

## **NEW 2008 Bennett Valley** **CALENDAR GUIDELINES!**

### **BIRDS AND/OR BLOOMS.**

It has come to our attention that "Birds AND Blooms" in one attractive photo (as stated in the March VOICE) might be too much to hope for. So--our theme will now be **BIRDS AND/OR BLOOMS.**

### ***Here are the entry guidelines:***

- Subject: Birds and/or Blooms (wild birds only!)
- Maximum of 3 entries
- Format: horizontal 5"x 7" or 8"x 10" prints for judging – film or digital.
- Please label each print on back with your name, address, and phone number.
- If photo is digital, please use highest resolution, minimum compression, largest size settings.
- If photo is film or slide, submit as photographic print with info (as above) on back.
- Only one image per entrant will be selected.
- **Entry deadline: September 2, 2008**
- Drop off or mail to: Calendar Committee, 2663 Bennett Ridge Rd, S.R. 95404
- For more info: 527.6002 or 528.6176

2008 Calendar Committee:  
Sally Weare, Sherry Parker, Ray Lemieux

If you'd like to join the Calendar Committee, please call Sally Weare or Sherry Parker at the numbers above!

## **Press Democrat Youth Service**

### **Awards**, April 25, 2008

*Ten Sonoma county high school seniors received honors ... for volunteerism and leadership in their schools and communities....the Community Youth Service Awards sponsored by the Press Democrat recognize students who promote the common good by serving others..."It is our effort to recognize these extraordinary students, and it sets an example about being part of the community." PD Publisher Bruce Kyse said. Below is the description of one of these students who lives in the Bennett Valley area.*

**Bret Barner...** Cardinal Newman's Bret Barner, who intends to study veterinary medicine and environmental science in college, has spent more than four years establishing 50-plus bird boxes to help re-establish native western bluebirds in Sonoma County.

As a freshman, Barner earned Cardinal Newman's Service Award for donating the most volunteer hours to a nonprofit agency--The Bird Rescue Center of Sonoma County.

Neighbors opened their property to Barber, who has built, repaired and cared for both the boxes and the birds who come to nest. Covering hundreds of acres every week, Barner traps and removes non-native birds while monitoring the establishment of bluebirds and their chicks.

"We have seen a young man with a passion delve into all aspects of his project with a commitment rarely seen today," said Mary Poe, a member of the Summit View Ranch Homeowners Association where boxes have been installed.

### **BV Spring Clean-Up Roads Day!**

**On Saturday, April 5, once again the BV roads were cleaned by the 18 volunteers listed below. We want to express our great appreciation to all of those who helped: Jim Alfieri, Dave & Sandy Sandine, Lu Schultz, Mike Hickey, Jami Jamison, Richard Lukasko, Tim Murphy, Bill Nielson, Norm Boling, Suzanne Dougherty, Sandra Carr, Patty Grundy, Ron Simpson, Bill & Patty Allen, Bobbie Blair, Bill Breslin and Miriam. Jim asked us to give a SPECIAL ROUND OF APPLAUSE to Valerie Kneit, who works for Sonoma Co. Public Works and has been very helpful in making the necessary arrangements.**

## **Bennett Valley Fire Protection District**

6161 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa  
578-7761 (**Non-Emergency Business Phone**)

### Board of Directors

**Mark Richardson, President; Joseph Mazeau, Vice-President; Marilee Jensen, Secretary; Arnie Tognozzi, and Don D'Avanzo, Directors**  
***Board meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday each month, 7:00 pm, at the BV Fire Station.***

### BENNETT VALLEY PAID FIREFIGHTING STAFF

*Fire Chief:* Andy Pforsich, 823-1084

*24-hour Personnel:* Lieutenants Kevin Burris and Matt Tognozzi, Engineer Danny Connelly

*Daytime Firefighters, 8:00am to 5:00 pm:*

Engineer Patrick Tognozzi, Firefighters Brian Drees and Ronnie Lakin

***Supplemented and supported by many trained firefighting volunteers. Three volunteers are paid to sleep overnight at the Fire Station, for improved coverage and safety.***

## **Bennett Valley Firefighting Activities**

### **March/April, 2008**

*By Lieutenant Kevin Burris*

Medical Aids = 12    Structure Fires = 3    Vehicle  
Fires = 1

Vehicle Accidents = 9    Smoke  
Checks = 1

Vegetation Fires = 1    Alarm Soundings = 1

On March 2 at 7:48 pm Bennett Valley Fire Protection District was called to a working structure fire in the Mt. Taylor area of Bennett Valley. B.V.F.P.D. paid staff and volunteers responded with two Engines, one Water Tender, Battalion Chief, and Rescue. With automatic aid from Santa Rosa Fire Department we received Battalion One, Engine One, and Engine Four. The fire was brought under control at 8:28pm with no injuries reported.

