



Bear Valley Springs **Bear Tracks**



A Monthly Publication of The Bear Valley Springs Association and The Bear Valley Community Services District

VOLUME 19 • SEPTEMBER 2024



**Refuge points and
evacuation routes**

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Foundation established**

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Project updates and challenges

Dear Bear Valley Springs members,

With summer coming to an end, I would like to update everyone on a very important project that has been in the planning process all summer and is scheduled to begin in the next few months. I also wanted to take a moment to update you on the Mulligan Room Kitchen Expansion project and the challenges we are facing, as well.

2024/2025 Capital Improvements

At this time, we are finalizing the improvement plans throughout BVSA for the next three years. We have worked hard to develop a three-year plan that will hopefully address some of your concerns and give us the opportunity to continue to improve the operation and amenities. Once the entire three-year plan is reviewed by

the Board of Directors and approved, we will be sharing it with the membership. Listed below are two major projects that have been approved and will begin in September.

Asphalt Repair and Replacement – After evaluating the 2024 Reserve Study that was conducted at the beginning of this year, asphalt repair and replacement will be a primary focus over the next two to three years. In September and October, we are planning on resurfacing and repairing all of the asphalt driveways, camp site roads and the parking lot at the Equestrian Center. We will also be resurfacing and re-



Submitted by
Don Ciota
General Manager/COO

pairing all of the asphalt located at the upper parking area of the Administration offices, the lower parking area for the Mulligans Room and all of the asphalt cart paths leading to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

September 2024 Bear Tracks cover photo taken by **Toshimi Kristof**

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nestled among the pines, this mountain home offers 1900 square feet, 3 bedrooms, spacious family open to large wrap around deck overlooking the san joaquin valley to interstate 5 and beyond! 85 plus acres, home includes a large bonus room with half bath on lower level and a detached one car garage at driveway entrance. **\$519,000**



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SOLD last month by Theresa...

106 Pinon St.	\$369,000		Rep Buyer
3437 Dakota	\$429,000	SOLD FULL PRICE	Rep Seller
22426 Zurich Dr.	\$400,000	SOLD OVER FULL PRICE	Rep Seller
21251 Pegasus Dr.	\$750,000		Rep Buyer
28881 Shannon Ct #40	\$224,000	SOLD FULL PRICE	Rep Buyer & Seller
LAND			
0 Old Ranch Rd	\$225,000		Rep Buyer
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Emergency Preparedness: Refuge points and evacuation routes

Now that we are in the middle of fire season, this is a good time to remind folks that it is never too early to be prepared. Over the last several weeks, staff has assessed five routes - Pinedale, El Rancho, Sheeptrail, Deertrail, and Skyline. The first three, Pinedale, El Rancho, and Sheeptrail, proved to be completely unviable and dangerous. Deertrail and Skyline were not without concerns. Lack of signage, locked gates, narrow passageways, and other problems make it unlikely these routes would be used as a means of evacuating parts of the Valley during an emergency. Not impossible, just unlikely.

The results of that assessment confirmed what was already suspected; that no route other than Bear Valley Road can be



Possible refuge points to consider.

assumed dependable and safe during a crisis.

Our findings were presented to members of the Public Safety Committee on July 18.

Present were representatives from the Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC), the Bear Valley Police Department, and the Bear Valley CSD.

So, what is the take-away?

Have a plan! Always be prepared! A great deal has been learned from our Valley's history of major wildland fires.

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Though detailed Emergency Preparedness Plans are written, reviewed, and periodically revised, not one event will be the same. One likely option for emergency personnel during a disaster is to direct residents to evacuate to safe rallying points within the Valley floor, sometimes called "Refuge Points." These are areas where large numbers of residents and vehicles can find refuge while emergency personnel address the threat.

Where are these areas?

This would depend on the incident, but areas like the baseball field, Cub Lake, RC model airfield, the golf course, and other potential areas have been identified and assessed.

How will I know where to go in case of a disaster or major occurrence?

This is where being signed up for Nixle, ReadyKern, Genasys Protect and Watch Duty are imperative. It is through these emergency communication channels that evacuated

residents will learn where to go, which may include a Refuge area within the lower Valley, Bear Valley Road out the Gate, or, if necessary, Deertrail or Skyline may be used once verified as passable by emergency personnel. Also, I would like to mention that for a small fee of \$25, a handheld radio can be obtained from our Emergency Radio Team (ERT). These radios will be preprogrammed, and residents will be able to monitor real time information. (You can find more information on the BVCSD Web Page)

For those who wish to be better prepared, I would encourage those to get on the BVCSD web site and read Wildfire Preparedness. This will allow you to explore the full Wildfire Response Plan. I would also encourage folks to attend the (DPAC) Disaster Preparedness Advisory Committee and the Public Safety Committee meetings when you can.

Be safe.
 - Acting Chief Hurst, Bear Valley Police Department

Hello September!

22241 Amberwood Court, Tehachapi
Offered at \$675,000



Welcome to your own private paradise nestled in the prestigious Bear Valley Springs community! This stunning **rustic-meets-modern estate home** with a **bonus guest apartment** offers an unparalleled blend of luxury, comfort, and natural beauty. Situated on 8.34 acres of picturesque land, the 5-bedroom, 3.75-bathroom main home boasts breathtaking views from every angle. The recently remodeled main house exudes elegance and functionality, featuring tasteful upgrades throughout. Outdoor RV parking next to the garage provides added convenience for all your recreational needs. Don't miss this rare opportunity to own a piece of paradise where nature meets resort-style living.

Enchanting Cape Cod Home, nestled in the serene landscape of Bear Valley Springs! This delightful **3522 sq ft home** offers a perfect blend of charm, comfort, and functionality for the whole family to enjoy. Prepare to be captivated by its welcoming facade, complete with a cozy alcove patio area, in addition to an open patio, ideal for soaking in the panoramic views of the surrounding natural beauty! Upstairs, two additional bedrooms and an entertainment/bonus room offer versatile spaces for relaxation and recreation. This home has been thoughtfully updated with new paint and Anderson dual-pane windows throughout, with a new heating system/ducting, updated plumbing, and a newer septic tank, all contributing to worry-free living.



30151 Garces, Tehachapi
Offered at \$550,000

7 Cloverleaf Ct (#9), Tehachapi,
Offered at \$228,000



Rare opportunity to own a stand-alone condominium in the Prestigious, guard-gated Community of Bear Valley Springs! This charming 2-story, stand-alone condominium is the perfect, cozy fit for a couple or a ideal getaway home. Updated with rich Pergo flooring, newer appliances, furnace, and more! The ground floor features a master bedroom and bath, while the upper floor offers a loft, making this floor plan convenient and functional for all. Easy access to the stunning golf course, a peek-a-boo lake view, and in the foreground, a charming bridge over seasonal stream, all to be enjoyed from the private, fenced back yard. **This condo is not just a home; it's a lifestyle.**

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25951 Derrick Ct	4.46 acres	\$23,900
28440 Deertrail Drive	4.23 acres	\$24,500
29801 Deertrail Drive	21.5 acres	\$59,500
Woodbine Court	4.55 acres	\$85,000

Seller is willing to consider financing subject to acceptable terms and conditions



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BVCSD Works: An interview with Jason Parks, Wastewater Supervisor

Describe your top goals:

My primary goal is to maximize and maintain full compliance within the permits and requirements set by the state and county water regulators. More specifically, my goal is to provide quality service to BVS residents. I am obligated to them to give the best service possible and to operate within the budget.

Describe the structure of your department/unit:

There are three of us, plus one part-time employee. We are always striving to improve through additional education with training and classes. We have two chief operators; I am one and have a Grade 3 certification, and have worked in Bear Valley Springs Wastewater management for eight years, and Brad Aboltin, who holds a Grade 2 certification, is also an Operator in Charge. We are required to have a minimum of two people, with a minimum Grade 2 qualifi-

cation, in this position. Each person must be very knowledgeable about all parts of the wastewater operation. We have multiple grade levels, depending on our training. A Grade 3 operator has the highest wastewater certification available, has undertaken and successfully passed several classes and was initially involved in an apprenticeship program prior to attaining a higher grade level. A Grade 2 operator has also taken and passed multiple classes and exams and, similarly, has undergone supervised training. Finally, Alex Urso has achieved Grade 1 level by completing 1,800 hours of on-the-job training and successfully passing the state exams. He is currently studying for advancement to Grade 2. We have one parttime laborer/maintenance worker, Jonah Masferrer, currently enrolled as a student at Cal State-Bakersfield.

Describe your typical day:

Our day begins with specific

tests that must be done according to the regulatory permit issued by the state. We check pH levels, temperature, conductivity levels, O2 levels, and chlorine levels. We take meter readings of incoming flows, check treated water, and return sludge. We also have various other checks including chemical tank levels and chemical feed pumps to make certain that they are operating properly; accurately and efficiently. We are also trained to listen for unusual noise so we can perform preventative maintenance using in-house resources as much as possible. We do most of our own repairs, house-keeping, and painting. We also maintain the collection system, or underground piping that brings sewage to our facilities, as well as manholes. We do in-house lab work to assure that we are operating properly and make any process control adjustments needed.

