated for BMX skills park.

Assistance League branch helps Todd students with reading skills

The **Corona-Norco Branch** of the **Assistance League of Riverside** has begun the second year of its after-school **SOAR** tutoring program at **Todd Elementary School**.

A group of 15 Corona-Norco Branch members and community volunteers meet after school once a week to help a group of fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students with reading literacy. The goal of SOAR (Students Overjoyed About Reading) is to encourage a fondness for reading and to improve reading skills because, according to a SOAR member, "Reading is the cornerstone of all future learning."

For more information about the Corona-Norco Branch, which is headquartered in Temescal Valley with meetings held at **Trilogy**, about SOAR, or questions about how you can be a SOAR community volunteer, email:

c-nbranch@alriverside.org.

For information about Assistance League of Riverside, visit: www.assistanceleague.org/riverside.



MAKING READING FUN: Tutors participating in the SOAR program include, front row from left, Linda Miller, Nonette Allen, Shelley Tanner, John Gordin and Joe Pileggi. Back row from left, Pamela Rainey, Heather Regus, Ruth Grubb and Louise Pileggi.



MARKING THE WAY: A US Forest Service sign along Indian Truck Trail, also known as 5S01.

Trilogy man wants to raise funds to clean Indian Truck Trail

Joe Rosen, the **Trilogy** resident who has worked diligently for almost a year to reopen the **Indian Truck Trail** to motorized recreation, has opened a **GoFundMe** account he hopes will assist in the effort.

US Forest Service officials have finally accepted offers by Rosen's group of volunteers -- the **Cleveland Caretakers** -- to help clear the trail of fallen trees and other burned remnants of the 2018 **Holy fire**. But there's a caveat. The Caretakers are not allowed to use power equipment to get the job done.



The USFS is responsible for maintaining the trail, but the **Trabuco District's Forest Supervisor Scott Tangenberg** and **District Ranger Darrell Vance** say they do not have the funds or resources to fulfill that responsibility.

According to Rosen, while the Caretakers cannot use power equipment, the Forest Service has agreed to coordinate with USFS-approved contractors to do the work if someone else pays the bill, estimated to be about **\$16,000**. And that's the goal of the GoFundMe account which, as of publication date, has collected \$630.

"So far, marketing for this fundraiser has been limited to the **We Are Temescal Valley** Facebook page because we're not interested in reaching too far out," Rosen posted on the page earlier this week.

"Our goal is not for Indian Truck Trail to become known far and wide as an off-road destination. But fundraising locally has not produced the results we had hoped," he continued.

"If we can't raise the money locally, we'll have no alternative but to start marketing the fundraiser to off-road groups everywhere. Please help us keep this 'between us' and donate a little something. Thank you!"

Visit the GoFundMe page here:

<https://gofund.me/4b350b11>

412 calls for service in October are 44 more than in September

Lt. Michael Portillo, with the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station, has provided information on Part I crimes that occurred here during October and September.

The station received **412 calls** for service from Temescal Valley during October – **44 more** than received in September.

Twenty-six calls in October and **28** calls in September were for Part I crimes. No homicides, arsons, robberies, or sex crimes were reported for the two-month period. Here's the breakdown:

Assault – 7 in October and 2 in September.

Burglary – 3 and 0.

Grand/Petty Theft – 9 and 15.

Theft from Vehicle – 4 and 3.

Vehicle Theft – 3 and 8.

There was one arrest in October – A felony for burglary.

September saw three arrests – One felony for parole violation and two misdemeanors for outstanding warrants.

There were **five vandalisms** reported for October and **three** for September. **Disturbing the peace** calls numbered **38** for October and **32** for September.



Lt. Mike Portillo transferred to Lake Elsinore from Perris



Lt. Mike Portillo in late September was assigned to the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station to replace Lt. Sarah Mack who was assigned to Perris. Lt. Portillo is a 26-year member of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

Although he was a Sheriff's Explorer in 1989, he was hired with RSO in 1996. After graduating from the Sheriff's Training Academy as a

deputy sheriff, he was assigned to the **Robert Presley Detention Center, Banning, Moreno Valley, Special Enforcement Bureau, and Jurupa Valley** stations.

As a deputy, Lt. Portillo worked various assignments including patrol, gangs and narcotics, Field Training Officer, and SWAT. Upon his promotion to Investigator in 2006, he was assigned to the Jurupa Valley Station and the Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Team. As an investigator, Lt. Portillo advanced to the rank of Lead Investigator and served on the department's Dive Team.

