



# *Bennett Valley* **VOICE**

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 3

BENNETT VALLEY HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION (BVHA)

MAY, 2005

## **Bennett Valley Groundwater Choices**

**What's The Right Answer? By Michael Friedenberg**

The Bennett Valley Homeowner's Association has been asked to join the **Sonoma County Water Coalition**. This is a group of individuals and organizations in Sonoma County trying to move the county toward having a groundwater management plan.

Currently Sonoma County does not have a groundwater management plan. There are groundwater plans in other counties but they require the monitoring of groundwater supplies, usually by monitoring wells, and can include requirements for groundwater studies before new development is allowed. Currently Sonoma County is updating its General Plan and is including a water element in which some data will be gathered but this falls short of a groundwater management plan.

Sonoma County has more homes dependent on wells for their domestic water supplies than any other county in California. Some parts of the County are water scarce with very little groundwater and others have substantial amounts. Some places are experiencing serious drops in groundwater. There are some groups, scientists, and citizens that believe we are depleting our groundwater and, if we do not change our current pattern of water usage, we will have serious water shortages and drying wells. Others contend there is not a problem, but it seems clear we do not have enough data to be certain.

Each area of Sonoma County can have very different issues. Bennett Valley consists of 2 geologic formations with different groundwater availability. It is very different than the Laguna area, Petaluma or the Coast.

But the availability of groundwater is a county-wide concern.\* There could be very serious consequences both to ignoring this issue and also to moving a groundwater management plan forward. It is important to understand the consequences of each of these actions. If we deplete our groundwater are there alternative supplies and how expensive would they be. Who will control our water in the future? How will groundwater management affect what we

can and cannot do with our land? Could it stop growth and development in the county? What would that mean for the cost of living here?

Over the last two years, BVHA has been providing forums on issues of groundwater seeking to inform and present as many sides of the issues as possible. The Board is considering the advisability of lending BVHA's support to the Sonoma County Water Coalition, but of course, there are some valid questions which need to be asked. Who else is a part of this coalition? Do we agree with their mission? Will it be an effective and respected voice in county affairs pertaining to groundwater? If not, would we want to lend our name to the effort? We are also looking at how this effort ties into our mission of preserving the rural and scenic character of the valley. Would a groundwater management plan for Bennett Valley move us closer to our mission?

At our next BVHA meeting, on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm, at the Bennett Valley Grange Hall, we are presenting two knowledgeable speakers on this subject, Jane Nielson and Stephen Fuller-Rowell. We are encouraging Bennett Valley residents to come hear these speakers and ask questions they have in regards to groundwater conservation, monitoring, availability and management plans. We really appreciate receiving your input in considering these different choices for Bennett Valley.

*\*See Page 3 for further information on California groundwater.*

### **Bridging Our Community**

Join us at the ceremony for the new Grange Road Bridge on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11 am, per enclosed articles (*Page Two*) and flier. **You can purchase the Commemorative T-Shirts for \$10**, at the next BVHA meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>, or at the BV Fire Station on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9am until noon, along with pre-sale tickets for the Grange barbecue.

## **What's All This Fuss About a Bridge**

*By Lolly Mesches & Marilyn Stocks*

The Grange Road Bridge has a special meaning for many Bennett Valley residents. Prior to the Grange Road bridge we all remember was a smaller wooden bridge built in this beautiful setting, closer to the level of Matanzas Creek. This first bridge was probably constructed with community volunteers to accommodate the horse and buggy traffic. During the current bridge construction, some evidence of this original structure was found. The most recent Grange Road bridge was built in 1924, at the time that Bennett Valley Road was first paved out to Grange Road. It was torn down in September, 2004, 80 years later, to make way for this newest Grange Road Bridge. **So, why all the fuss?**

As far back as 1995, the Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works began planning a replacement for our Grange Road Bridge. The flood in the Winter of 1995 caused erosion damaging the foundation of this seventy-one year old bridge which also had rails which were deteriorating, and separation issues in the middle of the bridge. The County made some repairs in order to keep the bridge safe while exploring Federal funding for a replacement bridge.

