



## Tom's Farms could be sold

**Tom's Farms**, the iconic landmark that has defined Temescal Valley for decades, is for sale.

**Braun International Real Estate** has issued a call for offers for the 46-acre tourist attraction that includes 16 buildings and structures, and two adjacent undeveloped parcels.

While no sales price is listed in the memorandum, it's noted that financial information will be provided upon receipt of an executed confidentiality agreement and that offers are being considered on a first-come-first-offer basis. The business and property are owned by the family of **Thomas H. Barnes Sr.**, who died of cancer in July 2001 at the age of 55.

The Tom Barnes story is a familiar one in Temescal Valley. Tom grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, and began his career selling his father's strawberries door-to-door. He moved west in the early '70s and leased land in Lake Elsinore where he opened a produce stand that did so well the landowner decided he wanted it and evicted Tom.

According to the Tom's Farms' website, "Driving home to Anaheim, slightly brokenhearted, but with his boundless energy, strong work ethic and unwavering integrity still intact, he found an idyllic spot in Temescal Canyon, right below the Cleveland National Forest. He named his place Tom's Farms."

## Environmental group files suit against Corona, Arantine Hills

**Citizens for Responsible, Economical and Environmental Development**, a San Diego-based non-profit corporation known as **CREED-21**, has filed suit against the city of Corona and New Home Company regarding the **Arantine Hills** development. [www.wearetv.org/blog/arantine/lawsuit.pdf](http://www.wearetv.org/blog/arantine/lawsuit.pdf)

The Corona City Council approved the 1,806-home development in May and grading has begun on the property located south of Eagle Glen and north of Temescal Valley's Weirick Road neighborhood. The development agreement between the city and New Home Company allows homes to be built prior to improvements being made to the Cajalco interchange.

In seeking a writ of mandate, CREED-21 states, "It is important to note that Petitioner is not anti-development and is not trying to shut this project down. Instead, Petitioner wants the City's officials to fulfill their duty to be transparent about the true impacts of the project and to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place before the project moves forward."

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**CALL FOR OFFERS:** Braun International Real Estate created a 20-page brochure to facilitate the sale of Tom's Farms.

Barnes eventually purchased the land and in 1974 built the 3,500-square-foot produce stand followed by the hamburger restaurant in 1977. The construction of the Interstate 15 in 1978 provided easy access for freeway motorists. Tom's Farms continued to grow and through the years additional shops, restaurants and attractions were added.

While all assets, inventory and restaurants are included in the sale, Tom's Farms does not own the **Cheese & Wine Shoppe** business. The building is leased by the **Frank Hetland Sr.** family that owns the business. Barnes and Hetland were close friends for many years.

According to **Robert Lizano**, Tom's Farms' general manager, "The family has made this difficult decision to sell the property and is in hopes of finding another family or group of investors willing to continue the Tom's Farms legacy."

Lizano added, "The siblings have chosen to sell because they believe a new set of owners would have the necessary long-term financial commitment to truly take the complex to new competitive levels."

Lizano acknowledged that if a sale occurs there is no guarantee that the buyer will retain the Tom's Farms operation. "But it will be a major goal of the sale objective to find someone who will retain the Tom's Farms business concept and make it grow to an even more beautiful complex," he said.

The 20-page Call for Offers brochure can be viewed at [http://www.braunco.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/TomsFarms\\_OM.pdf](http://www.braunco.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/TomsFarms_OM.pdf)



**GRAND PRIZE WINNER:** "Temescal Valley: At the End of the Rainbow," photographed by **Rob Mucha**. took first place in the Landscape category and was voted Best of Show by people attending the 2016 Faire.

## Annual photo contest now has monthly competitions

The third annual **Temescal Valley Community Faire Photo Contest** will add a new element this year – a monthly contest starting in January with gift cards (\$75, \$50, \$25), awarded to three winners each month.

The "big" competition will still take place at the Faire which this year will be held Saturday, May 20 at Deleo Regional Sports Park. Gift cards (\$150, \$100, \$50) will be awarded to first through third places in each of the competition's three categories and Best of Show, which will be chosen by the vote of spectators attending the Faire.

Entries must have been photographed in Temescal Valley and should focus on the categories of Landscape, Things to Do and Animals.

**Cathie and Dan Smith** are co-chairmen of the contest and they stress that this is a "just-for-fun" competition and strongly encourage anyone with any level of photographic ability to participate. Questions? Email the Smiths at [TVFairePhotos@gmail.com](mailto:TVFairePhotos@gmail.com)

## LAWSUIT ... FROM PAGE 1

The city responded to the suit's allegations in a brief filed in early December ([www.wearetv.org/blog/arantine/city\\_brief.pdf](http://www.wearetv.org/blog/arantine/city_brief.pdf)), and CREED-21 responded to the city in a brief filed later in the month ([www.wearetv.org/blog/arantine/reply\\_brief.pdf](http://www.wearetv.org/blog/arantine/reply_brief.pdf)).