Describe your most immediate priority:

We are in need of an on-site maintenance shop so we fabricate or construct items we need to keep our facility in top shape. The shop has been approved and budgeted for several years. We were recently given the "go ahead" to build the maintenance shop but the actual process is slow. The pad has been poured and the building has been delivered.

We have secured a contractor for construction. Our inability to move forward is the time it takes for the county to issue permits. We expect to have the permits in time for completing the shop by the end of this summer.

Describe projects/events underway and those planned:

Our next planned project is to acquire a SCADA system (Supervisor Control and Data Acquisition). With this system in place, we can have more automated processes and have more immediate control. We also are planning several in-house updates—we haven't updated our lab since 1995 so it is overdue for some upgrades.

What would you like for the residents of BVS to know?

I want to stress how much education is required for becoming certified in wastewater management. Not only are there multiple courses and exams, but there is also a lengthy operator-in-training process that must be completed before certification. Each upgrade means more coursework, more testing, and more hours of experience. Each of us takes pride in our work. We see it as a personal investment and are dedicated and passionate about performing our jobs at the highest levels.

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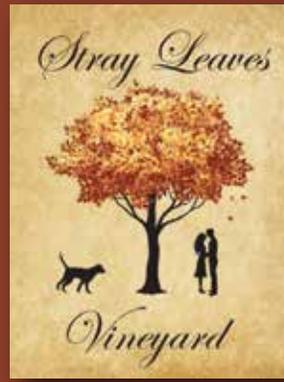
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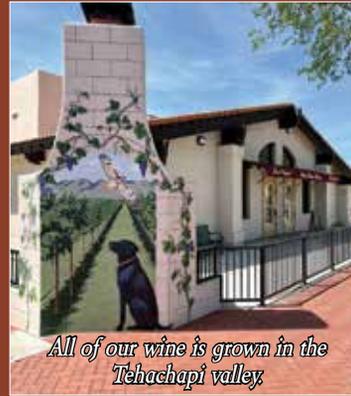


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26941 Stirrup Wy. - \$510,000



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Mountain Retreat!! This meticulously crafted residence boasts 3BD/3BA/2,399 SF, offering comfortable living in Bear Valley Springs. Discover an oversized living room, formal dining room, breakfast area & central kitchen w/ granite counters & travertine floors. Primary bdrm features ensuite bath w/ separate tub & shower. Upstairs are 2 bdms, Jack-n-Jill bath & a cozy family room. Situated on .98 acre of usable land, enjoy mountain views from covered patio, 2 storage sheds, & 2-car garage that includes a studio.

27981 Skyline Dr. - \$462,500



REDUCED!

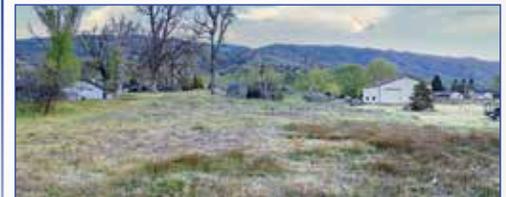
Charming A-Frame with Panoramic Views! This contemporary 2BD/1.75BA/1,650SF home offers breathtaking views of Bear Valley Springs, Cummings Valley, & beyond. The open concept living space offers vaulted ceilings w/ picture windows, & cozy kitchen w/ eat-at island. Upstairs, the oversized primary bedroom includes a sitting room & loft that overlooks the expansive views. Attached garage, RV parking, central air. Plus enjoy the many amenities and events Bear Valley Springs has to offer.

26750 El Camino Dr. - \$469,500



Amazing Mountain Retreat!! This Bear Valley Springs 3BD/2BA/2,123SF + office/den home has been lovingly cared for by original owners. Split-wing floor plan, open living room w/ fireplace, formal dining area w/ views, & a breakfast nook. Bright kitchen w/ granite counters, double ovens & lots of cabinets. Primary suite w/ extra large bdrm, ensuite bath w/ tub, shower, dual vanities & walk-in closet. Oversized laundry room, central heat/AC, all set on 7.74 acres of oak studded property with views!!

29021 Lower Valley Rd. - \$120,000



Location, Location, Location!! It's time to snatch up this amazing horse property in the desirable community of Bear Valley Springs. Picture your custom dream home on the valley floor surrounded by nature & wildlife with access to the 50+ miles of equestrian trails from your front door. Plus, it's close to EVERYTHING Bear Valley has to offer!! This buildable 1.01 acre lot has a majestic oak, rock formations, & sits in the perfect location to take in mountain & lake views. Natural gas is available.

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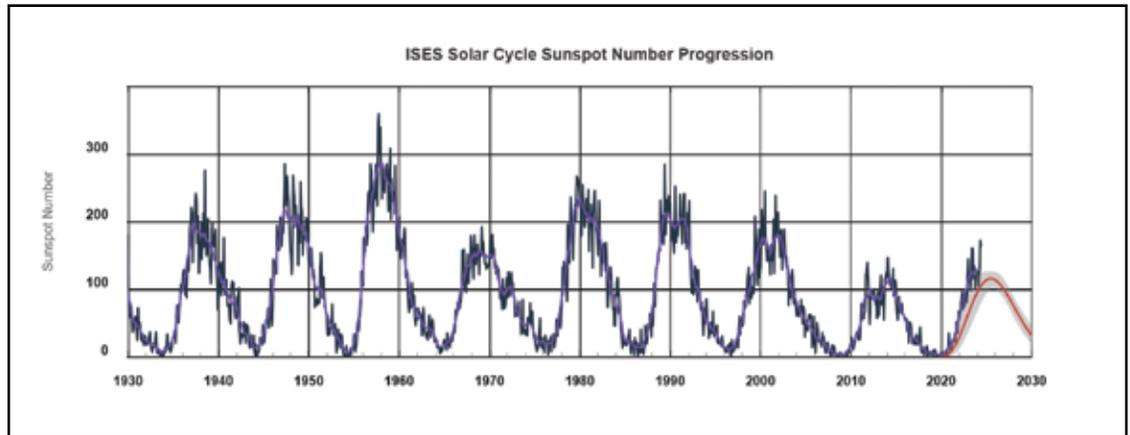
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The sun is getting active and why you should care

Submitted by
**Bear Valley Springs
Astronomy Club**

The Sun goes through periods of high sunspot activity every 11 years. The sunspot cycle is expected to peak in a year or so. This means that we'll be getting more solar storms over the next few years. (Remember the hubbub about the northern lights that were visible here a couple of months ago?) So why should you care about all this? Because solar storms can lead to much more than pretty aurora. Radio blackouts, GPS disruptions, satellite damage, even damage to our power grid are all possible impacts of a solar flare and Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)!



Sunspot Number Plot showing the 11 year solar cycle.

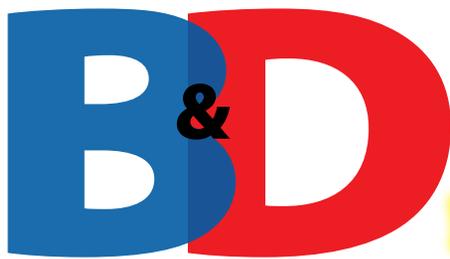
NOAA/Space Weather Prediction Center

tion (CME)!

If pointed in our direction, a large CME can launch a huge bubble of charged particles towards the Earth. Those particles

can generate currents that can cause actual damage like overpowering the electrical grid. The last time a city was plunged into darkness was 1989 when

a large CME took down Quebec's power for many hours. The largest Geomagnetic storm resulting from a solar flare was in 1859, called the Carrington