## **Bennett Valley Fire Protection District**

### **Explorer Post 78**

#### **Donations & Recruitment**

The Bennett Valley Explorer Post is a training program for interested young people, between the ages of 14 to 18 years of age. It is also the primary source of volunteer firefighters for the Bennett Valley Fire Station, after they turn 18 years old. We currently have 10 BV Explorers in weekly training at the Fire Station. As costs continue to climb it becomes harder for the Explorer Post to have sufficient funds for training, safety equipment, yearly academy tuition and insurance.

If you would like to donate to the Explorer Program or sponsor an Explorer for the yearly California Fire Explorer Associations Academy please send your donations to the **Bennett Valley Fire Explorers, 6161 Bennett Valley Rd., Santa Rosa, Ca, 95404.** If you have any questions regarding the Explorer program please call Lieutenant Kevin Burris at (707) 578-7761 or email him at [kburris78@comcast.net](mailto:kburris78@comcast.net).

The Bennett Valley Explorer Post is also looking for additional young people between the ages of 14 to 18 years who are interested in firefighting as a possible career. As an Explorer you will receive training in all aspects of Fire Service such as fire suppression, auto extraction, and emergency medical training. If you are between these ages and think you are up for the challenge of being a fire Explorer then go to [www.bennettvalleyfire.org](http://www.bennettvalleyfire.org) to fill out an application today!

### **A Hands-On Lifesaver**

**(UC Berkeley Wellness Letter; April 2008)**

If you don't know CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), should you learn it? Yes. Each year, as many as 400,000 Americans go into cardiac arrest—that is, the heart stops suddenly due to an electrical problem triggered most often by a heart attack, but also possibly by other heart conditions, stroke, near-drowning, or severe electrical shock. You'll never know when it will happen. It's especially important to learn this lifesaving technique if you have a family member with heart disease. After all, about 80% of cardiac arrests occur at home.

CPR consists of a series of forceful compressions to the chest (which squeeze the heart) and mouth-to-mouth breathing (which supplies oxygen to the lungs and blood). This combination delivers oxygen-containing blood to the brain and other vital body organs when the heart can't do it itself, until advanced medical treatment is available. CPR should be given whenever someone collapses suddenly and is not responsive and not breathing normally. Without it, a person in cardiac arrest can die within 8 to 10 minutes.

The American Heart Association simplified its CPR guidelines in 2005 and made an important change in the ratio between compressions and breaths. It now recommends...30 compressions for every 2 breaths given...The goal is to push hard and fast—100 compressions a minute. In addition, two new studies have shown that compression-only CPR is as effective as standard CPR (with mouth-to-mouth) in saving lives, when done outside the hospital (*except for children and individuals near-drowning*)...The key is to start resuscitation as soon as possible. (*The Bennett*

Valley Fire Station offered a CPR course, for \$85, on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. The American Heart Association and the American Red Cross can help you locate a CPR course. If you're interested, contact Karen Sommer.)

### **ON-SITE BV ROAD CHECK, 3/3/08**

Craig Harrison, Marilee Jensen

To repeat some of what was said in the March VOICE, Rob Silva, Road Maintenance Operations Coordinator and Jeff Ross, Area Foreman, from Sonoma County Public Works, "toured" the Bennett Valley roads with Craig Harrison, President and Marilee Jensen, VOICE Editor, for Bennett Valley Homeowner's Association (BVHA) on March 3.

As we drove along the different Bennett Valley roads, and they described their work expectations along with their limited resources. They explained they generally concentrate on the roads with the higher traffic volume in this area, that is Grange Road, Crane Canyon Road and Bennett Valley Road, with the goal of maintaining safety as much as possible. As for the smaller roads, they report they did a lot of work on Holland Heights roads last summer. They reported that the bulk of their asphalt last year went to Enterprise, Sonoma Mountain and Mt. Taylor roads. They plan on chip sealing some of the more western parts of Bennett Valley road this year.

Because of state budget problems, they might not get 5 months of gas tax money from May to September. Supposedly it is just being "borrowed", but road maintenance starts to wind up in October. Getting it late is a problem. This makes everything less certain than usual.

A hiring freeze has been instituted, presumably due to the pending state gas tax issue. Over the years, road crews have been eliminated. I think Rob Silva said there is only one road crew now at Cotati, and there was once three there.

