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WE ARE TEMESCAL VALLEY

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THE NEW NORMAL: During morning commute hours and since the completion of the 91 Express Lane project in March, traffic on the I-15 northbound regularly backs up through Temescal Valley as far south as Lake Street in Lake Elsinore. (Facebook photo by RICHARD DEAN)

Group sets meeting to discuss ‘fixes’ for 91 project

A group of concerned citizens – the **Greater Corona Traffic Alliance (GCTA)**, has researched why traffic on SR 91 and the I-15 has worsened since the completion of the 91 Express Lanes project in March and wants to share their findings with the public.

The group has scheduled a community meeting at **9 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 20** at Sizzler restaurant, 1461 Rimpau Ave., Corona.

While the project has been labeled a success by **Riverside County Transmission Commission** officials – adding lanes and giving a faster alternative to commuters willing to pay toll fees -- GCTA and others say the project has made traffic worse, especially on surface streets.

County **Supervisor Kevin Jeffries**, speaking at the RCTC Program and Projects Committee meeting in November, said the project is “arguably the largest failure in transportation history.”

Within days of the express lanes opening, Temescal Valley motorists noted northbound I-15 backups during morning commute hours stretching as far south as Lake Street and Nichols Road in Lake Elsinore.

Freeway commuters caught in the gridlock turn to traffic apps such as WAZE and are directed to take Temescal Canyon Road as an alternative. This influx of vehicles on the valley’s only north/south through street, coupled with the lack of school district busing for most middle and high school students, has caused increased morning commute times for Temescal Valley residents. Waiting to access I-15 on-ramps at Weirick and Temescal Canyon roads, and Indian Truck Trail has been reported to take up to 40 minutes.

GCTA leaders claim engineering flaws in designing the express lanes is causing slowdowns and backups at Green River Road, McKinley Street and Ontario Avenue, creating the surface street traffic problems experienced by Temescal Valley and Corona residents.

According to **Michele Wentworth**, a GCTA leader, “While there are myriad contributors to traffic and long-term solutions, this meeting will focus on immediate changes needed to ‘finish’ the toll lane project.”

Other GCTA leaders are Temescal Valley resident **Amie Kinne**, and **Wes Speake**, **Ned Ibrahim** and **Matt Olsen** who, with Wentworth, are Corona residents.

READ DEC. 25 PRESS-ENTERPRISE REPORT:

[Did the \\$1.4 billion 91 Freeway toll lanes project make traffic worse in Corona?](#)

QUICK HITS . . .

CHURCH/SCHOOL APPROVED: The county has given approval to the Olive Branch Community Church to build a worship center and K-8 school on the 14.53 acres it owns at the northwest corner of Temescal Canyon Road and Trilogy Parkway. The project will be built in three phases, but a construction date is yet-to-be determined. [LEARN MORE](#)

CONDO DECISION CONTINUED AGAIN: The Planning Commission’s decision to recommend approval of or deny a developer’s request for a zone change to build 83 condominiums was continued from Dec. 20 to the Wednesday, Feb. 7 meeting. The continuance was requested by the developer. The project, to be built on 14.81 acres on Temescal Canyon Road just north of Campbell Ranch Road, has been opposed by residents who believe the current commercial office zoning would better serve the community. [LEARN MORE](#)

MORE ON LEAPS: Did you miss the latest Press-Enterprise update on the controversial Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage project? You can read it [HERE](#). Also, Nevada Hydro has sent communication to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission outlining its initial response to some agency requests for additional studies: <http://www.wearetv.org/blog/docs/response.pdf>



DECEMBER PHOTO WINNER

The theme was “Local Lights.” Congratulations to **LAURA GUTIERREZ** of California Meadows for her delightful Christmas tree shot using the bokeh technique on the lights.

Calling all photographers! The theme for January’s contest is “Rustic, Rural or Rusty.” Temescal Valley has lots to offer that fits this category! Find out how to enter:

<http://www.wearetv.org/blog/faire/2018photo.pdf>

Help needed for Saturday, Feb. 3 cleanup along Temescal Canyon Road

If you have no plans for the morning of Saturday, Feb. 3, **Bob Hafner** and the **WeAreTV Beautification Committee** could use your help in cleaning up Temescal Canyon Road between Hostettler Road and the Lake Elsinore city limits.

