

Beaver Valley Bulletin

Volume 11, Number 1

January-February, 2011

Lock your doors

Burglaries reported in BV

Gila Country Sheriff's officials, report there were three burglaries in Beaver Valley in late December and early January. Two homeowners in Unit 3 reported burglaries with theft of electronics, cash, valuables and liquor. One home in Unit 1 was burglarized at night when someone kicked in the front door, stole a TV and other items.

Some residents later reported prowlers and saw evidence of tampering with windows.

Our community has a large

number of vacant summer homes and residents are encouraged to report any unusual activity or suspicious cars or trucks. Always lock the doors to your home and car.

If you see something in progress, call 911, otherwise call the non-emergency number of the Sheriff's Office: 474-2208 and a dispatch operator should answer.

Contact neighbors if you will be gone on a trip. Watch homes for other residents. Make your home seem inhabited by using automatic

timers to turn lights on and off in bedrooms. It is a good idea to engrave an ID number on items such as a TV, computer, sound system speakers, guns and tools. This makes them easier to identify in case stolen items are recovered by law enforcement officials.

BV has a community watch program. There are free decals to post on your windows, and even an engraving tool you can borrow. For more information call 928-468-9269.

BV residents cope with water pipe woes

During a 4-day snow storm in late December, temperatures plunged below zero at night, leaving Beaver Valley under a blanket of snow and ice. Many homeowners experienced a lack of water and others awoke to find broken and frozen water pipes.



Save the date



Feb. 16, — Out to Lunch Bunch (see Community Club Corner, P. 4)

Feb. 12, 9 a.m. — BVFD board meeting, followed at 10:30 a.m. by BVDWID board meeting; both at the fire station.

Feb. 26, 1-4 p.m. — Good health & wellness with natural methods, a fire station meeting room (see story P. 4)

Mike

Davoren, owner of the Beaver Valley Water Company, explains, "The water pressure started dropping the first night and I tried to pump

more water. It was obvious there was a leak and I thought maybe a

Davoren had to locate the homes with leaks and make sure the water main broke. We lost 10,000 gallons that night. About 7 a.m., when it was just light enough to see, I was in my coveralls and out check-

ing the lines. So many houses had broken pipes, that we lost 30,000 gallons of water." One home had a basement full of water before the leak was discovered.

Davoren had to locate the homes with leaks to make sure the

(turn to "Broken Pipes" on P. 2)

Fire Chief's Report by Mike Williamson, BVFD Fire Chief

Happy New Year!

The holidays went well for the Beaver Valley Fire Department. I am proud to announce that we have two new Emergency Medical Technician Basics who graduated from EMT classes in December. Congratulations to Thorry Smith and Ron Richardson. Please let them know you appreciate their sacrifices in time and energy to do this!



As you know the snow played havoc with our community in late December and early January. We had more than a dozen homes with broken pipes which left BV

without water for nearly a week, Beaver Flat Road became a bobsled run, and electricity was out for a period of time. We saw temperatures drop below zero —record cold at night! During this time the fire department conference room was open and heated with bottled water available. Also, the phone system did NOT go out. Land lines worked throughout the event. We returned phone calls and helped several people dig out driveways so they could get supplies.

Thanks to Gila Country Road Dept. which responded to our request and plowed Beaver Flat Road to the mail boxes, and Sleepy Hollow Road to the bottom of the hill. It really helped us to get cars moving again after the storm.

I want to encourage everyone to plan ahead for the next winter weather event, since winter lasts into March. Have food, water, warm clothing, firewood or propane for heat and be prepared with flashlights and lanterns in case the electricity is out due to storms. Contact the fire dept. if you need help preparing a list of emergency supplies and gear. I can help guide you. (See related story in this issue.)

("Broken Pipes" — continued from P. 1)

water was shut off at the meter before turning on the system to that area.

He said, "I've lived in this area more than 30 years and don't remember it getting below zero and staying cold for as long as it did. That is why so many pipes burst. They froze the first night, pressure built up and the pipe broke the next night. This was a record-breaking cold spell that lasted three or four days. I worked about 60 hours during those days."

Some people contacted the Arizona Corporation Commission and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) seeking help, but they were informed that the water company equipment was functioning. The problem was due to broken pipes in homes which leaked large volumes of water so no water pressure was available to serve the rest of the community. Units 1, 3 and 6 had water after a day and a

half, but it took several days to get water pressure up to deliver to units 2, 4 and 5. "Those pumps ran night and day for almost five days," reports Davoren.

Communication is always important in these situations. Check on your neighbors to make sure they are OK. Let the fire dept. know if someone has some special health needs or other problems. If we had an email list of residents (supplied voluntarily), we could send out an emergency email message to let people know about the situation and what help is being provided. Just send an email beavervalleyfd@hotmail.com and give us your preferred email address; also note if you are here full time or mainly just during the summer months.

