



# BENNETT VALLEY VOICE

Vol. 12, No. 2

Bennett Valley Homeowners Association

July 1989

## BVHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## MEMO FROM THE BOARD

Since our last newsletter in February, your BVHA Board of Directors has been very active in many key areas; namely, road safety, proposed subdivisions/re-zoning, unauthorized structures, proposed annexations and county-wide transportation planning.

**Road Safety**—I am pleased to report that the county Public Works Department has now incorporated double yellow lines with reflectors, as well as speed limit signs on lower Sonoma Mt. Road. In addition, double yellow lines and 35 mph speed limit signs have been added on the eastern portion of Bennett Valley Road to Warm Springs Road. We have followed up with a request to the Public Works Department, that the left hand turn lane at Grange and Bennett Valley Road, as well as the improvement in the shoulders in the Pisenti Curve Area be accomplished this construction season. These improvements were promised by our First District Supervisor, Janet Nicholas, in her letter to the BVHA in August 1988.

**Proposed Subdivisions/Re-Zoning**—We have had increased referrals from the County Planning Department on large plots of acreage to be re-zoned to large lot residential (40 acres) all of which have been approved since they meet the county requirements according to the new general plan. In other cases, lot line adjustments and changes in access roads have been requested which we have coordinated with Design Review in preparing our response.

**Unauthorized Structures**—Even though we have been successful in bringing to the attention of county authorities unauthorized structures and mobile homes, progress has been slow. We are renewing our efforts, along with the Bennett Valley Design Review Committee to bring these violations to the attention of the appropriate agencies. In another instance, a 2-storey structure was to be disassembled in the spring of this year yet no progress has been made. In another case, a temporary financial problem has resulted in a deferral of construction of a home thereby replacing an unauthorized structure. We are working with concerned neighbors and county agencies to rectify this situation with a definite time limit to correct it.

**County-Wide Transportation Plan**—Various board members have attended the weekly Sonoma County Transportation Committee meetings chaired by J. Harberson. Our basic objective is to be cognizant of all the alternatives associated with the proposed expenditure

of approximately \$860M for improving Highways 101, 12 and 116 as well as local roads in and around Santa Rosa. Our major concern is a possible alternative that would make Bennett Vly. Rd. a 4-lane from Santa Rosa to Glen Ellen which, in our view, would adversely affect the rural environment we all enjoy, not withstanding the environmental impact on this beautiful, scenic corridor. There have been no serious proposals before the transportation committee as such; however, a group in Oakmont, together with certain private citizens have proposed such a solution as part of the county-wide transportation system improvements. We have to remain alert to any such proposal and if such a proposal develops, it will take the concerted effort by the BVHA as well as all residents of Bennett Valley to devote their time and energy in defeating such a proposal. We will keep you informed of any such developments.

**General**—The county-wide General Plan update has been completed and released. It has in effect replaced the old Bennett Valley specific plan however, through the efforts of your board, led by Dave Steiner, all inconsistencies and important features of the Bennett Valley Specific Plan were incorporated in the General Plan. All of our future efforts will utilize as a basis the new General Plan update for all matters brought to our attention.

We have many challenges ahead as our valley continues to grow. We meet every 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 at the Bennett Valley Fire Station. We invite all of you to attend our meetings and to participate in our deliberations and challenges ahead. Don't hesitate to call any board member. We appreciate your input.

BILL WRIGHT

## SONOMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE STATUS

The recommended expenditure plan prepared by the Technical Advisory Committee of the County Transportation Committee, based on a one percent sales tax increase over a 20 year period, is as follows:

<i>Expenditure Plan</i>		
	<i>%</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Northwestern R.R. (right-away)	5	\$40.3
U.S. 101	51.5	414
Highway 12	22.5	181
Highway 116	3.5	28.3
Highway 1	0.5	4.7
Bikeways	2	17
Transit	3	24.2
Local Allocations	11	87.7
Administrative Services	1	8
Total		\$860M

(The wine industry and environmental groups alternatively recommended increased allocation for transit projects and local allocations and a reduced expenditure for Highway 101.)

