



# Bennett Valley VOICE

www.bennettvalley.org

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 2

BENNETT VALLEY HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION (BVHA)

MARCH, 2008

## **Come Hear the Candidates For Our First District County Supervisor** by Craig Harrison

On Wednesday evening, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 P.M. in the Bennett Valley Grange Hall, Supervisor Valerie Brown and candidate David Reber will discuss their goals and plans for the First District, which includes Bennett Valley, Sonoma, Boyes Springs, Kenwood, Oakmont, Rincon Valley, and parts of southeast Santa Rosa. Our supervisor will be elected in the primary election on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We plan on asking each candidate to spend a few minutes discussing issues important to them, followed by questions from the audience. This is an outstanding opportunity to ask questions and to voice your concerns about the future of Bennett Valley and Sonoma County.

Supervisor Brown was appointed by Governor Gray Davis in August 2002, elected in November 2002 and re-elected in March 2004. She was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and graduated from the University of Missouri with a BA in Secondary Education and English. She later earned an MA from Lindenwood College, Missouri, in Counseling Psychology. Supervisor Brown served on the Sonoma City Council as mayor and vice-mayor (1990-92) and then served in the State Assembly (1992-98). As supervisor, her assigned Functional Group of County Departments for 2008 is Health and Human Services. Supervisor Brown was elected as 2nd Vice President to the National Association of Counties (NACO) in 2006 and will become president of NACO in 2009. She believes the County meets health and safety needs fairly

well. Supervisor Brown would like to improve the roads, ensure water and water quality for the future, work toward a sustainable economic environment and continue climate protection. She says the County is a leader in working toward a more responsive health care system with access for all. She believes her leadership at the federal level will help in the debate over health care reform.

David Reber was born and raised in Sonoma Valley and resides in El Verano where he raised two daughters and a son. He graduated from Sonoma State University with a BA in Management and later earned an MBA from San Francisco State University. After a stint as an Assistant Vice President with Bank of America, Mr. Reber has owned and operated his own successful home building business, Dasun Homes, Inc., since 1984. Previously he has served as a trustee and board president of the Sonoma Valley Unified School District board of trustees and currently serves as a member of the Sonoma Police Citizens Advisory Committee. His campaign slogan is "Putting the 1st District First!" <http://www.davereber.com/> is Mr. Reber's web site, and identifies the following as issues in his campaign: County Roads (among the worst in the state), Community Hospital (closing), Sheriff's Department (under funded), Mental Health Facility (gone) and Gangs.

There are five districts in Sonoma County, each represented by a supervisor.

## **Experts Say Local Fault Primed for Big Quake**

*January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, by Bob Norberg, Press Democrat*

"New study reinforces theory that Rodgers Creek-Healdsburg has highest chance for major temblor...Scientists have long believed that Sonoma County is ripe for a major quake on the Rodgers Creek-Healdsburg Fault that will rip the ground apart by six feet...indicating a quake with a magnitude of about 7. "It's locked and primed," said David Schwartz, a seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park. "Looking at the individual segments of faults in the Bay Area, the Rodgers Creek has the highest probability. ...Schwartz said that if not for the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, which measured 7.8, there already would have been another major quake on...the Rodgers Creek-Healdsburg... fault..."Santa Rosa is going to get smashed, and clearly all the towns around it will have damaging effects," Schwartz said..."Time is really running out,...A whole set of signs points at these faults having the highest stress, and that can be translated into having the highest hazard."...

## **Study Gives Reason To Update Earthquake Kit, Disaster Plan**

*Press Democrat, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Editorial Page*

"...Sonoma County residents recently experienced what can happen when a storm knocks out power lines: no heat, spoiled food, dead phones. Imagine what could happen following an earthquake that has the power to rip the ground apart by six feet. Even worse is the fact that the Rodgers Creek-Healdsburg Fault goes through an urban area that is home to three major hospitals. (*Santa Rosa is going to get smashed,*" Schwartz said.) Communication would be difficult, and emergency crews spread thin. **Now – not next week – is the time to prepare.** Create a disaster plan and make, or update, that earthquake kit."