The first proposal for the new bridge would have increased the length from 90 feet to 200 feet, increased the width from 22 feet to 48 feet, with three lanes, each 12 feet wide, and 6 foot shoulders on each side. The height was to be increased by 10.6 feet and the bridge was to be located 75 feet west of the current location. This expansive proposal would have removed 55 large oak trees and land from the Talbot/Goodwin property as well as the Sonoma County Water Agency and Kendall-Jackson. A group of Valley residents organized the group CORE (Conserve Our Rural Environment) with the hope of encouraging the County to consider a less expansive development. The following statement summarized the view of this grassroots group; ***"A bridge which is more than twice as long, twice as wide and over 10 feet higher, crossing the small Matanzas Creek will present a harsh contrast to the pristine setting now found at the bridge. It will damage significantly the aesthetic value, while interfering with the rural character and scenic quality of the Bennett Valley area."***

So part of the "fuss" has been generated by the positive collaboration of the County and the Bennett Valley community working together to find a solution that both found agreeable; a bridge that would accommodate today's traffic and still respect the rural, scenic quality of the Valley. This newly constructed Grange Road Bridge is about 37 feet

wide, with two twelve foot lanes and 6 foot+ shoulders on each side. It follows the path of the last bridge fairly closely and very few oak trees had to be removed. So we're having a celebration for this new Grange Road Bridge. *Please mark your calendar; **Sunday June 5, 11:00 a.m.*** There will be an official ribbon-cutting ceremony, a parade of vintage autos carrying honored guests (including some long-time residents of the Valley), and commemorative t-shirts, **ON THE NEW BRIDGE**, followed by a barbecue at the Grange Hall on Grange Rd., the **133rd ANNUAL GRANGE BARBECUE!** Imagine, this barbecue has been an annual event at this BV Grange since 1872. Amazing! We do have quite a history in this valley. And so that's what all this fuss is about!!!! See you on June 5, with great fun for all!

### **BENNETT VALLEY Grange #16**

#### **133<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC AND GRANGE ROAD BRIDGE CELEBRATION**

#### ***"Bridging Our Community"***

**SUNDAY, June 5<sup>th</sup>, Noon until 4:00 pm**

**Tri-tip, chicken & fixing's**

**\$10.00 pre-sale, \$12.00 Day of Event**

**Kids meals available.**

**Raffle and Small Farm Animal Exhibit**

**Proceeds for restoration and preservation of the  
Grange Hall, 4145 Grange Rd., Santa Rosa**

#### ***Bridging Our Community***

#### **T-Shirts and Parking**

Don't forget to wear your t-shirt on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Commemorative T-shirts will also be available at the bridge ribbon-cutting and the Grange barbecue.

Please car pool as much as possible and watch for signs indicating designated parking areas. If necessary there will be shuttles available from the fire station. You may call 542-1608, for further information.

#### **Rescheduled BV Clean-Up Day**

The Clean-Up Day on April 23<sup>rd</sup> was rained out. Even though the weather seemed O.K. by 8:30 am on that date, the rain earlier that morning made the slippery roads too hazardous, for the volunteers. Clean-Up Day has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 am, at the BV Fire Station. *Got Questions?* Call Sandy Sandine, 579-0282 or Eve Boling, 573-8614. ***Help Clean Up Our Valley!***