He was promoted to sergeant in 2012. As a sergeant, he was assigned to the **Cabazon, Jurupa Valley, and Norco** stations, and remained on the Dive Team as a sergeant.

Lt. Portillo was promoted to lieutenant in 2018 and was assigned to the **Perris Station**. In September he was reassigned to the **Lake Elsinore Station**.

He holds a master's degree in Criminal Justice and bachelor's degree in Workforce Education and Development.

Lt. Portillo is married to his wife **Elvia** of 23 years, and they have two adult children. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, competitive powerlifting, and shooting.

Capt. James Rayls began career in Lake Elsinore, now commands station

Capt. James Rayls, formerly a lieutenant at the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station, was promoted to captain in late September and assigned command of the station. He replaced Capt. Andrew Elia, who was assigned command of the department's Major Crimes Bureau.

Capt. Rayls joined the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in 1996.



He gained experience working at each sworn rank from deputy sheriff to captain. He worked numerous specialized assignments within the corrections division, field operations, and administration.

His first patrol assignment was at the Lake Elsinore Station where he worked patrol operations, served as the Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving deputy for the Temescal Valley area and served the station as a sex crimes investigator.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, which he earned at **California Baptist University**. Capt. Rayls resides locally with his wife and family.

He said he is proud to return to the Lake Elsinore Station to serve the community where he began his law enforcement career.

All odors should be reported to county and Air Quality Management District

Are you smelling odors in your neighborhood you think might be emanating from the **El Sobrante Landfill**?

According to **Lee Wilson**, chairman of the Landfill's **Citizens Oversight Committee**, email the county's **Local Enforcement Agency**: LEA@rivco.org and cc: **Art Marquez**, amarque6@wm.com.



Note the date, the community in which you live, your address and the time of day you smelled it.

A complaint also should be filed with the **South Coast Air Quality Management District**. There is a form **ONLINE**.

Builder Taylor Morrison plans grand opening for Serrano model homes

With seven homes already sold, **Taylor Morrison** will host a **Saturday, Dec. 3**, grand opening for its **Serrano** development.

The 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. event will feature tours of the model homes ranging in size from 1,732 square feet to 2,238 square feet and in price from **\$593,990** to **\$661,990**. The models are at **24362 Juni Court**, off Temescal Canyon and Campbell Ranch roads.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Mosquito experts say it's up to property owners to stop infestation

With the number of people taking to social media to complain about mosquito bites, it was only natural **Eric Ballejos**, public information and technology officer for the **Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control District**, was the featured speaker at November's **Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council** meeting.

According to Ballejos, it's the **Aedes mosquito** people are complaining about. Referred to as "ankle biters," the Aedes is a very small, black and white mosquito, is aggressive and prefers to dine during the daytime. It flies low to the ground and its bites, usually on the feet and ankles, are painful and itchy, can cause huge red welts and have been known to send people in search of medical treatment.

Since its arrival in Southern California a decade ago, the mosquito has become invasive – in her two-week lifespan the female can lay up to 300 eggs. And although responsible for the spread of **Dengue**, **Chikungunya** and **Zika** viruses, none of these diseases have been reported within the local vector control district's boundary.

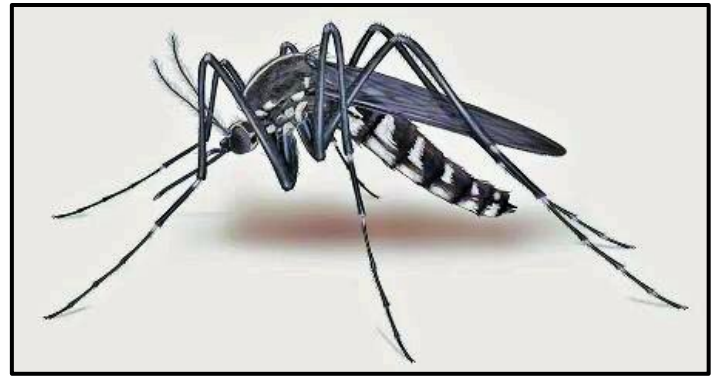
Here's a few facts about the Aedes:

- While males and females feed on plant nectar, only the female bites to feed on blood. The protein is needed for her eggs.
- Aedes prefer to feed on humans instead of birds.
- They are smaller and more aggressive than other mosquitoes.
- They are more active during daytime hours.
- They can live and breed both indoors and outdoors.
- They tend to be more active in the fall months.
- Aedes eggs can survive sub-zero temperatures and develop into viable adults.
- While most mosquitoes can fly one to three miles, the Aedes can only fly 300 feet from its breeding area.
- They tend to be resistant to commonly used pesticides.