## **Bennett Valley Emergency Preparedness Classes**

**A CPR and First Aid class** will be offered on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at the BV Fire Station. This full day class will be for a 2-year certificate. The fee for this class is \$85 and space is limited so please let Karen Sommer know if you want in.

## **Bennett Valley Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Plans**

By Karen Sommer, 528-8982, BVEP  
[ksommer11@earthlink.net](mailto:ksommer11@earthlink.net)

Hi everyone,

I hope to energize the valley for emergency preparedness. We are in the process of forming neighborhood preparedness teams and are looking for residents who will host an information meeting for their neighbors to answer questions and supply information. The main thing is to get valley residents involved and to host an information meeting on how to establish and activate a program. If you know of someone in the valley who is willing to host a get together with their neighbors and would like someone to come and talk about it, please call me.

You may have been concerned or unclear regarding the section map supplied in the last VOICE. Please be assured we do not want to leave anyone out of our planning. If you want to know which section you are in and the contact for that section, please call or email me.

We are encouraging more BV residents to learn about in-depth emergency response preparedness. **CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes will be offered this Spring in Bennett Valley on 4 Saturdays (May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup>).** These classes will cover Disasters, Fire Safety, Medical First Aid and Triage, Light Search and Rescue, CERT Organization, Disaster Psychology, Course Review and Disaster Simulation. Fee for these classes will be approximately \$40. Completion of all classes is required for a certification, but make up classes are available in other local communities. To find out more or to enroll, please call me.

Communication preparation is so important in emergencies. If we can get a class of 10 people together, on a designated Saturday, we have an instructor who'd be willing to provide a "Ham Cram" session in Bennett Valley, for people to get licensed as ham operators in one day. You can also enroll in the already scheduled "Ham Cram" class in Petaluma on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am until 2:30 PM. For more information on those classes, please call Marilee Jensen, 576-0405, [marileejensen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marileejensen@sbcglobal.net).

The next Bennett Valley Emergency Planning (BVEP) meeting is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at the Bennett Valley Fire Station. **"Now is the time to prepare."** Thanks. Karen

## **Setting Up Emergency**

### **Preparations in a Neighborhood**

By Karen Sommer

Each section of the Bennett Valley map, as found in the January, 2008 VOICE, is being defined as a "community". There were seven sections or *communities*, but this will be increased, as some of the homes on the west side of Taylor Mountain want to be included.

#### **Community Preparedness Team:**

- Each community needs an organizational leadership team made up of community coordinator, neighborhood team leaders, co-leaders and alternates.
- The leadership team establishes site locations for shelters and emergency storage. They also would determine what equipment and supplies need to be stored.
- They establish evacuation routes, as well as alternative routes, working with individual landowners for egress.
- They establish the smaller neighborhood teams and an emergency phone tree system, with a designated community leader to contact each neighborhood leader or alternate.

#### **Smaller Neighborhood Team Structure:**

- Establish teams of 10-12 homes that are adjacent to each other (next door and across the street).
- Gather correct information for each household: names, address, number of residents in home, cell phone number, email address, special health problems, special skills, pets, gas/electric turn-off locations, special equipment, etc.
- Select a team leader and co-leader for every team of 10-12 homes.
- Select phone tree coordinator and back-up

#### **Team Meeting:**

- Each team leader plans a meeting with the residents in their smaller team, that is 10-12 homes.
  - 📅 Reviews "census" forms with correct information for each household, as listed above.
  - 📅 Reviews emergency procedures: where to meet after a disaster, if safe.
  - 📅 Reviews recommended emergency supplies and food to have (see COPE list, on website for City of Santa Rosa).

## **Request for Donations for**

### **Emergency Preparation!**

#### **Bennett Valley Emergency Preparedness (BVEP) Steering Committee**

As you have read in earlier editions of the VOICE, a group of concerned Bennett Valley residents have formed the Bennett Valley Emergency Preparedness (BVEP) Steering Board under the auspices of the Bennett Valley Homeowners Association with the mission of helping Bennett Valley residents prepare for unforeseen disasters or emergencies. Many of the group have been trained under the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team, see Page Two) program. Whenever a disaster occurs, the CERT member's task is to step in when the first responders (Fire Department, other emergency personnel) cannot. Some of us are healthcare professionals (Doctors, Registered Nurses, Veterinarians), and have been certified in emergency lifesaving procedures.