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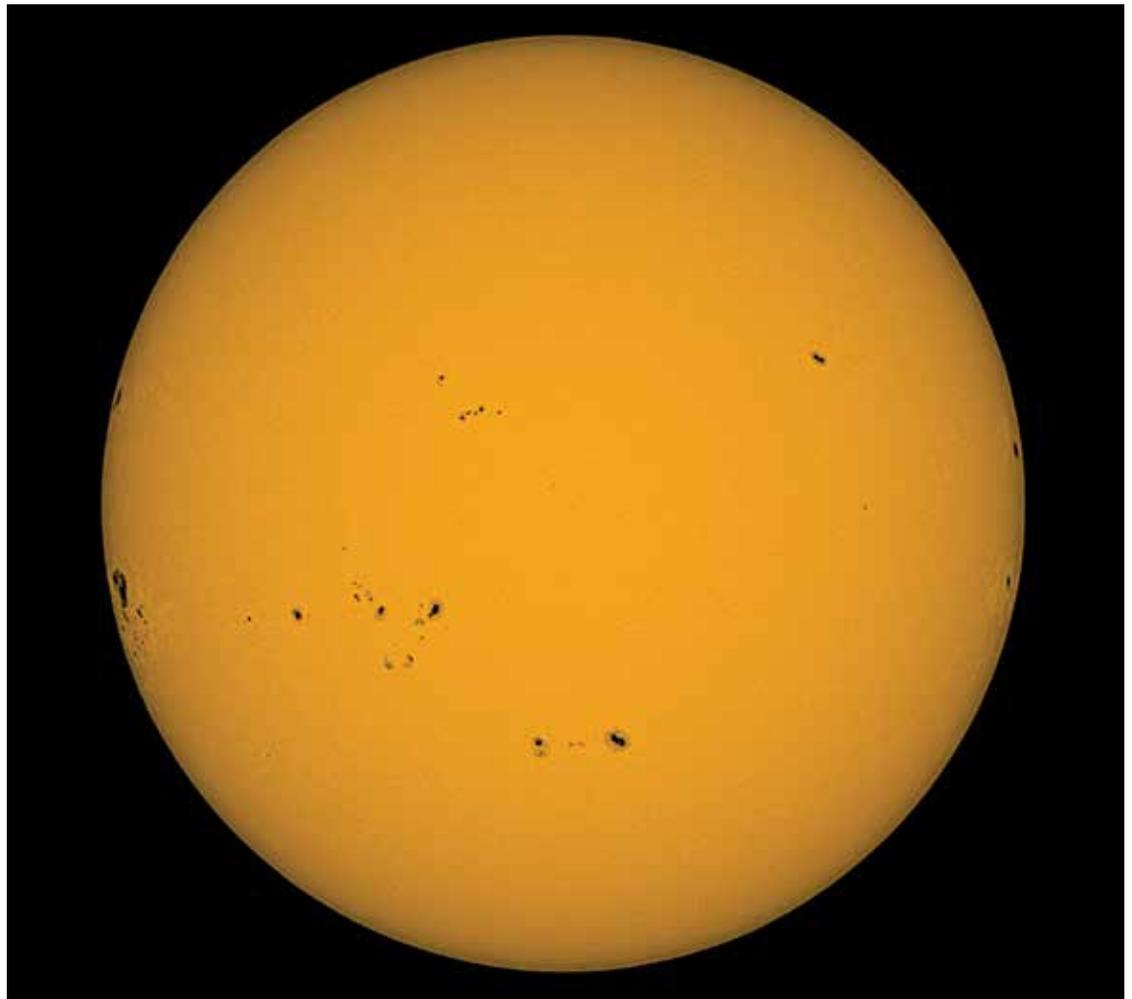


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Event, which caused Aurora as far south as the Caribbean and took down the telegraph system (the internet of the era), even causing some telegraph offices to catch fire! An event of that magnitude today would cause tremendous disruptions.

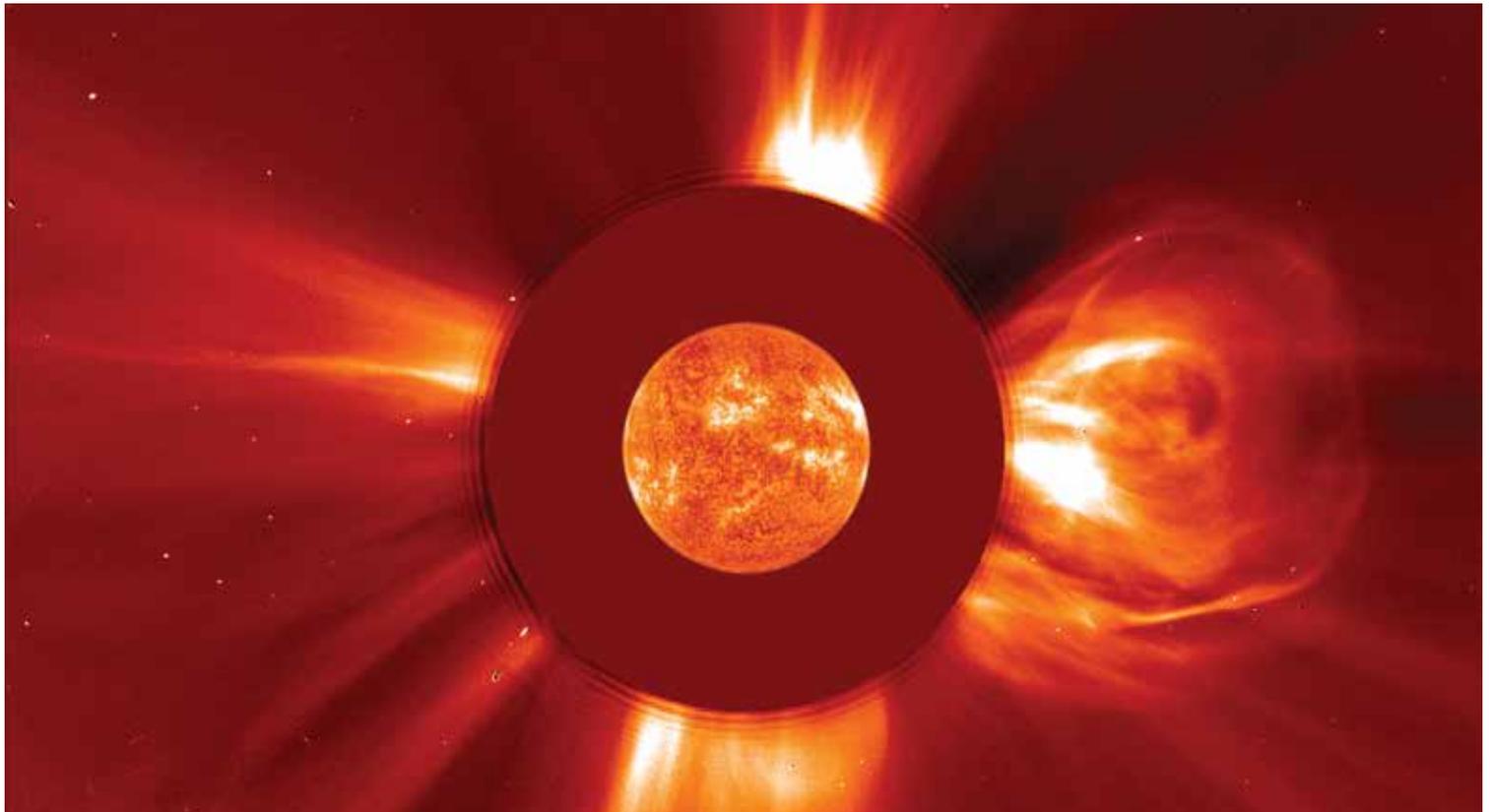
What can you do be prepared? Watch the news. Any truly threatening solar storm should be fairly big news. Next, like any natural disaster, being ready to wait out the possibility of a long disruption of power, internet and even the supply chain is prudent. Having a supply of water, food and necessary medications would be a wise precaution. So while the likelihood of a truly significant event occurring in the next few years remains relatively low, being prepared is always a good idea.

Let's hope that this coming sunspot maximum brings us more spectacular auroral displays but stops short of another Carrington Event. And let's enjoy, with proper filtration, the beautiful disk the Sun gives us when it's at maximum activity!



Solar image with numerous sunspots, August 04, 2024.

Teresa Bippert-Plymate



Coronal Mass Ejection March 02, 2001.

NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center/Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO)



**BEAR VALLEY POLICE
DEPARTMENT**
25101 BEAR VALLEY RD.
TEHACHAPI CA. 93561
Dain Hurst - Acting Chief
of Police



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July 8, 2024

Good morning to all of Bear Valley.

I would like to introduce the Bear Valley Springs Police Foundation. We have successfully opened our foundation as a non-profit 501 C (3) as of this year. Our goals are aimed to raise funds and to utilize such proceeds to help benefit our police department and the various programs and events hosted by the department. These funds will be used to purchase essential safety equipment for our officers, equipment to aid in traffic management, and to support the valuable community programs such as "Coffee with a Bear", "Senior Awareness Programs", and the "Citizens Academy". As our foundation grows, the foundation plans to establish a scholarship program to assist our community's next generation who wish to pursue a career in law enforcement.

The Bear Valley Police Department is committed to serving our community and are thankful for all the support.

If you wish to donate, the BVS Police Foundation welcomes any and all donations.