Managing water on the roads is very important for road maintenance, and having ditches along side the road are part of that approach. Once the California Department of Forestry crew goes through this summer cutting back the brush, the County will follow and work on improving ditching where ditches have filled. They have to stop this activity for fire reasons around July 1. Some local residents give the county workers a lot of objections regarding brush trimming. They said one typical response is "I support brush and tree trimming on this road, but don't do it on my property." This brush trimming along the road is

so crucial for improving road drainage, improving road visibility and reducing fires; all for increased road safety.

They are limited as to the amount of asphalt they can purchase this year (*Note: Asphalt prices track oil prices*). It cost \$76/ton on March 3rd, twice what it cost a few years ago. They have to work out an allocation of the available asphalt between north and south county. (*I asked if someone purchased more asphalt for a particular road could they use it and he seemed to think they could. We didn't explore this too far -- it's more of a management issue.*)

I didn't hear anything positive about improving Sonoma Mountain Road or Pressley Road this year. If they do anything, it would be to deal with very localized safety issues such as grinding down high points and filling sumps. Places that seemed uneven and rough to us didn't seem all that bad to them. They aren't completely in the loop about the road closure on Sonoma Mountain Road, and are not sure of that schedule.

We emphasized that we thought that what they did was good, but we thought they needed more resources. We want to encourage them, show some appreciation for what they do, and hope that when they have an extra few days to do something that they think of our area.

### **Neighborhood Watch,**

3/26/08, by John McLarty

In the beginning of March, "Collins & Sons Construction" ten wheeler dump trucks started making regular trips to 4184 Sonoma Mountain Road, approximately 8 to 10 times per day, about 45 minutes between loads. An excavator, skid steer tractor and a small back hoe were seen moving around at the back of the property. From an adjacent property, photos were taken of a sizable excavation project going on in or at the edge of Matanzas Creek. Workmen appear to have been using the creek as a toilet facility in addition to the other activities going on. After about ten to fourteen days of the trucking activity, the Sonoma County PRMD was called to check on the jobs permit status. Janice Gilligan from PRMD was unable to locate any active permits at that address that would explain the activity. She then launched an investigation. Sonoma County PRMD did an on site inspection and issued a "Stop Work Notice". On Monday, March 24, the Sonoma County Water Quality Control Agency came out to the site to investigate what had occurred. Later that same

day, Warden Perer Georges from the Department of Fish and Game visited the site and began investigating the stream bed alteration.

### **Some Key Points from BASINS OF RELATIONS, A Citizen's Guide to Protecting and Restoring Our Watersheds**

By Brock Dolman

- *"The water cycle and the life cycle are one." – Jacques Cousteau*
- *"Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." - George Santayana, philosopher*
- *Just as water is the foundation of life it must also be the foundation of design of the build environment." - Betsy Damon, founder of Keepers of the Waters*
- *Watersheds: Our Basins of Relations*
- *Conservation Hydrology*
- *The "pave and pipe paradigm" is disastrously flawed and hydro-illiterate.*
- *A new paradigm of stormwater management is based on "waterspread" restoration, with a call to slow the water down, spread the water out, sink the water into the land.*
- *The old drain-age is now being replaced by a new retain-age."*
- *Receive (through annual precipitation), recharge (limit impervious surfaces and wholesale conversion of native vegetation), retain (be sure the extractions of water do not exceed the inputs of water), and release (take the critical steps that can ensure optimal amounts of water will be available for future release.)*
- *Let's keep the creek clear, cold and copious.*
- *Water conservation, choose not to use.*
- *Harvest roofwater. ([www.rainwaterharvesting.net](http://www.rainwaterharvesting.net))*
- *After your roofwater cistern, the best place to store water is in the soil.*
- *Form a watershed group...Support or start a water-quality monitoring program.*
- *Participation of Watershed Citizens in Land Use Planning at All Levels.*
- *Implement On-Farm Water Conservation and Protection Programs*
- *Manage Watershed for Local Control and Protection of Water Resources.*

### **Spring is Here - Enjoy the Outdoors**

**The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District** has plenty of Outings to get you out to the green hills and wildflowers this spring. We offer several outings every month. Take a moderate three to four mile moonlight hike at Taylor Mountain Open Space Preserve in Santa Rosa and enjoy scenic vistas and wide-open grasslands. For more

information about these and other outings, click here:

<http://www.sonomaopenspace.org/cal.php?View=outings>

### **Construction of Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Approved**

With the approval from the County Board of Supervisors, construction of a new trail for hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists may begin this summer. The 4.25-mile trail will not only link 500 acres of protected open space on the north slope of Sonoma Mountain, but it will be an addition to the Bay Area Ridge Trail, a planned 500-mile ridgetop trail encircling San Francisco Bay. A collaborative effort of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Regional Parks, California State Parks, California State Coastal Conservancy, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, and LandPeople, the project will also provide a new trailhead and parking lot off of Sonoma Mountain Road.