A fact few people realize is that Santa Rosa was more severely damaged proportionately than San Francisco in the great quake of 1906. Living on the Rodgers Creek Fault, tremors are a fact of life. But there are other disasters – man made and natural- for which BVEP is prepared to offer its assistance when needed.

As you can see we are working to formulate neighborhood groups to assist each other in the event of an emergency. But along with this, we need medical equipment, blankets, water, non-perishable food and other supplies in anticipation of possible disasters, in storage sheds centrally located in Bennett Valley.

#### **And here is where your help is needed so badly.**

The goal for this year is to raise money for an emergency communications and supply shed that we can use at the BV Fire Station for volunteer supported Ham Radio and walkie/talkie communications in addition to first aid, shelter, and emergency equipment/supplies for Bennett Valley residents. We also have a need for at least one more shed for emergency equipment and supplies, to be located at the BV Grange Hall. When you send your BVEP donation in, make the check out to BVHA, with a memo notation stating BVEP. Send it to BVHA, PO Box 2666, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. Thanks so much! *Evelyn Hornsby, RN, Chairperson, BVEP Fundraising Committee*

## Bennett Ridge Water Emergency

By Marilee Jensen, 3/3/08

The water supply for the 126 homes on Bennett Ridge has been contaminated since February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008. This was a mistake resulting from a water tank repair and the problem is being corrected shortly. I decided to share some of the experiences we're having, including the gaps we've identified in our emergency system. Emergencies can happen to you!

The water was "officially" not to be used for drinking or washing. Getting out the information to everyone on the Ridge as quickly as possible was a huge task even with our emergency phone tree. The emergency phone tree coordinator was on vacation and it took a few phone calls to identify her back-up. Once contacted, the back-up began calling the 11 team leaders, or their alternates, so they could call everyone else. Some of the leaders/alternates could not be reached; we realized every team needs to have a second alternate. While some people volunteered to make extra phone calls, some people were still left out and did end up drinking the "bad" water. Cell phone numbers would have been very helpful. Once we obtained email addresses, that became a great resource for communicating with 9 out of 10 homes. We now also have a web site and are considering an automatic computerized phone alert system for "next time". An informative sign was erected at the bottom of the Ridge stating "Water Alert, do not use water" with a red flag attached, a system the water board had initiated some months ago for any water emergency.

Personally, I chose not to use the water at all except for flushing toilets, but some households chose to wash with it, at least on occasion. I had stored in my garage 24 one-gallon containers for emergencies. What a blessing! Those containers were so easy to move, leave at each sink, give to the pets, etc. And we now have a tanker near our disabled water tank, to refill our containers with clean water. Drinking water is relatively easy. Washing hands, by pouring water out of the container onto the other hand, isn't quite as smooth. Washing dishes takes much longer – heating emergency water for washing and then rinsing, even using paper plates. No shower or bath is the worse! I've now gone through 44 gallons of emergency water even doing laundry at my son's home in town. What would I do if I had to go two weeks in a real emergency with no water? **Time to get even better prepared!**

### Always Keep These Essential Emergency Items in Your Car

- ✓ Roadside flares, tire pressure gauge and jumper cables
- ✓ First-aid kit and small tool kit
- ✓ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ✓ Windshield wiper fluid and motor oil
- ✓ Blanket, bottled water and energy bars
- ✓ Cell phone charger

### Emergency "Grab and Go Bag"

A "grab & go bag" is what you grab when you need to get out in a hurry! Use a light weight back pack so both hands are free. A walking stick or cane may be useful.