Respectfully submitted,

Dain Hurst

Acting Chief of Police

Bear Valley Police Department

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- **BUCKAROOS** - Promotes safe, fun western cowboy activities for kids and adults alike. All levels of riders welcome. President Jeff Kermod @ (661) 343-7503, 1st VP George McMackin @ (661) 400-1333, 2nd VP Erika Underwood @ (805) 705-1123, Treasurer Cheryl Akerly @ (661) 609-6113 & Secretary Debi Kermod @ (949) 291-0551
- **BV AQUATICS CLUB** - is a group organized to advance the principles of aquatic health and fitness for BVSA as specified by the club by-laws. The club promotes responsible off-season use for recreation and fitness designated for lap swimmers and water aerobics. Contact the club via email bvaquatics2023@gmail.com.
- **BVS VINTAGE DANCE AND TEA GROUP** - Historical English Country Dancing. All welcome! Join Facebook page or Group Me app, BVS Vintage Dance and Tea Society or call Martha (818) 442-7888.
- **BVS POKER CLUB** - Provide good fellowship, comradery, and sharing of mutual friends. Contact Bill Snow at 562-922-2661 for more information.
- **BVS SOCIAL BRIDGE CLUB** - Social interaction and play. Call Ann Peyton @ 661-821-0926
- **BVS VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION** - Contact: Lee Tharp, Commander, 818-515-0241, sltharp@aol.com or Jed Hannan, Membership, 818-414-2430, jerseyjed@aol.com.
- **BVS WILDLIFE COALITION** - Educates and advocates for living in harmony with wildlife through fun activities, presentations, and special events. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 PM in the OTC reception room. Email: BVSWildlifeCoalition@gmail.com
- **BVS WOMEN'S CLUB** - Provides an opportunity for good fellowship among the women of BVS. Contact President Chris Hobbs, hobbs939@yahoo.com.
- **CARRIAGE DRIVING** - Meetings are the 3rd Thursday each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Equestrian Center Lounge. We promote safe driving, drive-and-ride outings and good horsemanship. Contact Debbie Mayer @ 802-343-5483
- **CRAFTY LADIES** - Meet at the Equestrian Center Lounge every Tuesday, 1-3 p.m. Bring your own project and get acquainted! Contact Robin Goodwin (831) 212-5643.
- **CULTURAL ARTS ASSOCIATION (CAA)** - CAA provides performing arts programs to enhance our way of life. Contact President: Leana Mitchell, 805-758-8902.
- **DRESSAGE** - Dressage, working equitation, cavaletti, other equine activities. We meet on the second Saturday evening of each month. Meeting and more info on our website: <https://bvsrc.org/>. Please contact Kathe Rich katherich@gmail.com.
- **FOUR SEASONS 4-H** - 2nd Monday of every month at 6:00pm Contacts: Sarah Mountjoy sarah.mtjoy05@gmail.com or Heather Dobbs hrosepressley@gmail.com or call 609-0554
- **GARDEN CLUB** - The Garden Club is a resource for all Bear Valley residents who would like to make the most of their garden. Bring your questions, lessons learned and gardening enthusiasm to our meetings, which take place every third Friday (February-October) @ Equestrian Center lounge. Dues are \$10.00. Contact Tammy Reich - bvsagardenclub@gmail.com.
- **GREENHORNS** - Provides an environment for horse and rider to learn cattle-handling skills that are used in working cattle operations throughout the west. Contact President Denise Togami @ 805-231-8676, or Don McLaughlin @ 208-781-8746.
- **HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION** - Promotes fellowship, equestrian activities and facilities. Supports acquisition and preservation of riding trails. Contact President Susan Mustaffa @ 661-538-0995 or smustaffa@outlook.com.
- **OAK TREE BRIDGE CLUB** - Experience and enjoy the benefits the Bridge has to offer! Bob Nixon 661-823-9483.

- **OAK TREE MEN'S GOLF** - For Information Call President, Tony Velarde at (818) 974-1009 The Oak Tree Men's Golf Club holds their meetings on the Thursday before a tournament or the second Thursday of the month, if no tournament that month, at 7:30 am in the Mulligan Room
- **OAK TREE WOMEN'S GOLF** - Open play – Monday at 10:00; 9-hole playday – Wednesday at 10:00; 18-hole playday – Friday at 9:30. Those interested in playing or joining, contact the Pro Shop at 821-5144 or Joy Webber at 661-300-1536 or email: joyw2121@icloud.com.
- **PICKLE BALL** - Promote Pickle Ball Play. Contact Rhonda Arbolante, 661-428-7461, rhondaarbolante@gmail.com.
- **PONY CLUB** - The Bear Valley Springs Pony Club works with young riders, both English and Western, to develop their horsemanship and horse management skills. Contact Jena D'Cruz (661) 817-2173 or Jennifer Bankston (661) 204-1274.
- **RC MODELERS** - Anyone interested in RC Model Aviation or Cars are welcome to join us at the field and track (Jack's Hole). We meet regularly on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Contact Mitch McDiffett 661-378-5596.
- **SPORTSMAN'S CLUB** - The club coordinates a wide variety of social, sports and RV activities. Contact Will Handley at 661-414-6489.
- **SWING DANCE CLUB** - Learn to swing dance Fridays in OTTC Banquet Room. R New dancers from 7:00 PM to 7:30, and intermediate dancers from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Contact Brian at SwingDanceClub.BVS@gmail.com or 818-961-4622. Facebook BVS Swing Dance Club.
- **TAILWAGGERS DOG CLUB** - Contact Tailwaggers President, Pam Miller, 661-203-5725.
- **TENNIS CLUB** - Contact Julian Leon at weedyleon@gmail.com.

BVS SPECIAL INTERESTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** – Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings are held at Bear Valley Community Church, Rm. B, Monday, 5:30pm (Literature) - Tuesday, 5:30pm (Men's Stag), Tuesday 4:00 PM, (Women's group), Thursday, 5:30pm (Participation). For More Information, please call: 661-202-8553.
- **BVS LAKE QUALITY GROUP** – Provides information on the quality of the Lakes in Bear Valley Springs. Please contact us at bvlqac@gmail.com
- **CERT** – Training BVS residents to be prepared and ready to serve in the event of a local disaster situation. Contact David Shaw at tehachapicert@gmail.com, 661-609-8365, <https://www.facebook.com/tehachapiCERT/>
- **CO-ED SOFTBALL** – Come on out for a non-competitive pickup game of softball. It's perfect for anyone who can't run, throw, or catch but wants to get a little exercise and a lot of laughs. Ages 50+ Tues. and Thurs. 3:00 pm. All Ages Sundays at 3:00 pm. Contact Lisa Burt @ 821-0850 or the_burt_family@yahoo.com
- **CUB SCOUT TROOP 135** – Grades 1st through 5th grade. Contact Cub Master Jon Read 909-268-3297.
- **EMERGENCY AMATEUR RADIO TEAM** – This team is made up of licensed amateur radio operators in BVS who donate their services in times of an emergency. Weekly net check-in Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. 146.700Mhz(-) PL123.0. Contact Dan Mason @ (661) 203-8398
- **FRIDAY NIGHT BRIDGE PARTY** – Relaxed atmosphere for couples and singles to enjoy social Bridge. Contact Carol Burdick @ 821-7213 or Elaine Williams @ 821-5768
- **GRIZZLIES SWIM TEAM** – We swim year-round. Recreational and competitive. Contact Kimberly Clow at kclow@sbcglobal.net
- **VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE (VIPS)** – Contact 661-271-0413 for brochure and information.



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Light pollution affects all manner of wildlife

Submitted by
**Bear Valley Springs
Wildlife Coalition**

Light pollution is associated with the development of urbanization and human activities which involve artificial light. From the ecologist's point of view, light pollution refers to artificial light that degrades the cycles of natural light, modifies the illumination of the environment, and creates changes in behaviors, biological rhythms, and physiological functions of living organisms.

Light pollution that creates and characterizes a newly created niche benefits some nocturnal species and disadvantages others, changes the predator/prey balance, and affects the growth cycles of plants. Nighttime predators are advantaged by their ability to see greater distances, whereas prey must seek darkness and limit their ability to forage for nutrients.

Artificial lighting also changes the composition of terrestrial invertebrate communities. Bioluminescent species are particularly affected by light pollution, as seen in fireflies that use light signals to attract their partners. When artificial light at night is high, the visibility of these signals is reduced and communications between individuals, and therefore reproduction, can be impaired.

Light pollution around wetlands causes species' composition to change with increases in light intensity. The food chain length of the invertebrate communities in and around wetlands shortens with more light and shifts the ecosystem's stability and nutrient flows, making the ecosystem less complex. In amphibians, strong illumination can inhibit bridal songs, causing individuals to be less selective in their choice of partner and accelerate mating speed to limit the risk of predation.



All organisms depend on Earth's daily cycle of light and dark to govern life-sustaining behaviors, such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep, and protection from predators. Light pollution does not just affect plants' cycles directly, it also affects them indirectly by interfering with the life-cycles of their pollinators or other animals that interact with them. In addition to bees, moths and fireflies are also important pollinators of night-blooming species.