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The \$181M proposal for Highway 12 would cover the following:

1. Highway 12 to highway 101 Connector  
Construct a 4-lane freeway from Highway 12 and Farmers Lane to Melita Road. Included are diamond I/Cs at Farmers Lane and Summerfield Road, and O/C at Yulupa Avenue and a diamond I/C (except for loop eastbound ramp) at Melita Road.
2. Expand existing 2-lane roadway on the north side to provide 4-lane divided highway.
  - A. 0.3 miles east of Highway 116 to Llano Road
  - B. Llano Road to west of Fulton Road
3. Construct new interchanges at:
  - A. Fulton Road I/C  
Diamond I/C with depressed freeway.
  - B. Stony Point Road I/C
  - C. Diamond I/C with depressed freeway.
  - D. Farmers Lane I/C  
Diamond I/C at Farmers Lane.
4. Improve Highway 12 from Melita Road to Fifth Street West in Sonoma
  - A. Melita Road to Pythian Road.  
Widen to 4-lane divided facility.
  - B. Pythian Road to Agua Caliente Road.  
Widen to 40 feet (two lanes) with left turn lanes at major intersections.
  - C. Agua Caliente Road to West Thompson Avenue.  
Widen to 3 lanes.
  - D. West Thompson Avenue to Fifth Street West.  
Widen to 5 lanes.

It should be kept in mind that the above is a proposal *not* a firm decision. But it does illustrate the present thinking and approach.

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## MEMBERSHIP

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The increase in membership dues from \$5.00 to \$7.00 did not seem to cause much concern among Bennett Valley dwellers. Many of you contributed more than the amount for dues, and to those of you who made out checks of up to \$25, thank you, and be assured your contribution will be put to good use. Many of you included letters of appreciation to the BVHA Board of Directors for their efforts; these were especially well received.

Total revenue collected from dues was \$1,387.00. This represented dues and contributions from approximately 151 renewals and 43 new members, for a total membership of 194, to date. Membership dues are still coming in—a final tally will be reported in future editions of *The Voice*.

There are approximately 800 families living in the Valley who are eligible for membership in the BVHA. If your Board is to continue to maintain influence at the county level concerning the Valley and how it is affected by issues such as the results of the Transportation Committee Study, we should have BETTER REPRESENTATION. As you know, in politics, numbers (votes) count. So, if you have not renewed, or joined, please do so soon. Also, encourage your friends and neighbors to join—we are all working for the same cause—THE PRESERVATION OF THE RURAL NATURE AND NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE VALLEY.

TERRY BABINEAUX

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## THE BENNETT VALLEY VOICE

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There had been some difficulty with the delivery of our first newsletter at the beginning of this year and you may not have received it. As a result, we are sending this second issue to old and new members alike from last year along with the membership form. If you did not receive the last issue, please check the appropriate box and we will mail you one. Thank You.

MARILYN FRANCO

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## BENNETT VALLEY DESIGN REVIEW

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The Bennett Valley Design Review Committee would like to remind homeowners that any construction project under consideration which requires a Sonoma County building permit is subject to review by the Committee. This also includes Agricultural Exempt classified structures. The only buildings *not* requiring building permits are those smaller than 10' x 12', including roof overhangs.

Since our interest is in preserving the scenic beauty of our area, we would like to invite to our committee meetings any individual who would like to discuss his project while in the planning stages. We will be glad to review preliminary plans and advise where we might notice a conflict between a proposed project and our "Guidelines for Development in Bennett Valley."

While we cannot offer design services and do not wish to choose style or color for any project, we believe that our preliminary input regarding siting, color and other concerns could be of assistance in moving a project through the County permit process with minimum effort. The Committee meets each 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., at the Bennett Valley Fire Station.

CHET ADAMICK  
President  
Bennett Valley Design Review

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## BENNETT VALLEY COMMUNITY DAY IMPORTANT NEWS!

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On Sunday, August 20, The Bennett Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association will be hosting Bennett Valley Community Day, a celebration in the country with numerous Bennett Valley groups. We're planning a fun-filled day including live music, entertainment, wine tasting, a live auction, a children's petting zoo, local crafts displays, a raffle and a wonderful bar-b-que of salmon, chicken, pasta and other delights. Our event will be held at Matanzas Creek Winery and will begin at 12:00 continuing until 5. If you would like to put a display or booth up for your group or your crafts, or wish to volunteer, contact Bennett Valley Community Day chairman Gary Galeazzi at 544-0826. Mark your calendar, this is one event you won't want to miss!

To all of those of you who were able to attend our Firemen's breakfast, THANK YOU! It was our most successful breakfast yet thanks to the community turnout. WE APPRECIATE IT! It was great to see old and new friends alike getting together.