#### Highly Recommended

- 1.) Vital medications for 2 weeks
- 2.) Flashlight with extra batteries
- 3.) Basic First Aid Kit
- 4.) Extra car and house keys
- 5.) Extra glasses/hearing aid
- 6.) Whistle
- 7.) Plastic bag or rain poncho
- 8.) Waterproof pocket with:
  - Copy of emergency contact information
  - List of medications/allergies
  - Medical information, MD name & phone
  - Copy of ID and health insurance cards
  - Emergency cash (small bills)
  - Coins for phone, calling card, or cell phone with charger
- 9.) Warm clothing (preferably non-synthetic)
- 10.) Sturdy shoes
- 11.) Hat

#### Useful Items

- 1.) Mylar space blanket
- 2.) Snack goods
- 3.) Small bottles of water
- 4.) Eating utensils/plate
- 5.) Vital documents
  - Copy of passport
  - Copy of birth certificate
  - List of bank accounts, mortgages, loans
  - Insurance policies
- 6.) Note pad/pen
- 7.) Personal hygiene supplies
- 8.) Comfort items
  - Reading material
  - Cards
  - Games
- 9.) Portable radio (crank preferably)
- 10.) Plastic bags

### SAVE THE DATE

**The Bennett Valley Grange will be holding its 148th annual Barbeque on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> from noon 'til 4:00pm.**

- **Live Music**
- **Chicken and Tri Tip with salad and French bread**
- **Wine Auction**
- **Fun for kids of all ages**

**Read the "VOICE" for more announcements –great things are planned! Don't Miss It!**

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**

**January/February, 2008**

**By Lieutenant Kevin Burris**

Bennett Valley Fire Protection District's incident totals for the months of January and February as of February 28, 2008.

Medical Aids 16    Structure fires 1  
Public assists 3    Vehicle accidents 2  
Fire alarm soundings 5  
Hazards conditions/ storm related calls 8  
Total calls for service 35

**Shift Changes for BV Firefighters**

Up until February 1, the Firefighters working 24-hour shifts would work three 24-hour shifts with a day off in between each, then four consecutive days off. This would average 56 hours a week, on an annual basis.

As of February 1, 2008, they now work two 24-hour shifts in a row (48 hours straight), then have four days off. The firefighters attending the last Fire board meeting, on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, said they much preferred this schedule. Most of them live quite a distance from the fire station and this cuts their commute time and distance significantly. They said it also reduces their overall fatigue.

**Wildfire Evacuations**

By BV Fire Chief Andy Pforsich

Clearing and providing a sufficient buffer (at least 100 feet) around a home is crucial to the protection of a structure (defensible space) and makes it more likely that it will be safe to stay inside the home during a wildfire. During the incident, the decision to leave or stay needs to be made early on, probably based on public broadcasting forecasts, automated telephone warnings to the affected area, intensity of the fire/wind, or their intestinal level of fear. If they decide to stay and wait it out, then they must not change their mind and try to leave as the fire is making its final run toward their home. This is precisely when fire engines, bulldozers, bosses and crews are moving toward them. In smoky conditions, the likelihood of being involved in a crash with responding equipment, all of which is much bigger and heavier than their automobile, is much greater. Besides risking injury, a crash which blocks the road into the area would delay and hamper the fire suppression effort. In general, staying in their homes is much safer than the residents would believe. Falling embers are usually the cause of a fire in a home near a wildfire. As the fire burns from the outside near the home, the house itself can provide shelter and safety until the wildfire moves past the house, after which they can step out to safety.

An engine will ordinarily be committed to a house for structure protection. However, if that isn't the case because of the size of the incident or lack of available resources, then the resident who has stayed in his/her home will be able to call 911 if the house becomes involved.

The decision to stay or not is highly dependent on the circumstances, but hopefully, this provides a little more information on which to base a decision.

**Bennett Valley Clean-Up Roads Day**

We're planning to have our "Spring Clean-Up Day" on Saturday, April 5, 8:30 am, at the BV Fire Station. **ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED**, so please join us, along with other family members or friends. You'll see a sign up on Bennett Valley Road, across from the golf course, as a reminder. If it rains, we plan on rescheduling on April 12. And don't forget to wear sturdy shoes, gloves, and something for sun protection. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please call Sandy Sandine at 579-0282.