### **Matching Grant Program Applications Now Available**

Applications are now online for the 2008 cycle of the District's Matching Grant Program. The application deadline is May 2 at 5:00 p.m. Grants are available to Sonoma County public agencies and nonprofits for projects that enhance natural areas or provide urban open spaces for public recreation, and funds may be used for acquisition or development costs. To date, the District has contributed approximately \$11 million in matching grants through this program. For more information about the program and to download an application packet click here:

[http://www.sonomaopenspace.org/Content/10119/matching\\_grants.html](http://www.sonomaopenspace.org/Content/10119/matching_grants.html)

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### **Explore Camp Gualala on a Guided Hike**

Protected by the District in 2005, scenic Camp Gualala is now open for regular guided hikes. The property features impressive old-growth redwood and Douglas fir forests and a mile-long stretch of the Gualala River. The guided hikes, about three hours long and from moderate to difficult hiking levels, are held on select Sundays May 4, August 31, September 7, October 5 and 19, and November 2, 9, and 30. Pre registration is not required; arrive at 9:45 a.m. for a 10:00 a.m. departure time. Park at the bend in the road near the Camp Gualala

sign. For more information, contact Tom Bernard, UCCR's Camp Gualala site director, at 886-5351, [gualalacamp@aol.com](mailto:gualalacamp@aol.com), or [Gualala@uccr.org](mailto:Gualala@uccr.org).

## **Board of Directors' Tentative Agenda**

**May 21, 2008, BV Grange Hall, 7 p.m.**

### **Bennett Valley Homeowner's Association (BVHA) Board Of Directors**

P.O. Box 2666, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Craig Harrison, President

[charrison@hunton.com](mailto:charrison@hunton.com), 573-9990

Eric Burns, Vice-President

[datamonk@svn.net](mailto:datamonk@svn.net), 584-7531

Fay Blair, Treasurer

[fayblair@sonic.net](mailto:fayblair@sonic.net), 576-0152

Connie Montague, Recording Secretary

[ecmonty@teevax.com](mailto:ecmonty@teevax.com), 542-4987

James K. Cobb, Director

[cobblaw@pacbell.net](mailto:cobblaw@pacbell.net), 586-9172

Larissa Goliti, Director

[lgoliti@hotmail.com](mailto:lgoliti@hotmail.com), 578-3453

Paul Hamilton, Director, 527-0671

Frank LaCombe, Director

[franksgarage@peoplepc.com](mailto:franksgarage@peoplepc.com), 585-3482

Richard Lukasko, Director

[rlukasko@hotmail.com](mailto:rlukasko@hotmail.com), 566-7803

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BVEP COORDINATOR – Karen Sommer,

[ksommer@earthlink.net](mailto:ksommer@earthlink.net), 528-8982

BVHA VOICE Editor – Marilee Jensen,

[marileejensen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marileejensen@sbcglobal.net), 576-0405

- Treasurer's Report
- General Liability insurance decision
- Bi-Monthly County Reports: Board of Supervisors, Open Space District, PRMD, Public Works
- Report From Bennett Valley Emergency Preparedness Committee and Discussion on Potential to Be a IRS § 501(c)(3) Organization
- Report on Bennett Valley Road Trip With County Maintenance Staff
- Appointment of Nominating Committee
- Status of Proposed Cell Phone Tower
- Update on Bennett Valley Road Conditions
- 2008 BVHA Meeting Schedule -- speakers for July, September or November?
- New Business As Determined By Board
- Adjourn

### **A Message From Your Membership Coordinators, Larissa Goliti and Jeannie LaCombe**

Thank you all for your response to the annual membership drive and your generous contributions. It is not too late to become a member of Bennett Valley Homeowners Association. Annual dues are \$15 plus any additional contributions you want to make, for BV Emergency Preparations (BVEP), payable to BVHA, and mailed to: BVHA, PO Box 2666, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. Questions? Call (707) 578-3453

### **Brief Summary of BVHA Meeting, March 19, 2008**

This meeting was devoted entirely to the Candidates Forum for the First District County Supervisor position. The three speakers included the incumbent, Valerie Brown plus two other candidates, David Reber and Will Pier. Besides making presentations and answering questions, they each had available some written

material as well as their websites addresses. BVHA chose to not have a business meeting on this date.