This darkness interruption has dangerous and disruptive side effects for all organisms. Many species of plants and animals rely on the length of the night to indicate the proper season for migration, navigation, mating, molting, budding and flowering, and other life cycle activities. Residents of Bear Valley Springs can help protect our natural environment by following ECC lighting covenants (<https://www.bvsa.org/environmental-control-committee>). 🐾

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Whiting Center September Events 2024



SPORTS

- Basketball games start on September 6th/7th
 - Hockey
 - Resident sign-ups begin September 29th
 - Fees 6U \$60 - 7 & up \$80
 - Non-Resident sign-ups begin October 13th
 - Fees 6U \$90 - 7 & up \$120
- 
- 

EVENTS

- **Vets Bingo** - Saturday, September 7th, TBD
 - **Houchin Blood Drive** - Tuesday, September 17th, 12-6 pm
Whiting Center Parking lot
 - **Garage/Rummage Sale** - Saturday, September 21st
8-2 pm Cub Lake. Garage Sale (at homes) maps will be available on Tuesday, September 19th, at the Whiting Center or online at [googlemaps.com](https://www.google.com/maps)
- 

Tehachapi Minimum Days 2-3:30 pm

- September 11th Dodgeball
 - September 17th Kickball
 - September 18th - Craft Rock painting
 - September 19th - Dodgeball
 - September 25th - Snake Discovery See Flyer
- 

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Questions call 821-6641



Tailwaggers' hosts an unusual speaker for September meeting

Submitted by
Pam Miller
BVS Tailwaggers

How many times have you said "I wish my dog could talk?"

while looking at your dog, who is looking back at you with those big pleading eyes, wanting something, but you can't figure out what? If only my dog could talk. Well, maybe with the right training, your dog could talk!

Our guest speaker on Tuesday, Sept. 3, will be Amber McGee with her Australian Shepherd, Elphie. You may know Amber as a horse trainer who lives in Tehachapi, and has made a name for herself working with BLM mustangs and our own local Oak Creek wild horses.

But Amber also works, with her dog Elphie, on an exciting new training discipline. She is teaching Elphie, who is now two years old and who began a journey of learning how to talk before she was one, to communicate using a collection of buttons preprogrammed with different words. Elphie has a vast vocabulary which includes nouns and pronouns, but also includes feeling words and questions. She is able to put words together in a sentence. "If dogs can understand words humans say to them, shouldn't they be able to say them back to us?" Thus reasoned Christina Hunger, a speech-language pathologist, who developed a program for young children who were not yet talking to use words with the help of computers. She went on and developed a program for dogs where they push buttons to express their wants and needs with words.

Amber and Elphie are participating in what has turned into a scientific research study into whether animals can communicate with us using language. There are currently over 3,300 members on their research forum, which is being conducted in cooperation with UC San Diego.

After listening to Amber's presentation last year at a Tailwaggers meeting, and participating in a two week workshop with Amber, I sat down with my then two-year-old puppy Jazz, and we began our own "button talking" journey. I found out a lot about my dog through the buttons. Not only did Jazz ask for things for herself, like to "play" and "hug" but she also asked questions like, "Nonni friend, where?" after my other dog Nonni died. She also is aware of other dogs' needs. She surprised me the first time she asked me to open the door and instead of going out, she stood back and had me let another dog in.

If you want to know more about how this can happen I suggest two wonderful books: How Stella Learned to Talk by Christina Hunger and I Am Bunny by Alexis Devine. These

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Cultural Arts annual Art Show upcoming

Every September, the Cultural Arts Association hosts their annual Art Show. The show features artists from Bear Valley Springs and surrounding area. There is something for everyone; mixed media, photography, paintings in oil, watercolor and alcohol pens, ceramics, textiles, stained glass, wood working and more.

The opening reception on Sept. 21 will kick off the show and is always a delightful evening, with appetizers and specialty drinks created just for the occasion. Come meet the artists, ask questions and purchase something special for your home. Don't miss an opportunity to bid on the silent auction items. They were a BIG HIT at the last event. The Art Show will take place Sept. 21-29. 🐾



two fascinating books will make believers out of you.

Join us for a demo and discussion about this fascinating topic as Amber shares her own experiences!

You can follow Elphie on her Facebook page: Elphie Talks

On Instagram: Elphie_the_aussie

For more about the program:

<https://www.theycantalk.org>

Members and friends of Tail-waggers are invited to come to the meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 3, in the Equestrian Center Lounge. Doors open for refreshments at 6 p.m. and the meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Contact Pam Miller at 661-203-5725 for more information.





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Halloween events
are coming!!



Halloween Carnival at the Whiting Center on Saturday, October 25th, 4 pm -8 pm

Costume Contest



Food



Trunk or Treat
5 PM-7 PM

Games

Cake Walk



Halloween Host Homes on
Thursday, October 31st,
from 5 pm -8 pm



SIGN-UPS FOR TRUNK OR TREAT AND
HOST HOMES START SEPTEMBER 2ND AT
BVSA.RECDESK.COM

Bear Valley Springs Women's Club

Come join us on September 12th at the OTCC

We will have guest speaker Teresa Bippert-Plymate from the BVS Astronomy Club



Theme is – Fall

Menu – Crispy BBQ Ranch Chicken Salad \$17,
Quesadilla Burger & Fries \$21, Fried Ravioli \$21,
Loaded Baked Potato \$10

If you would like to attend the September 12th meeting, RSVP's must be made by September 3rd at noon.

Call for reservations

Chris Hobbs-President (661)972-8499 or Ali Dresser-Membership (714)702-4671

If you bring a friend, you get 5 free Raffle Tickets!

To advertise in *Bear Tracks*, call 661-822-8101

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
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Mountain Top

TRAIL RUN

SIGN-UPS:

MONDAY, APRIL 15TH - MONDAY, OCTOBER 7TH
PRICES: ✦ 5K: \$35~ 14K: \$50~ 25K: \$75 ✦

-BEGINS & ENDS AT CUB LAKE-

✦ CHECK-IN: 7 AM ✦ START TIMES: 8 AM



**PRE-ORDERS FOR SHIRTS WILL CLOSE ON SEPTEMBER
2ND. LEFTOVER SHIRTS WILL BE SOLD ON THE DAY OF
THE RACE FOR \$15.**

Trails are not stroller friendly • Finisher medals for all participants

MAPS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AND AT THE WHITING CENTER.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO SIGN UP AT BVSA.RECDESK.COM

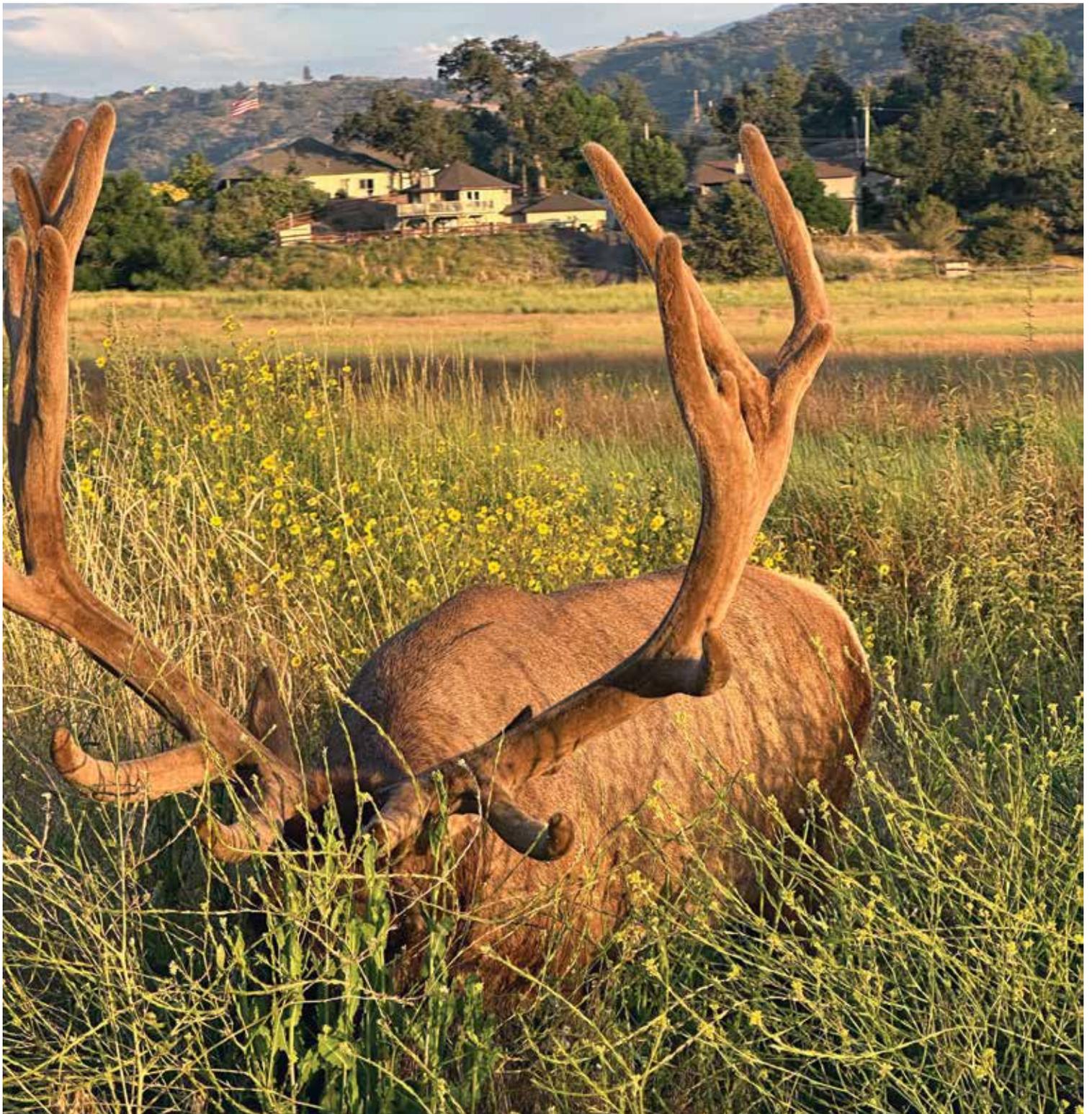
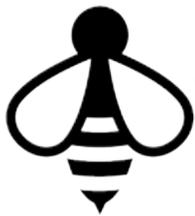


Photo by Heather Long



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Swinging in the Vineyard



Oak Tree Women's Golf Club Annual Invitational. Full field with 72 players.