**State of California Department of Water Resource  
(Reprinted from May 2004 VOICE)**

- “Although many new wells are built in fractured rock areas, insufficient hydrogeologic information is available to ensure the reliability of groundwater supplies...Groundwater management in these areas is beginning, but there is insufficient data to support quantitative conclusions about the long-term sustainable yield...
- Local or regional agencies should develop groundwater management plans if groundwater constitutes part of their water supply. Management objectives should be developed to maintain a sustainable long-term supply for multiple beneficial uses. Management should integrate water quantity and quality, groundwater and surface water, and recharge area protection...
- **Overdraft is the condition of a groundwater basin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping over the long term exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin.** Overdraft is characterized by groundwater levels that decline over a period of years and never fully recover, even in wet years. **Overdraft can lead to increased extraction costs, land subsidence, water quality degradation, and environmental impacts...**
- **Effective groundwater management cannot be achieved without a program of groundwater data collection and evaluation...**”

**Matanzas Creek Vineyard**

As of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, Patrick Connelly, the General Manager of the Matanzas Creek Winery, reports that about 50% of the new grape vines, all Chardonnay, have been planted in the “blocks” along Bennett Valley Road. They are now completing the planting in the back “blocks”, further from the road, and expect to complete this planting by the end of May.

New grape vines have to be watered more in the first two to four years, when the plants are becoming established. He explained that their first priority is for higher quality grapes (for higher quality wine). When the plants have to work a little harder for survival, such as with more limited quantities of water, the flavors of the grapes are more intense and higher quality. They also farm to actually reduce yield, so the goal is to have a yield of 3 to 5 tons of grapes per acre, rather than 8 to 10 tons per acre, as that improves the quality of the grapes, also.

Patrick Connelly also mentioned they are planning to add a structure to the vineyard which will collect their water run-off, for re-use, as part of their water conservation efforts.

**Bennett Valley Homeowner’s Association  
NAME CHANGE?**

At the last BVHA meeting, the issue of changing the name of the organization, to remove the phrase, “homeowner’s association” was discussed. No firm decisions were made, other than 1.) in a straw vote, seven of the nine Board members voted to consider a name change; two voted to not consider the change and 2.) it was decided to publish additional opinions in the VOICE on this subject, in order to elicit more suggestions from Bennett Valley residents. One thought being considered is to include the BVHA name change as a ballot issue in the September election. Further articles follow below:

**What’s In A Name?**

*by Marge Simon, on the BVHA Board from 1993 until 1997. She had actually suggested this name change prior to leaving the Board.*

Along with all sorts of “new” names of new “things” brought about by the development of new technologies unheard of a couple of decades ago, such as FAX’s, iPODs, and cellular and satellite telephones, digital and plasma TV’s, we have altered or expanded everyday words to meet the needs of an increasingly complex society. These “new” meanings often completely bury their previous uses, making them useless in old, familiar ways. Such has happened to “homeowner’s association”, once the cozy designation attached to every neighborhood group in America.

In 1987, when we first moved here, we worked with other Bennett Ridge residents to form a neighborhood group. We agonized over names; early on in our deliberations use of the word “homeowner’s” was rejected. The reason for this was the word was gaining a very specific connotation as a group specifically and legally charged with management responsibility for cooperatively owned real estate, including condominiums and residential real estate.

When I became active in the Bennett Valley Homeowner’s Association, and the Board was talking about checking their bylaws and tax-exempt status, I suggested that the Board consider changing the name, dropping the “Homeowner’s” and leaving it simply the “*Bennett Valley Association*”. Otherwise there was a reasonable possibility that someone would think *Bennett Valley Homeowner’s Association* had legal powers it does not now have, nor was ever envisioned to have. This misnomer might result in someone opposing rather than supporting this worthwhile organization.

## **Some Additional Name-Change Opinions**

---

### **By Jodi Richardson**

“Do I think the BVHA should change their name? NO. Nor do I have any suggestions for a new name.

Please note that I was one of two Bennett Valley homeowners who spearheaded the committee to get rid of the Bennett Valley Design Review Committee. The BVHA is NOT the BVDRC and it never has been. Those who wish to confuse the two are either foolish, or have an agenda that has nothing to do with the merits of a name change.