GREG McCOLLUM  
President  
Bennett Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association

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## BENNETT VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

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June 1989

While the late rains and relatively mild temperatures have helped prolong the dreaded wildland fire season, the grass is taller and thicker than we have seen in a while. Unfortunately, it is only a matter of time before the grass does dry out and the potential for wildland fires will be high. California State Public Resources Code #4291, requires grass be cleared a minimum of 30 feet around all structures, and 50 feet or more in high hazard areas. In addition to the above requirements, we recommend that grass be cleared back from private roadways and driveways as catalytic converters on cars are a major cause of wildfire every year. Bennett Valley Fire Fighters have been conducting weed abatement inspections, however, with 25 square miles to cover, the season could be over before we get to you. Note: a reminder that ALL FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL in the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County. Please help us help you by complying with the above requirements and recommendations. If

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any concerns or question regarding the above, or fire safety in general please feel free to call the Bennett Valley Fire Station, business hours and phone, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., #578-7761.

GREG L. MARTIN  
Fire Chief

absence to return to the classroom. Mrs. Leaf comes to Bennett Valley from Rincon Valley School District where she has been employed for the past 2 years.

Mr. Mahoney and Mrs. Leaf were welcomed to the district with a reception, open to staff and community, held on June 13, 1989 at Yulupa School.

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## BENNETT VALLEY UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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### Retiring Teachers Honored

The Bennett Valley Union School District employees and Board of Trustees recently honored three retiring teachers—Mrs. Erma Johnson (24 years), Mrs. Pat Spencer (21 years), and Mrs. Betty Witchey (24 years). A reception held in their honor on June 10, 1989, was planned and hosted by members of the various school staffs. The large turnout of teachers, aides, support staff, board members, friends and family enjoyed a wide array of hors d'oeuvres and beverages at the party. The retirees were honored for their many years of dedicated service with a bouquet of roses—one for each year in the district. In addition, they each were given a gift certificate, a crystal heart necklace, a plaque and a Board resolution recognizing their outstanding individual contributions to the students of the district.

The occasion was a happy/sad one. Happy because Erma, Pat and Betty are looking forward to finally doing all the projects they've put on hold for so many years, and yet sad because, as fine teacher and delightful individuals, they will be sorely missed.

### School Staff Additions

The Bennett Valley Union School District recently hired two new principals for the 1989-90 school year...Scott Mahoney and Devon Leaf.

Scott Mahoney has been hired to be principal at Bennett Valley School, succeeding Sanford Brousseau, who leaves the principalship in order to pursue other interests. Mr. Mahoney comes to the district from the Konocti School District where he has been employed for the past 9 years.

Devon Leaf has been hired as principal for Strawberry School so that the current principal, Kitten Keith, could take a year's leave of

### School Enrollment

If any families are new to the Bennett Valley School District or have children who have not been previously enrolled in the district, and wish to enroll a child in the schools for the fall term, please enroll your child as soon as possible. This facilitates the planning that must take place well before school starts and makes for a much smoother transition when school begins. The school district would certainly appreciate it. For information, contact the district office at 542-2201, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

TAMARA BOULTBEE

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## FABLE ANNEXATION PROPOSAL UPDATE

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The city of Santa Rosa is going to be the lead agency in preparing an Environmental Impact Report on the proposed Fable annexation. (We reported on the proposed annexation in the last newsletter.) Requests for information to be included in the report were sent out with the deadline for receipt of such information being June 14, 1989. The BVHA has responded asking that information in the following areas be included:

Trafficways (transit service and trafficways system); Scenic corridor (development, reconstruction, improvements, fragile roadway); Environmental safety and seismic concerns; Public Services (city's ability to provide) and Development pattern; Uniqueness of eastern entrance to city/open space around city; Housing (urban and rural blend).

These areas were in addition to the areas listed by the city—geology/soils, hydrology, visual, archaeological/historic, vegetation.

TAMARA BOULTBEE

*Please cut along dotted line and return with your check. Thank You*

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### MEMBERSHIP DUES THE BENNETT VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION 1989

RENEWAL  \$7.00

NEW MEMBERSHIP  \$7.00

I Did Not Receive First Issue of 1989 VOICE. Please Send.

(Please Print)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to : Bennett Valley Homeowners Association and send to:

Bennett Valley Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 2666

Santa Rosa, CA 95405

BENNETT VALLEY  
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 2666  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405



## BENNETT VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP LIST 1989

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