Oak Tree Men's Golf holding a Golf Swap Sept. 21

The Oak Tree Men's Golf Club is holding a Golf Swap in conjunction with the Cub Lake Garummage sale on Sept. 21, at the Oak Tree Driving Range, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Buyers:

Are you looking for a new-to-you set of clubs or a specific club? Come to the driving range on Sept. 21 to find your new clubs! We will take cash or checks with proper ID.

Sellers:

Do you have a club or set of clubs you want to sell? Let us attempt to sell them for you!

Bring them to the driving range on Sept. 21, between 8 and 9:30 a.m., and we'll help you with your listing. We can help you price them to move, and all we ask is 10% of the sale price.

Proceeds are going to the Oak Tree Men's Golf Club Scholarship Fund for two Tehachapi High School Students.



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BEAR VALLEY FALL GARAGE/RUMMAGE SALE 2024 AT CUB LAKE



Saturday, September 21, 2024
8 am - 2 pm Cost \$20
Registration opens August 1st

Register at bvsa.recdesk.com

Choose either Grummage or Garage Sale Program

The last day to register is September 16th

Requested spots not guaranteed



**REMINDER: NO PORNOGRAPHY, WEAPONS
(KNIVES, ETC.), LIVE ANIMALS, OR ALCOHOL.
*NO ITEMS CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE BVS
TRANSFER STATION AFTERWARD.**

**Maps will be available on
Thursday, September 19th
at [googlemaps.com](https://www.google.com/maps)**



Questions call 821-6641



TEHACHAPI SCHOOL MINIMUM DAY

EVENT AT THE WHITING CENTER:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

2 PM – 3:30 PM

“SNAKE DISCOVERY” PART 2:

BY HUGO HEERMANN & TIM TURMEZEI



Participants will be able to see local snakes of Bear Valley up close.

Learn how they hunt for food, as well as their favorite foods.

Meet the only native rattlesnake in Bear Valley and learn the truths and myths about them.

If you wish, you may even handle a tame snake. Come down to the Whiting Center and expand your knowledge of our local species of snakes.

QUESTIONS CALL 821-6641



20
24

BVS CULTURAL ARTS PRESENTS



ART SHOW

SEPTEMBER 21 - 29

**OPENING NIGHT
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**SEPTEMBER 21
5-8 PM**

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OAK TREE COUNTRY CLUB
VISIT BVSCAA.ORG FOR INFORMATION

Text of Proposed Changes to
BVSA Rules

(Deletions shown in
strikethrough type and additions
in **boldface underlined** type)

**TEXT OF PROPOSED
CHANGES to BVSA Rules**

(Deletions are shown in
strikethrough type and additions
in **bold underlined** type)

**ARTICLE 9
FOUR-ISLAND LAKE –
BOATING-Recreational Use**
(Adopted 7/9/88)

**SECTION 900. BOATING
EQUIPMENT**

(a) Only the following vessels
are permitted on Four-Island
Lake: (1) Human and wind
powered vessels

(2) Electric vessels

(3) Inflatables and Paddleboards
(b) The maximum length of a
vessel on the lake is as follows:

(1) Human and wind powered
vessels: 20 foot class vessels

(2) Electric vessels: 16 foot class
vessels

(3) Inflatables and Paddleboards:
20 foot class vessels

(c) All vessels must be privately
owned by Members, unless
participating in a BVSA or BVSA
Club sponsored event in which
case a liability form is required
to be filled out by the vessels
operator at the Whiting Center.

(d) All vessel owners must carry
homeowners or boat liability
insurance during any boating
activity, at their own cost and
expense, in an amount of not
less than \$100,000, approved
by the Board or its designee and
issued by an insurance company
authorized to transact insurance
in the State of California.
(Amended 9/24/94; Amended
09/15/17, Amended and Restated
08/10/20)

(e) Any Member who wishes
to launch a vessel, as listed in
Section 900, Subsection (a)
numbers (1) and (2) on Four
Island Lake, must register their

vessel at the Whiting Center
where they will receive a BVSA
Vessel-Use permit. This BVSA
Vessel-Use permit is to be affixed
to the vessel's port side bow and
is to be renewed biennially by
December 31st **annually January**
1st of every odd year. Section
900 Subsection (a) number (3)
Inflatables and Paddleboards are
exempt from this requirement.
(Added 09/15/17, Amended and
Restated 8/10/20)

(f) All vessels must be equipped
with a personal flotation device
(PFD) approved by the United
States Coast Guard for each
person aboard. All persons
under 13 must wear a **personal
flotation device (PFD)** at all
times while participating in
any boating activity. (Added
10/18/03; Renumbered 09/15/17,
Amended and Restated 8-10-20)

(g) For the purpose of Standup
Paddle Board usage Four Island
Lake is defined as a swim zone,
and as such persons operating a
paddleboard are only required to
use a leash or wear a **personal
flotation device (PFD)** if white
caps from wind are on the lake.
A **personal floatation device**
(PFD) is required to be worn by
children under 13 years of age
when on a paddleboard. (Added
10/18/03; Renumbered 09/15/17,
Amended and Restated 8/10/20)

(h) The lakefront, dock and
marina areas of Four Island Lake
are Common Areas and may not
be used for storage of any vessel
or recreational vehicle. Vessels
may not be operated on the
lake earlier than one-half hour
before sunrise and later than one-
half hour after sunset. Vessels
on privately owned lakefront
property must be stored outside
the Common Area. (Added
8/10/20)

(i) Vessels left overnight
or abandoned at the lake may
be removed and stored by the
Association. Stored vessels will
be returned to owners upon proof
of ownership and payment of a
storage fee established by the
Board. The Association may
dispose of unclaimed boats.
(Added 8/10/20) (Amended

10/30/20)

**(j) Sail boats, while at dock
area with no one aboard, must
have all sails lowered and
secured.**

SECTION 901. SAFETY

(a) Scuba diving is prohibited.

(b) Swimming is allowed in all of
Four Island Lake except for the
buoyed area by the 7th tee and the
dam area. All swimming in Four
Island Lake is at your own risk.
(Amended 09/15/17, Amended
8/10/20)

(c) No camping is permitted **on
lake property.** ~~on the Islands.~~
(d) Swimming and fishing are
prohibited at locations adjacent
to the golf course that are in line
of balls driven from the course.
(Added 09/15/17)

(e) Any activity or presence is
prohibited on the dam at Four
Island Lake. (Added 09/15/17)

**(f) Due to danger from
thin ice during the winter at
B.V.S., all ice skating on the
lake is prohibited.**

**(g) Except as provided
in subdivision 901.(h)(1),
picnicking is permitted at Four
Island**

**Lake. ONLY charcoal
briquettes or propane BBQ
may be used for fuel. Open fires
are subject to fines.**

**(h) The islands are closed
before 8 AM and after dusk
during all times of the year.**

**(1) No BBOs or fires are
allowed on the islands.**

**(2) The three islands furthest
from the beach are closed to
public use during the period
January 1 to the Saturday
morning of Memorial Day
weekend to provide for a bird
sanctuary.**

**(i) Model boats powered by
wind shall be allowed without
restriction. Model airplanes,
gliders, drones and helicopters
(amphibious or otherwise)
are prohibited. Model boats
powered by electric motors or
any type of internal combustion
engine are prohibited unless by
special permission of the Board**

or its designee.