The BVHA is just that. The association is made up of BV homeowners. They do not claim to or insinuate otherwise. Suspicions of loss of "individual rights" is what is being insinuated. The only way Homeowners in Bennett Valley will be "surrendering control to a small group of people" is if we buy into this nonsense that there needs to be a change at all.

It is my never-to-be-humble opinion that these same people will never be satisfied with anything the BVHA does. The "most recent clashes" have been brought on by those who refuse to acknowledge "the openness and transparency the BVHA has demonstrated time after time.

Having attended the November 2004 meeting, I seem to recall an overwhelming support for the BVHA. Obviously, most of those who attended had a high level of trust in the BVHA and the information they provided. Judging from the testimonials at the same meeting, I would say the BVHA showed an "open mindedness, creativity and spread plenty of goodwill".

Finally, as an "admirer, supporter and advocate of the pastoral stewardship of Bennett Valley", I see absolutely no reason to fix what isn't broke. I am having a hard time believing that a "possible name change" has anything to do with a name. Very sad indeed.”

---

### **By Monica Schwalbenberg-Pena**

“I am in favor of a name change for the BVHA. A new name would not only avoid the problems referred to in the VOICE: 1.) *Legitimate “homeowner associations” involve mandates for all of the homeowners in a specific geographical area including [required] membership; BVHA does not [have the authority to] require anything of homeowners or parcel owners in the Bennett Valley area.* 2.) *To make it clear that BVHA is not just for homeowners in Bennett Valley; parcel owners who do not have homes in Bennett Valley are also*

*included as potential voting members in this Association, but would signal a new openness, inclusiveness and cooperation that is very much needed.”*

---

### **By Volney Howard**

“I am in total support for changing the name of our group for the reasons opined by Frank LaCombe in the recent newsletter...We are not a Homeowners group, we are property owners concerned about our property (our Valley). Additionally, for the most part, we have a very negative public image. Ask any informed real estate professional that has represented clients in Bennett Valley. The BVHA and the BV Design Review are perceived as one and the same. It would be a serious mistake not to change our name. I think it would help to change our image, not our goals and shake off the residue of the past.”

---

### **By Marcia Cox**

“We wanted to voice our agreement with changing the name of the Homeowners Association. After 34 years, it would show that the board is not afraid of change and trying something new. It might be just the tonic to get the board and the community to pull together for our valley and accomplish even more.”

---

### **By Susan Evans**

“...First, if the group has been in existence for a long time, the argument made by the second writer is most valid...changing the name may cause confusion among long term residents. Some of the charm of a group is the history of the name and 34 years is surely filled with much history! If you change it, why not just lop off the Association part, since that seems to be a key issue, and simply be the *Bennett Valley Homeowners?* (That would be) inclusive and, hopefully, still familiar enough that long time residents/members will not feel disfranchised.”

## **Title 26, INTERNAL REVENUE CODE**

### **“Homeowner association defined...”**

The term “homeowners association” means an organization which is a condominium management association, a residential real estate management association, or a timeshare association if—

(A) such organization is organized and operated to provide for the acquisition, construction, management, maintenance, and care of association property,

(B) 60 percent or more of the gross income of such organization for the taxable year consists solely of amounts received as membership dues, fees or assessment from ...

(ii) owners of residences or residential lots in the case of a residential real estate management association.”

## **Bennett Valley Fire Protection District**

6161 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa  
(707) 578-8471

### **BENNETT VALLEY FIREFIGHTING STAFF**

*24-hour Shift Firefighting Engineers:*

Brian Campbell, Mike Musgrove and Bryon Reid

*Daytime Firefighting Engineers: 8 am to 5 pm:*

Kevin Burris, Danny Connelly, Matt Tognozzi

### **BV Firefighter Activities, March & April**

By Bryon Reid, 24-Hour Shift Firefighting Engineer

*Vehicle Accidents-8; Alarm Soundings-4;*

*Medical Aids-14; Structure Fires-2;*

*Smoke Investigations-4; Hazardous Conditions-3;*

*Tree Downs-1; Other-1*

March and April traditionally mark the end of the wet season and offer a stark reminder that the warm, dry summer months that incorporate fire season are upon us. Bennett Valley is a beautiful area in which to own a home, but none the less we must face the reality that we live in an urban wildland interface.