Ballejos said many of these facts are why residents are the only people that can control the Aedes population.

"If you are being 'eaten alive' by this mosquito, it's because you or your neighbors have standing water in your yards," he said, explaining this little insect can and does breed in only a capful of standing water. "With a range of only 300 feet -- clean up the water within that perimeter and there will be no mosquitoes."

After the recent rains, look for water accumulation in potted-plant saucers, watering cans and outdoor toys. Check birdbaths and rain barrels and cover outdoor drains with fine mesh or screen. HOAs with flood control basins in common areas adjacent to homes need to check that the basins have drained and that there is no standing water.



ANKLE-BITER: If it's black and white, small and aggressive it's an **Aedes mosquito**.

The Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control District will send personnel to give your yard and home a **FREE** mosquito inspection. The inspection can be requested online: <https://northwestmvd.specialdistrict.org/service-request>

The district does not serve **Horsethief Canyon Ranch** and **Lemon Grove**. Vector control for those communities is provided by the county's **Department of Environmental Health**: <https://www.rivcoeh.org/OurServices/VectorControl/MosquitoSurveillanceandTreatment>

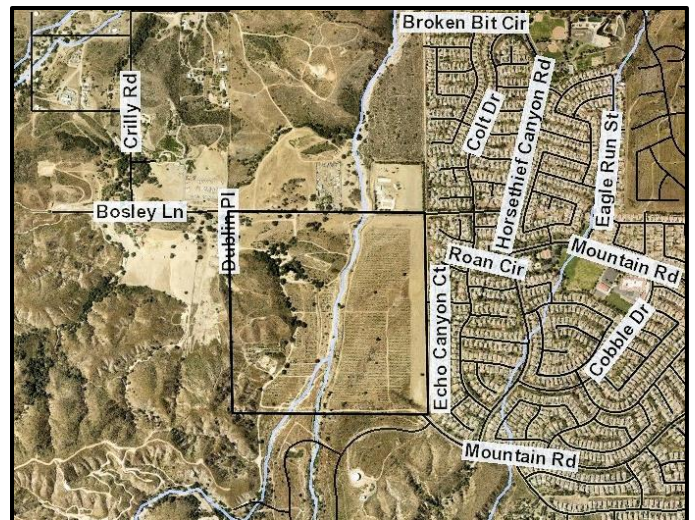
Developer JBJ Ranch gets go-ahead to divide 160-acres into 7 parcels

A developer who 15 years ago received county approval to build 311 homes adjacent to **Horsethief Canyon Ranch** may be closer to eventually breaking ground on the project.

The county last month at a Directors Hearing gave the go-ahead to **JBJ Ranch** to divide the project's 160-acre parcel into seven parcels ranging in size from 9.3 acres to 49.2 acres.

Usually when one large parcel for a home development is divided into several it's because the developer wants to sell parcels to different builders.

A road is planned to run diagonally through the property, extending **Mountain Road to De Palma Road**.



JBJ RANCH: This 160-acre parcel adjacent to Horsethief Canyon Ranch received county approval in 2007 for 311 homes.