**SECTION 902. MEMBER
RESPONSIBILITIES**

(a) Children under 13 years
of age must be supervised by a
parent or responsible adult during
the entire time the children are
in and around the lake area.
(Amended 8/10/20)

(b) No person may operate
any type of vessel in a reckless
manner. (Amended 8/10/20)

(c) The owner and operator of
any type of vessel are jointly
and separately responsible for
any vessel being operated on the
lake and by using the lake agree
to hold harmless and indemnify
the Association for any damage
arising from an accident, both
as to bodily injury and property
damage. (Amended 8/10/20)

~~(d) Sail boats, while at dock area
with no one aboard, must have
all sails lowered and secured.~~ **(d)**
Glass is not allowed on the
sand beaches, boat ramps, docks
or private vessels.

~~(f)(e)~~ All trash, debris and
garbage must be placed in the
containers provided.

~~(g)(f)~~ Vulgar or profane
language will not be tolerated.

~~(h)(g)~~ Excessive use of alcoholic
beverages is prohibited.

~~(i)(h)~~ Vehicles must remain
on blacktopped areas and may
not be driven or parked on lawn
areas.

~~(j)~~ Except as provided in
subdivision (n), picnicking is
permitted at Four Island Lake.
ONLY charcoal briquettes or
propane BBQ may be used for
fuel. Open fires are subject to
fines. (Amended 09/15/17)

~~(k)~~ **(i)** Radios, musical
instruments and the like must be
played in a manner that is
unobjectionable to others.

~~(l)~~ Model boats powered by
wind shall be allowed without
restriction. Model airplanes,
gliders, drones and helicopters
(amphibious or otherwise) are
prohibited. Boats powered by
electric motors or any type of
internal combustion engine are

prohibited unless by special permission of the Board or its designee. *(Repealed and added 7/18/92 & 9/24/94; Restated 10/1/2021)*

(m) ~~(j)~~ All pets must be restrained on leashes. The lake area is part of the Common Area and no pets are permitted to run loose. Horses are not allowed in the lake area. Members and their guests who take pets to the lake area must clean up after their animals. (Amended 1/27/01)

(n) Due to danger from thin ice during the winter at B.V.S., all ice skating on the lake is prohibited. (o) At all times, the islands are closed before 8 AM and after dusk. No BBQs or fires are allowed on the islands. In addition, the three islands furthest from the beach are closed to public use during the period January 1 to the Saturday morning of Memorial Day weekend to provide for a bird sanctuary. *(Amended 09/15/17, amended 8-10-20)*

(p) All vessels as listed in Section

900, Subsection (a) numbers (1) and (2) must register their vessel at the Whiting Center where they will receive a BVSA Vessel-Use permit. This BVSA Vessel-Use permit is to be affixed to the vessel's port side bow and is to be renewed biennially by December 31st of every odd year. Section 900, Subsection (a) number (3) Inflatables and Paddleboards are exempt from this requirement. *(Added 10/18/03, Amended 8/10/20)*

(k) Guests visiting the lake unaccompanied by members must have an Amenity Pass. Amenity passes are available at Whiting Center or the Association Office. (l) When a group exceeds 25 individuals reservations will be required. If the group exceeds 50 individuals additional reservable sites will be required.

(m) Reservations can be made at the Whiting Center for use of four reservable sites with a maximum of 50 people per site. These sites are located

in the grass to the east of the parking lot. Reservations will be marked by Association staff at each site's marker which is located on the fencing alongside Pinedale Drive.

(n) Sites located to the north of the parking lot, the volleyball area, playground, and all lakefront beach areas are non-reservable, first come first serve. Members must be present to use non-reservable locations, no "saving spots" will be permitted. Groups in non-reservable areas are limited to 8 adults per table. No one group may utilize more than one bvsa picnic table.

~~(p)~~ This Article will be enforced as provided in Article 17 and Article 3. *(Added 12/10/13) (Amended and renumbered 9/1/23)*

motor powered vessels of any size on the lakes for the exclusive purpose of conducting Association business including but not limited to enforcement, patrolling, or maintaining the lakes. *(Amended 8/10/20, 9/1/23)*

(b) The Association is not responsible for damage to privately owned vessels while using Four Island Lake. *(Amended 8/10/20)*

(c) The Association may require Members and their guests to vacate the lake area during special events or when repair work is being done.

(d) This Article will be enforced as provided in Article 17 and Article 3. *(Amended 12/10/13)*

**SECTION 903.
MANAGEMENT
RESPONSIBILITIES**

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF
PROPOSED CHANGES**

Clarification of existing rules and processes for Lake Use

(a) The Association may permit

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Administrative parking area and the #10 cart path. The cart path/walking path leading up to the Oak Tree Country Club from the Administration parking lot will also be repaired, as well. The largest area scheduled for asphalt repairs and drainage will be the entire walking path at Cub Lake and the dog park. During that phase of the asphalt repairs, we will also try to address the drainage in certain areas of the walking path that become flooded during extended periods of rain. Google Earth images within this article show the scheduled areas of asphalt repairs that will be completed this year.

Once everything is scheduled, we will be communicating closures to these areas as we progress and will send out weekly updates. We appreciate everyone's patience during these much-needed repairs to our parking, walking path and driveway infrastructure. Once these areas are completed, we will be working on the asphalt repair and replacement schedule for 2025 - 2026 to improve, repair and replace the asphalt



Areas of Equestrian Center set for repavement.

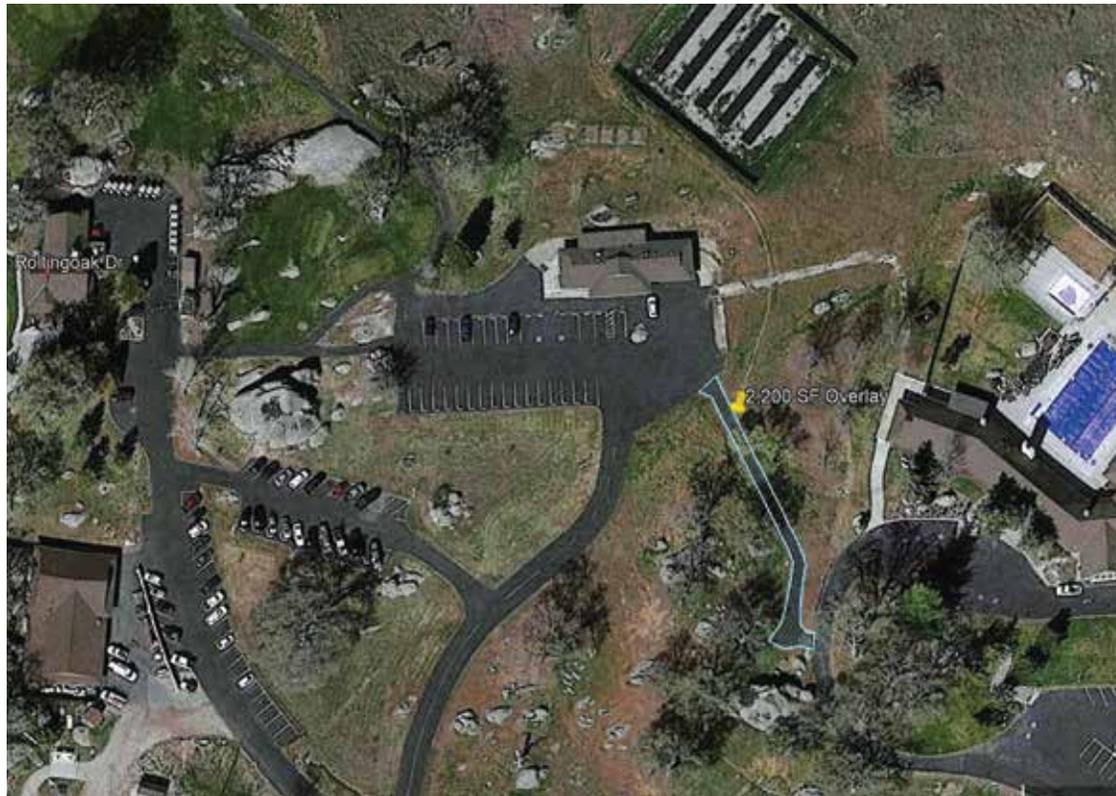
for the remaining parking lots and driveways at Cub Lake, 4 Island Lake, the Oak Tree Country Club, Water Canyon Campground, Town Center Camp Ground and the Whiting Center. This is a huge undertaking over the next few years, but will give all of our amenities' park-

ing lots and driveways a new look and will preserve them for many years to come.