We can't stress enough the value and importance of vegetation management around homes, property lines, and out buildings. This task can still be accomplished while maintaining the aesthetic beauty of Bennett Valley. A convenient source for recommendations and litigation referring to the "Homeowner's Responsibility" can be accessed off the California Department of Forestry's web site (<http://www.ca.fire.gov/>) under the link Fire Safety and Education. Also, property inspections, pertaining to vegetation management, are available by firefighters during normal business hours.

A notable accomplishment is the fire break that parallels Bennett Valley Rd. under the Bennett Ridge area. This fire break will substantially reduce the likelihood of a road side start from a cigarette, or an inadvertent automobile exhaust discharge, escalating to a devastating conflagration.

The month of May means that **ALL BURN PERMITS HAVE EXPIRED!** Tentatively, the burn season is scheduled to reopen November 1, 2005. Any questions regarding this can be answered by contacting Bay Area Air Quality Management District at (415) 771-6000.

The Pancake Breakfast occurred on Sunday May, 1. Kevin Burris states, "The Pancake Breakfast was a huge success. We served almost 450 people this year. It was a friendly, fun loving, family environment with raffle prizes and featuring a 'Jumpy Wumpy' for the kids." We enjoy the opportunity to open up our doors and serve the community that has been so good and understanding of our needs throughout the year. We actively look forward to continuing to do so.

## **Grange Road Bridge Construction Update**

*By Jim Alfieri, Sonoma County Bridge Engineer*

Hello, again, everyone. Just a short update since the last writing about our favorite Bennett Valley community project, the construction of the new Grange Road Bridge. When I last wrote, the bridge had just been "completed", structurally, and only awaited the dressing of the approach paths before it could be christened to serve the community in its proper fashion.

The retaining walls that contain the approach embankments are now in place. Backfilling material has been placed against the abutments and the approach concrete slabs have been placed atop the backfill. Driveways on Grange Road and Bennett Valley Road, replacing, those put out of use by the new alignment, are being constructed. When the see-thru metal railings are in place, attached to the sides of the bridge, we'll get a view of the channel corridor that we've never had before; I can vouch that it's a beauty. The approach work will then be complete except for the portion that overlaps with the present detour roadway. This tricky transition work of literally elevating and laterally shifting the roadway while accommodating public traffic will commence on about May 23<sup>rd</sup> and last for about two weeks. The exact dates will be posted on signs placed along the approaching roadways. While we always appreciated your passing through the job and your support, during this transition work it will be advisable to use other routes. We apologize for this, but you will see the benefits shortly from these temporary end runs.

And sad to say, our temporary volunteer force, the temporary bridge, will be gently dismantled, to be readopted by other caring and needing people elsewhere, to provide, again, this marvelous accomplishment. There will be some dressing up to do in the aftermath, placing and completing rock protection below, on the Matanzas Creek slopes, to prevent river scour, and the reseeding, landscape dressing, and erosion control to be placed on the slopes surrounding the structure. For those who're interested, here are technical facts. There is reinforcing steel placed transversally inside the concrete, that serves as the top of the bridge. This steel is threaded at the ends, and between the approach fill and the approach concrete slab. A layer of special drainage material is in place, called cement treated permeable material. It's a one-sized rock, about 3/4 of an inch, strengthened and held together with cement. Visualize it as gray-colored caramel corn. It permits any water trapped behind the bridge, beneath the slab, to flow away from the structure and exit through weep holes placed through the approach retaining walls. This is especially useful in freezing weather. Well that's it for now. They say all good things must come to an end. I see it another way, as a good thing only now beginning; a well designed aesthetic structure, designed for the times, spanning uninterrupted the entire Matanzas Creek channel, the ridding of the eyesores that existed before, and a gift for our community to be proud of. Thanks every one for being a big part in helping to make it happen. In another part of this VOICE, there is information about how we're going to celebrate this completion, with a celebration. It looks like a blast and we're looking forward to seeing you there!