## Bennett Valley Calendar 2009

The **BVHA 2009 Calendar Committee** is taking next year's theme from the all-time great Audubon. Unfortunately the admirable birds he painted were mostly dead specimens. We are calling for local, live birds photographed feeding, standing still, or on the wing--as long as there are berries or blooms in the background! That's the challenge. **WANTED: birds and blooms, in each photograph, to adorn the next calendar!**

We know there are many talented photographers in Bennett Valley because this past year we had over 90 entries from which to choose; even the discarded pictures were of the highest quality both in subject and composition. We are eager to continue the project, now in its ninth year, for good reasons. Despite the small cost of the calendar, the over-all sale brings in a fair profit, allowing us to support our Volunteer Firefighters and some maintenance of the Bennett Valley Grange, not to mention the useful, long-lasting, attractive artwork you get for your contribution. But, just as important may be the sense of community it encourages, from the friendly competitive spirit of those who offer photographs to the good will of those who go out and buy the finished product.

**Here are a few things participating photographers should keep in mind:**

Caged birds are not acceptable subjects.

You may submit as many as five (5) entries, out of which only one may be selected. Keep in mind that high-resolution color images, in horizontal format, **4"x 6" or larger prints are needed for judging** and are the most desirable. Later, for printing the selected ones, we will need either original full-sized digital images on CD, or high quality prints.

**Entries must be received on or before the day after Labor Day, SEPTEMBER 2!** Send or deliver to: BVHA Calendar Committee, 2663 Bennett Ridge Road. Santa Rosa, 95404. More information: 707.527.6002.

Identify your entries by writing your name, address, phone number on the envelope in which they are submitted and label your prints to coincide with your numbered list of titles; please also include a stamped-addressed envelope for return. Entries will be juried by a panel of your peers. Good luck!

Bennett Valley 2009 Calendar Committee

## Bennett Valley Water

**1.) Matanzas Creek Winery was fined \$10,000** for spilling "perhaps 28,800 gallons" of wastewater, a byproduct of their winery operations, into Matanzas Creek for two days, on December 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005. (Press Democrat Business Section, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008)

**2.) Bennett Valley Well Project** by Doug Martin *Over a two year span of time Doug Martin was measuring different "volunteer" BV wells, until Spring, 2007. His summary of what he did and what his conclusions were are described below:*

I was able to make 4 measurements, spanning two years, on 14 individual homeowners. I also have data spanning 20 or 30 years from 3 mutual water systems. Some of the individual well owners had a few pieces of historical records (10 or 20 year span). I measured the static depth-to-water using a hand-held sonic meter.

My overall conclusion from looking at all this data was that the geology beneath the grass and trees of Bennett Valley is not very uniform. I think any geologist could have told us that. So we hear of one person's well going dry while another 300 yards away is fine. More specific conclusions are:

1. Some wells have held pretty constant over 20 or 30 years. Some appear to have declined.
2. The long-term data from the mutual water systems is pretty interesting. Some of this shows a clear lowering of water over a 30 or 40 year period. In one system I looked at the data in two reasonable ways and one of these analyses showed a small but clear decline while the other analysis looked like the well was holding steady. This showed me that the problem is a hard one to understand.
3. Because of variations in annual rainfall, and perhaps variations in use patterns, I believe that it takes decades of data to feel confident in conclusions. This problem is complicated; I believe that it's not just annual rainfall that matters, but how this rainfall comes over the season, i.e. one giant storm versus many small ones over months.

So that's basically what I found. I have all this data in spreadsheets that someone may want to have. If you're interested, please contact Marilee Jensen, VOICE Editor (576-0405).

**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@teevox.com](mailto:ecmonty@teevox.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

**BVEP COORDINATOR** – Karen Sommer, 528-8982

Call Karen with any questions relating to emergency preparations and/or training.

[ksommer11@earthlink.net](mailto:ksommer11@earthlink.net)

**BVHA VOICE Editor** – Marilee Jensen, 576-0405

[marileejensen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marileejensen@sbcglobal.net)

**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 contribution you want to make, payable to BVHA. If you want your extra contributions (over \$15) to be used for any specific purpose, please indicate on the check, under "memo". Send your check to: BVHA, PO Box 2666, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. Questions? Call (707) 578-3453

**Brief Summary of BVHA Meeting,**

**January 16, 2008**

- Craig Harrison, President, announced that volunteers are needed for the BVHA Nominating Committee, to be chosen in May.
- The proposed BVHA budget for 2008 was approved. BVEP plans to become self-sustaining, financially, but asked that \$300 be approved for their upcoming printing expenses, for CPR and CERT training.
- Craig Harrison said that a formal application had been made in December by Verizon for the BV Cell Tower, to be placed

at the BV Fire Station, once approved by PRMD. This is expected to take 12 to 18 months.