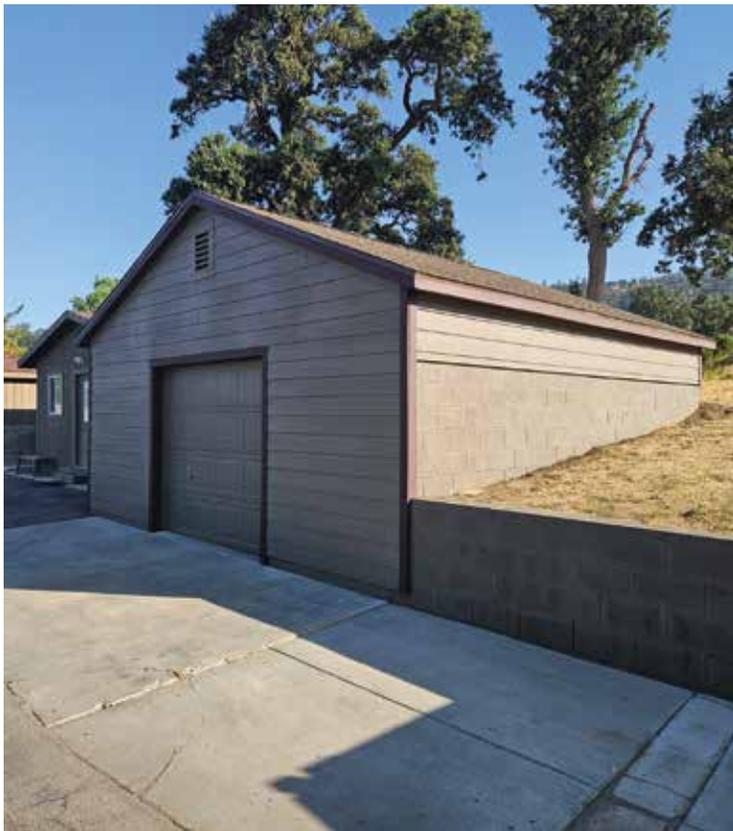
Building/ Barn/ Shed/ Interior Painting - One other much needed improvement that is scheduled for this upcoming year is the painting of all our clubhouses, the Whiting

Center, barns, sheds, restrooms and any other structures at each amenity, as needed. We will also be painting and improving the interior look of the Oak Tree Country Club Clubhouse, Whiting Center and Equestrian Center Clubhouse over the winter. Shown at right will be the new look of our exterior buildings with the addition of an accent trim color that will be used. We look forward to the new fresh look of our buildings.

In addition to the projects listed above, we are currently reviewing all other improvements listed in the Reserve Study, which includes equipment, interior furniture, carpet, signs and other improvements/ maintenance that are scheduled in the Reserve Study for the next three years. Once we have a well thought out, comprehensive plan in place, we will communicate it to everyone, so we all know what the plan is for the next three years. The ultimate goal is to define a clear plan to improve Bear Valley Springs Association's amenities, while managing the reserve funding balances over the next three years, to improve our long-term financial strength and properly maintain



Oak Tree Country Club cart path.



Examples of updated paint scheme for exterior buildings.

our amenities in the future.

The Mulligan Room Kitchen Expansion Project - Over the past two years, the Association has made every effort to get the Mulligan Room Kitchen Expansion Project completed. Since my arrival last year, we have been challenged with the permitting process. This project has primarily been hindered by the lack of building plans and infrastructure plans for the Mulligan Room that are needed to obtain the correct permits by Kern County to expand the kitchen. Without proper documents we have concerns that the required modification needed to complete the expansion will exceed the funds available to complete the project. The Mulligan Room was built in the 1980's as a snack bar (hot dogs, burgers, snacks, etc.) and has transitioned into a full-service restaurant over the years. Unfortunately, based on the size of the menu offered and with the addition of the Pavilion for extra seating, the kitchen cannot support the volume of usage. Over the next month, the Board of Directors will be re-evaluating the entire project to de-



Walking path at Cub Lake.

termine the solution to resolve this ongoing delay. We will keep everyone posted on this much needed improvement.

In closing, we will continue to work hard improving your enjoyment of the amenities. Please

contact the Whiting Center to make sure you are signed up to receive any updates that are sent out through our Rec Desk System.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please feel free to

come by and see me. I can also be reached by e-mail at donc@bvsa.org or call me at the Administration Office at ext. 219. My door is always open. Again, thank you for all your support!

See you around BVS! 🐾

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2024 Crosstrek Wilderness shown.

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BEAR VALLEY SPRINGS ASSOCIATION
 29541 Rollingoak Dr. • Tehachapi, CA 93561 • (661) 821-5537
 Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday
 AnitaB@bvsa.org • www.BVSA.org

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*Monthly open meetings of the Board are held on the
 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm
 at the OTCC.*

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Board Director and Project Manager
Jeff Gadzia.....821-5537 x231, JeffG@bvsa.org
Board Director

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Animal Control 868-7100
 Association 821-5537
 Association Fax 821-5406
 Bear Valley CSD, bvcsd.com 821-4428
 BVS Rangers 661-732-0100
 CSD Fax 821-0180
 Country Store 821-3102
 Equestrian Center 821-3960
 Fire Dept. (business) 821-1110
 Gate (passes) 821-5261
 Gate Fax 821-3507
 Golf Shop 821-5144
 Mulligan Room 821-4107
 Oak Tree Country Club 821-5521
 Police Dept 821-3239
 Road Conditions 800-427-7623
 Weather Information 393-2340
 Whiting Center 821-6641

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 Larry Wiggins General Services Supervisor

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ODD MONTHS:

DPAC4 p.m., Every other month on the second Tuesday
 PUBLIC SAFETY 3 p.m., Every other month on the third Thursday
 FINANCE..... 9 a.m., Every other month on the fourth Tuesday

EVEN MONTHS:

LIAISON 10 a.m., Every other month on the first Thursday
 INFRASTRUCTURE..... 1 p.m., Every other month on the third Thursday
 ADMINISTRATION 9 a.m., Every other month on the fourth Tuesday

Bear Valley Springs
Bear Tracks

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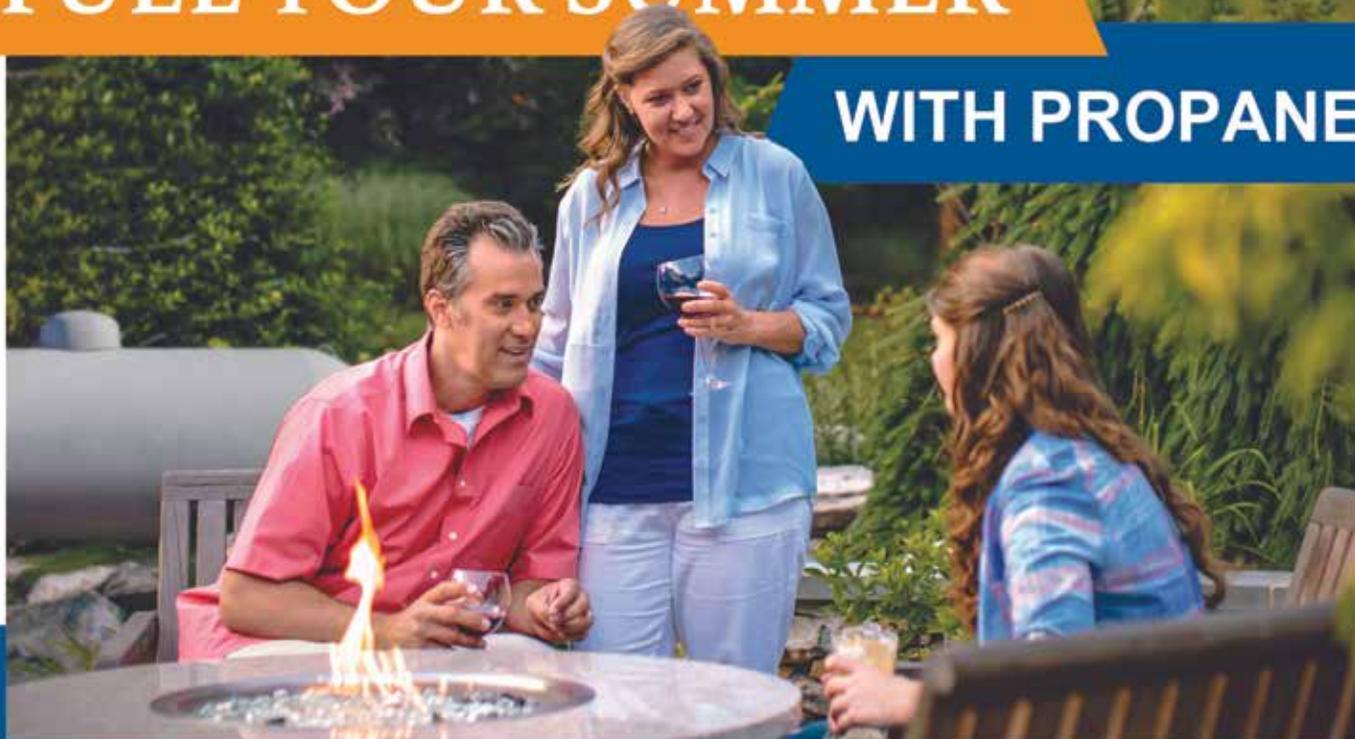
Submissions: Articles and/or photos may be submitted to: Anita Bauer 821-5537 ext 231 or anitab@bvsa.org.

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