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

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

Marilee Jensen, *President & VOICE Editor*

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

Michael Friedenberg, *Vice-President* (579-5310)

[mf@eHomeSonoma.com](mailto:mf@eHomeSonoma.com)

Helen Bates, *Treasurer* (695-8760)

Bobbie Blair, *Secretary & Membership Coordinator*

(542-1608) [dreams7373@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dreams7373@sbcglobal.net)

Leanore (Lolly) Mesches, *Corresponding*

*Secretary* (545-8684) [LOL7260@aol.com](mailto:LOL7260@aol.com)

Eric Burns, *Director* (584-7531)

[datamonk@svn.net](mailto:datamonk@svn.net)

Frank LaCombe, *Director* (585-3482)

Tim Murphy, *Director* (542-7114)

[tjmcpadvc@yahoo.com](mailto:tjmcpadvc@yahoo.com)

Marilyn Stocks, *Director* (528-2458)

[mjstocks@sonic.net](mailto:mjstocks@sonic.net)

**BVHA Membership**

If you haven't done so yet, please send your 2005 Annual Membership Dues of \$15.00 to Bobbie Blair at 7373 Bennett Valley Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95404

**E-Mail Reminders**

If you'd like to request an e-mail reminder for any Bennett Valley Homeowner's Association event, please contact Bobbie Blair at (707) 542-1608 or [dreams7373@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dreams7373@sbcglobal.net), to let her know.

**VOICE Bulletin Board**

In response to a suggestion we received, we will be including Bulletin Board information in the VOICE, such as *someone with chickens needs egg boxes*, or *someone has a surplus of plants to give away*. If you have such items, please contact Marilee Jensen at (707) 576-0405 or [marileejensen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marileejensen@sbcglobal.net).

**DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH!**

Dogs in Bennett Valley, an unincorporated area of Sonoma County, are required to be kept contained on their owner's property or on a leash. The following are excerpts from recent statements written by two different Bennett Valley residents: 1.) "...on 2/14/05...a large dog, a Rottweiler, came charging down the hill out into the street towards me, barking, growling, and foaming at the mouth...one of the more threatening experiences of my life..." 2.) (Written on 3/14/05) "I have been rushed by 2 pit bulls and a rottweiler lately that were not in yards." When you see a dog running loose, you may call Sonoma County Animal Control at 565-7104.

**Brief Summary, BVHA Board Meeting**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

- Bryon Reid, a BV Firefighting Engineer, and later, Andy Pforsich, the Fire Chief (who had been at a SR fire) made positive presentations about the changes on community meetings at the Fire Station. Two people brought up their concerns that the BV Fire District may be losing contact with the general populous.
- There was a discussion about the ceremony for opening the new Grange Road Bridge, which included Kevin Howze, from Sonoma Co. Public Works and BV residents in attendance.
- It was reported that the profit from the 2005 BV Vintage calendar was \$900, which was donated to the BV Grange, as previously decided. So far there are no plans for a 2006 BV Calendar, as "no one has come forward to take it over."
- The 2005 BVHA budget was accepted, with \$1,000 added in for the Grange Road Bridge celebration.
- It was agreed to publicly commend and send a Resolution to the "**Central Office**", for their excellent service in getting the bimonthly VOICE printed. They ALWAYS have it completed by the requested time, despite difficulties which do arise from time to time.
- When there is a BV Clean-Up Day scheduled, residents who live along Bennett Valley, Grange, Crane Canyon and Sonoma Mountain Roads may get bags early and clean the front of their property, if they wish. Their bags would be picked up by others.
- 2005 Plans for Speakers: On July 19<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, at the BVHA meeting, there will be a speaker on Solar Energy from Real Goods. For later meetings, we're planning to have someone from PRMD to discuss the **Design Review Process** and then a speaker to discuss **wildlife corridors**.
- See Page Two re: BVHA consideration of name change. The Board received 11 calls and e-mail messages regarding this.
- It was approved to have the historic Grange Hall be the BVHA meeting location for 2005. We may need to get reflectors for the driveway as it is hard to find after dark in the wintertime.