- Craig Harrison noted that no funds have been released to repair the closed Sonoma Mountain Road. Per Phil Demery's commitment at our September, 2007 meeting, Rob Silva from Sonoma Co. Public Works is planning to do an on-site road check with Craig Harrison this next month. Craig would like to explore what repair and maintenance projects can be accomplished, beyond filling pot holes, without rebuilding roads at the cost of \$1.5 million per mile.
- Craig Harrison wants to put up banners to advertise the two candidates for the 1<sup>st</sup> District County Supervisor position speaking at our March BVHA meeting.
- Craig handed out copies of the revised bylaws with the recommendations from the committee. After some discussion and with a few changes, the revised bylaws were approved and signed. The bylaws changes included not specifying the exact timing of the Board meetings in advance and changing the annual election meeting from October until November

**Board of Directors' Tentative Agenda**

**March 19, 2008, 7:00 pm, BV Grange Hall**

- Each candidate for the 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor position will be discussing their important issues, followed by questions from the audience.
- Other business as determined by the Board.

**Glimpse of Onsite Road Check, 3/3/08**

Rob Silva, Road Maintenance Operations Coordinator and Jeff Ross, Area Foreman, from Sonoma County Public Works, "toured" the Bennett Valley roads with Craig Harrison and Marilee Jensen, describing their limitation of resources along with work expectations. One primary goal they work toward is keeping water off the roads as it adds significantly to long-term road damage. In the May VOICE you can expect a more detailed article on this informative road tour, but they wanted to inform BV residents right away that the California Department of Forestry is in the process of significantly cutting back the brush along certain roads for improved fire protection, which also helps tremendously in road protection. We can expect this brush cut back along the west end of Sonoma Mountain Rd. and Enterprise Rd. in about one month.

## **BENNETT VALLEY COMMUNITYCALENDAR**

*Remember to Mark Your Calendars.*

1.) **BENNETT VALLEY HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION (BVHA):** Next meeting, Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 pm, BV Grange Hall. See Page One and Page Seven for agenda.

2.) **CPR/FIRST AID CLASS, Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, at the BV Fire Station.** We all know how important it can be to know this. This full day class will result in a two-year CPR certificate. The fee for the class is \$85 and space is limited. Please let Karen Sommer know if you want to sign up for this course, at 528-8982, or [ksommer11@earthlink.net](mailto:ksommer11@earthlink.net).

3.) **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) training for you, at the BV Fire Station.** Classes will be on four Saturdays, May 3, May 10, 31, and June 14; the fee is about \$40, including written instructions and equipment. The classes cover disaster, fire safety, medical first aid and triage, disaster psychology, course review and disaster simulation. Once all the classes are completed, you will be CERT certified; make up classes are available in other local communities. For enrollment, call Karen Sommer, 528-8982, [ksommer11@earthlink.net](mailto:ksommer11@earthlink.net). **Now is the time for you to sign up for CERT!**

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. Please call 823-1084 to verify meetings in advance.

5.) **SONOMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS meets every Tuesday (except on weeks when there is a legal 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.

### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

- Call Sonoma County Road Maintenance, at 565-7280, to report pot holes which need fixing or trash which needs to be picked up on the BV roads.
- Call 576-1371 to report emergencies from a cell phone in Bennett Valley; call 565-2121 from any phone, to talk to someone at the Sheriff's office 24 hrs. every day, with concerns that may or may not be an emergency.

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

**Website: [www.bennettvalley.org](http://www.bennettvalley.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."**

**County Supervisor Candidates, 3/19  
CPR Training, 3/30  
CERT Training, May/June  
BV Clean-up Day, 4/5**

### **Inside This Issue**

Earthquake to Smash Santa Rosa!  
CERT/CPR Training  
BV Emergency Preparation  
Requested Donations for BVEP  
Emergency Items, Car/To Grab  
BV Wildfire Evacuation  
BV Clean-Up Day  
BV 2009 Calendar  
BV Road Update