**NO MAC MEETING IN DECEMBER.
NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11**

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Tea

Food

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Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Feel free to wear your
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Please invite your friends and family.
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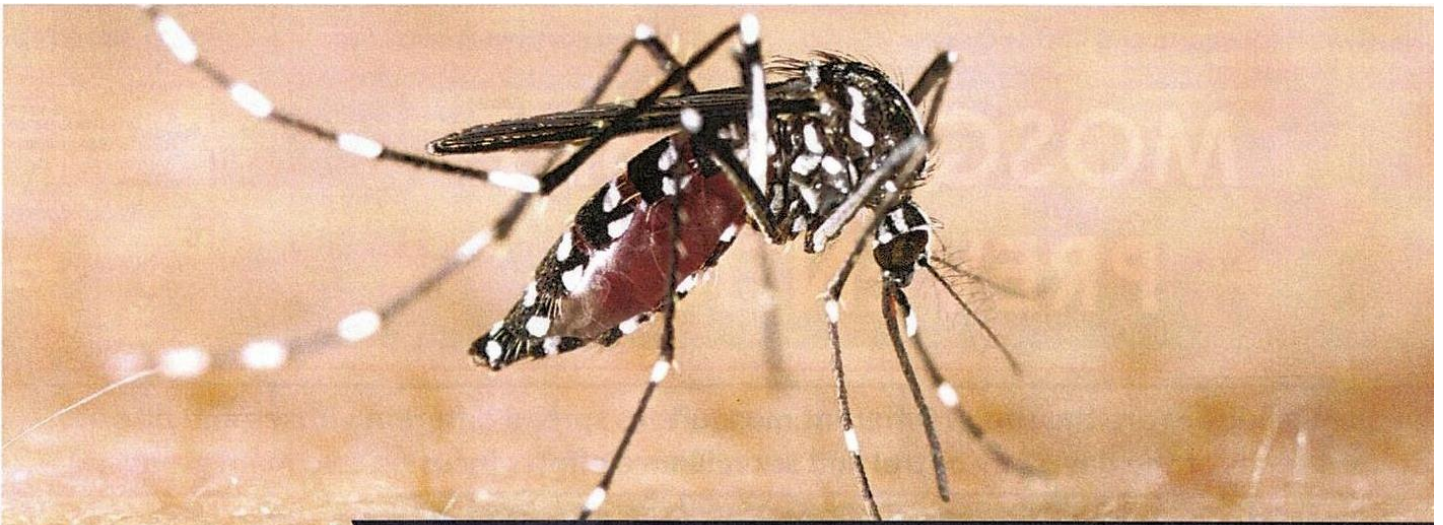
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- Must be a high school senior and show financial need
- Have a minimum 3.0 GPA
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All Edison Scholars recipients are eligible for a paid summer internship with Southern California Edison upon completing the first year of school. Scholars must meet the minimum eligibility requirements and complete the required hiring screening.

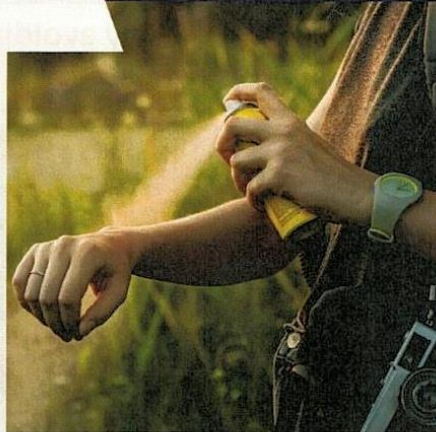


Aedes Mosquito Prevention

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MAKE SURE TO USE CDC-APPROVED INSECT REPELLENTS



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Culex species

- Responsible for the spread of West Nile Virus
- Commonly bite during the late evening and early morning



Aedes species

- Responsible for the spread of Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika viruses
- Commonly bite in the daytime

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites by avoiding exposure, using repellents, and making minor changes in and around your home:



USE INSECT REPELLENT

- Look for the following active ingredients:
 - DEET, picardin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-methane-diol, 2-undecanone
- EPA.gov/insect-repellents for more details
- REAPPLY insect repellent as directed
- With sunscreen – apply sunscreen first

WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHES

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants
- Cover cribs and strollers with netting
- For extra protection, treat clothing with permethrin
 - Follow product instructions closely
 - DO NOT use permethrin products directly on skin

MOSQUITO-PROOF YOUR HOME

- Use screens on windows and doors
- Use air conditioning when available
- ONCE A WEEK -
 - Empty and scrub, turn over, or throw out items that hold water
 - Place/fix screening over water drains or rain barrels to prevent mosquito access
 - Report standing water sources to local mosquito control districts

YOUTH / SENIORS
DISABLED / VETERANS

RIDE FOR 25¢



Beginning August 1 through June 30, 2023, RTA is offering 25-cent bus rides to youth, seniors, disabled and veterans on all bus routes, including CommuterLink! While on board, enjoy free Wi-Fi, USB charging ports, comfortable seating, friendly drivers, and, as always, our commitment to safety wherever you're headed.

Just show your valid ID to receive the discounted fare.



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Seniors Age 60 or Above



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Veterans



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