**Board Of Directors' Tentative Agenda**

**For May 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 7:00 pm, BV Grange Hall**

- Speakers Jane Nielson and Stephen Fuller-Rowell, to discuss groundwater issues.
- Details for the Grange Road Bridge Celebration, including budgetary items.
- Acknowledge the Thank-You from BV Grange.
- Select Nominating Committee for BVHA elections.
- Updates: BVHA Web-page, BV 2006 Calendar
- BVHA Policies and the Brown Act
- Next step, BVHA Name Change? Next BVHA Ballot?

## **Bennett Valley Community Calendar**

*Remember to note these dates on your calendar!*

- 1.) **Bennett Valley Homeowner's Association (BVHA)**: The next BVHA Board meeting will be on **TUESDAY, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the BV Grange Hall**. The Tentative Agenda for this May meeting is on Page Seven. Meetings for the remainder of 2005 are on the third Tuesday of every other month, plus October, starting at 7:00 pm. The meeting location for the remainder of the year will be at the BV Grange Hall, at 4145 Grange Road.
- 2.) **"Bridging The Community"** - **Sunday June 5, 11:00 a.m. on the New Bridge**. There will be an official ribbon-cutting ceremony, a parade of vintage autos carrying honored guests (including some long-time residents of the Valley), and commemorative t-shirts, followed by a barbecue at the Grange Hall on Grange Rd. (see below).
- 3.) **Bennett Valley Grange #16: 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Picnic and Grange Road Bridge Celebration**. **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, noon until 4:00 pm**. Tri-tip, chicken & fixings. \$10 presale (see Page One) and \$12.00, Day of Event. Kids meals available. Vintage Autos, Commemorative T-Shirts, Raffle and Small Farm Animal Exhibit. Proceeds For Restoration And Preservation Of the Grange Hall.
- 4.) **Bennett Valley Fire Protection District**: The Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm, at the Bennett Valley Fire Station. You are welcome to attend these Board meetings, but it is recommended you verify the meeting day in advance, at 823-1084.
- 5.) **Sonoma County Board Of Supervisors** meets every Tuesday (except on weeks when there is a holiday) at 575 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa. Valerie Brown is the Supervisor for our First District. You may call her or Lynn Morton-Weil, her Aide, at 565-2241, if you have any questions or concerns.

**Page Two**  
**Page Three**  
**Page Four**  
**Page Five**  
**Page Six**  
**Page Seven**

Inside This Issue

Fuss About A Bridge?  
Rescheduled Clean-Up Day  
Matanzas Creek Vineyard  
BVHA Name Change Opinions  
*“Bridging The Community”*  
Grange Road Bridge Report  
VOICE Bulletin Board  
Dogs on Leash!  
BVHA Board, Mtgs., Agenda,

**Bennett Valley Homeowner’s Association**  
**P.O. Box 2666**  
**Santa Rosa, CA 95405**

**BVHA web-page: [bennettvalleyhomeowners.org](http://bennettvalleyhomeowners.org)**

**SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF BVHA: *“To promote and preserve the rural character and natural environment of Bennett Valley, serve as an open forum for Bennett Valley community participation and provide a bridge for communication between government agencies and the Bennett Valley community.”***

**Return Service Requested**