The group will meet at 7 a.m. at the corner of Hostettler and Temescal canyon roads. Bring gloves and wear closed-toe shoes – other supplies will be furnished. This is a good opportunity for teens who need community-service hours. Bring your form with you.

If you have questions, email Bob: bob.hafner@verizon.net

CALENDAR

EVENTS

- **Winter Break:** No school for CNUSD and LEUSD students through **Monday, Jan. 15**. Also, no school for LEUSD students, **Tuesday, Jan. 16**, Teacher Work Day.
- **Martin Luther King Day:** No school and normal holiday closures, **Monday, Jan. 15**.
- **100 Mile Club:** Kids from all Temescal Valley schools can add to their miles, 8 to 9 a.m. **every Sunday** at Deleo Regional sports Park, 25655 Santiago Canyon Road. No drop offs — parents must accompany kids.
- **Temescal Valley Run/Walk Group:** 9 a.m. every **Wednesday** and **Friday**. Meet at Wildrose Ranch Community Park, corner of Clay Canyon Drive and Knabe Road.
- **Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center:** Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., **Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays**, 11875 Indian Truck Trail. Kids learn about conservation and the environment through many hands-on exhibits. **FREE!**
- **El Cerrito County Library:** 7581 Rudell Road, behind El Cerrito Middle School. Many fun activities for the kids! 951-270-5012 or check out the January activities [HERE](#)
- **County Bookmobile:** 9 to 11 a.m., **every Tuesday**, Deleo Regional Sports Park.
- **Tom’s Farms: FREE!** Every weekend — **Craft Faire**, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; **Magic Show**, noon and 2 p.m.; **live music**, 12:30 to 5 p.m.
- **\$40 Windshield Repair: Offered by Alfredo’s Auto Glass, either in shop or mobile service, Wednesday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 7 only. 12847 Temescal Canyon Road, 951-847-6846. Must mention you saw offer in this newsletter.**

TEMESCAL VALLEY MEETINGS

- **We Are Temescal Valley Education Committee:** 6:30 p.m., **Thursday, Jan. 18**, Senor Tom’s restaurant.
- **Temescal Valley Water District Board Meeting:** 8:30 a.m., **Tuesday, Jan. 23**, 22646 Temescal Canyon Road.
- **We Are Temescal Valley Identity Committee:** 6 p.m., **Thursday, Feb. 8**, Senor Tom’s restaurant.
- **We Are Temescal Valley Beautification Committee:** 7 p.m., **Thursday, Feb. 8**, Senor Tom’s restaurant.
- **We Are Temescal Valley citizens’ group:** 8:30 a.m., **Saturday, Feb. 10**, Trilogy Lake Center, Tahoe Room, 24477 Trilogy Parkway. This meeting is open to the public — find out what’s happening in Temescal Valley!
- **Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council:** 6 p.m., **Wednesday, Feb. 14**, Trilogy Lake Center, 24477 Trilogy Parkway. **Note new meeting time and change in meeting place.**

MEETINGS THAT AFFECT US

- **Riverside County Planning Commission:** 9 a.m., **Wednesday, Jan. 17** and **Feb. 7**, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon St., Riverside.
- **Riverside County Board of Supervisors:** 9 a.m., **Tuesday, Jan. 23** and **30**, and **Feb. 6**, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon St., Riverside.
- **Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting:** 4 p.m., **Thursday, Jan. 25** and **Feb. 8**, 31315 Chaney St., Lake Elsinore.
- **Corona-Norco Unified School District:** Business meeting, 7 p.m., **Tuesday, Jan. 23** and **Feb. 6**, 2820 Clark Ave., Norco.
- **Lake Elsinore Unified School District:** 6 p.m., **Tuesday, Jan. 30** and **Thursday, Feb. 8**, 545 Chaney St., Lake Elsinore.
- **El Sobrante Landfill Administrative Review Committee:** 9 a.m., **Wednesday, Jan. 31**, Riverside County Department of Waste Resources, 14310 Frederick St., Moreno Valley.