More recently, Temescal Valley residents living in the **Weirick Road neighborhood** adjacent to Arantine Hills say they have been approached by new-home builder **Van Daele Homes** with inquiries about purchasing their property. Speculation is their multi-acre land is needed to build homes in Planning Area 14 of Arantine Hills which, if residents sold, would then be annexed by Corona.

## CALENDAR

### EVENTS

- **2017 Homeschool Program:** Began at the Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center, 10 a.m., Monday, Jan. 9. The program is geared toward first through sixth grade and reservations are suggested. 951-277-0219. Other dates — all Mondays: **Jan. 23**, Feb. 6, Feb. 27, March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24, May 8 and May 22. The center is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., **Mondays, Wednesdays**, 11875 Indian Truck Trail.
- **Roller Skating Glow in the Dark Party:** Hosted by Temescal Valley Elementary School PTA, 6 to 8 p.m., **Friday, Jan. 13**, The Rinks, 4325 Prado Road, Corona. Purchase tickets at TVES.
- **Martin Luther King Day:** No school, **Monday, Jan. 16**.
- **Luiseno Titan Freshman Review:** 6 to 8 p.m., **Monday, Jan. 23**, Temescal Canyon High School, 28755 El Toro Road, Lake Elsinore.
- **Centennial Chamber Concert:** 7 p.m., **Thursday, Jan. 26**.
- **Santiago Madrigal Solo Concert:** 7 p.m., **Friday, Jan. 27**.
- **Luiseno Titan Freshman Course Selection:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., **Monday, Jan. 30**, Temescal Canyon High School, 28755 El Toro Road, Lake Elsinore.
- **El Cerrito County Library:** 7581 Rudell Road, behind El Cerrito Middle School. Many fun activities for the kids! 951-270-5012
- **County Bookmobile:** 2 to 4 p.m., **every Monday**, Tom's Farms; 9 to 11 a.m., **every Tuesday**, Deleo Regional Sports Park.
- **Tom's Farms:** Every weekend — **Craft Faire**, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; **Magic Show**, noon and 2 p.m.; **live music**, 1 to 4 p.m.

### TEMESCAL VALLEY MEETINGS

- **Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council:** 7 p.m., **Wednesday, Jan. 11**, Trilogy Lodge, 24503 Trilogy Parkway.
- **We Are Temescal Valley Business Committee:** 6:30 p.m., **Thursday, Jan. 12**. Email Chairman Dan Smith for location: [drs090651@aol.com](mailto:drs090651@aol.com)
- **We Are Temescal Valley Public Safety Committee:** 6:30 p.m., **Monday, Jan. 23**, Trilogy Blue Water Sports Club, Center for Well-Being room, 24491 Trilogy Parkway.
- **Temescal Valley Water District Board Meeting: Public hearing for proposed rate increase**, 8:30 a.m., **Tuesday, Jan. 24**, 22646 Temescal Canyon Road. **Background report:** [www.temescalvwd.com/pdf/TVWD\\_Rate\\_Report.pdf](http://www.temescalvwd.com/pdf/TVWD_Rate_Report.pdf)
- **We Are Temescal Valley Identity Committee:** 6 p.m., **Thursday, Feb. 2**, Senior Tom's restaurant.
- **We Are Temescal Valley Beautification Committee:** 7 p.m., **Thursday, Feb. 2**, Senior Tom's restaurant.
- **We Are Temescal Valley citizens' group:** 8:30 a.m., **Saturday, Feb. 4**, Trilogy Lodge, Temescal Room, 24503 Trilogy Parkway. This meeting is open to the public — find out what's happening in Temescal Valley!

### MEETINGS THAT AFFECT US

- **Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting:** 4 p.m., **Thursday, Jan. 12**, 31315 Chaney St., Lake Elsinore.
- **Riverside County Board of Supervisors:** 9 a.m., **Tuesday, Jan. 17**, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon St., Riverside.
- **Corona-Norco Unified School District:** Business meeting, 7 p.m., **Tuesday, Jan. 17**, 2820 Clark Ave., Norco.
- **Riverside County Planning Commission:** 9 a.m., **Wednesday, Jan. 18**, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon St., Riverside.
- **Lake Elsinore Unified School District:** 9 a.m., **Thursday, Jan. 19**, 545 Chaney St., Lake Elsinore.
- **Riverside County Board of Supervisors:** 9 a.m., **Tuesday, Jan. 24**, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon St., Riverside.
- **Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting:** 4 p.m., **Thursday, Jan. 26**, 31315 Chaney St., Lake Elsinore.
- **Riverside County Board of Supervisors:** 9 a.m., **Tuesday, Jan. 31**, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon St., Riverside.