I'd like to remind everyone that Beaver Valley has a joint agreement with Whispering Pines for full time paramedic coverage. This means medical coverage 24/7 for 365 days a year with a paramedic on duty and the medical equipment on hand to perform like a mobile ER. Recognizing an emergency is the first step and the using the 911 system is the vital second step in any medical emergency. **Do not hesitate to call 911** if you think there may be an emergency. The dispatcher contacts our BVFD and we can have someone there quickly. As a tax payer in Beaver Valley, you will not be charged for these services.

We always need more volunteers, for a variety of positions. What appeals to you?

Want to throw down in a 1000 degree environment with an ax or providing life saving medical treatment in places doctors fear to tread? Or maybe searching the forest for a lost kid is something you feel is too important not to do! Maybe you can provide critical support for the front line crew on an emergency.

Contact me at 472-4711 or come to training sessions at the Fire Station, Thursday nights 6pm – 8pm.

Mike Williamson CEP
Chief Beaver Valley

The Payson Water Department had a similar problem with homeowner pipes breaking. Gila County declared an emergency situation. Consequently, most insurance companies will cover water damage under a homeowner's policy. Davoren advises BV residents not to settle with the insurance firm until they receive the Feb. water bill, which covers that period of damages in late December and early January. This bill will be mailed the first week of February. Some firms also will also cover charges for water lost due to broken pipes.

During the emergency, Davoren had water available at the water company for residents to use. Help also was available at the BV Fire Department, which stayed open for several days to provide use of its bathroom, a heated room and drinking water.

Tips offered to prevent problems

More cold winter weather forecast for area

Winter lasts through mid-March, so we can expect more winter storms and prepare in advance for possible emergencies. Beaver Valley residents should prepare in advance for extremely cold weather every winter. There are steps you can take to prevent damage and ensure greater safety in your home.

Many homes in BV were built as summer cabins and do not have much insulation or adequate heating for winter weather. It is never too late to insulate walls and attics. You also can caulk and weather-strip doors and windows. Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls so that your water supply will be less likely to freeze.

If you travel a lot, or and plan to be away for the cold winter months, it is best to winterize your home. This involves insulating outdoor water lines and faucets. Turn off the water supply at the meter to avoid pipe leaks. Leave one faucet open a bit to drain. Put one cup of anti-freeze in the toilets (water closets and bowls). Also remove boxes of food from cupboards that might attract mice. Always let your neighbors know you will be gone, and give them a phone number or email address to reach you in case of an emergency.

People who live in rural areas know that weather problems and natural disasters will occur. If you use a fireplace or wood stove for heat, inspect your chimney and flue each year before you start using them in the winter. Install smoke detectors and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector near the area to be heated. Replace batteries twice a year.

Have a family disaster plan and a duffle bag of emergency supplies.

BV Water District applies for US loan to buy water company

The Beaver Valley Domestic Water District has completed its loan application and submitted it to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). If approved, the loan will provide funds to purchase the Beaver Valley Water Company and supply funds for some improvements to the system, according to Bing Brown, the board chairman.

A representative of the USDA told the water district it usually takes at least six month for the department to complete consideration of applications.

Emergency supply list

- A battery-powered radio for listening to local weather reports. Have extra batteries.
- First aid kit; prescription drugs and other medicines needed by family members.
- Flashlight & extra batteries; battery-powered lanterns; avoid candles due fire risk.
- Non-electric can opener; supplies for babies and pets.
- Supply of cat litter, sand or rock-salt to use on ice or walkways.
- Drinking water to last several days (also extra water for flushing toilets).
- Have a week's worth of food and safety supplies stored for emergencies.

Water checklist

- Always keep an extra water supply. Extreme cold can cause water pipes in your home to freeze and sometimes break.
- Leave all water taps slightly open so they drip continuously. This will help keep pipes from freezing. Insulate water pipes and faucets on exterior walls.
- Keep indoor temperatures no lower than 50 degrees.
- Allow more heated air near pipes. Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors under the sinks.
- If your pipes do freeze, do not thaw them with a torch. Thaw the pipes slowly with warm air from an electric hair dryer.
- If you have broken or frozen pipes, used bottled water or borrow some from neighbors.
- If no other water is available, snow can be melted for water. Bring water to a rolling boil to kill most germs. But it may not get rid of chemicals sometimes found in snow.

Thanks for Help

Elaine and Corky Geissel thank Mike Williamson of the BVFD, Mike Davoren of the BV Water Co., Roger Kreimeyer and neighbors for their help. Corky had a long recovery from knee surgery with complications and the pair had no water for six days due to broken water pipes during the storm. "We really appreciate these people; they helped us survive a tough time," said Elaine.

Published by the Beaver Valley Fire Department Auxiliary

Editor Carol Osman Brown
Photos and Design Bing & Carol Brown

Send stories to: Carol Osman Brown via e-mail at
E-mail: cobrown@q.com; Phone: 928-468-9269;
Mail — 575 W. Beaver Flat Rd.; Payson, AZ 85541

Deadline for next newsletter is Feb. 17, 2011

BEAVER VALLEY ORGANIZATION ADDRESSES

Beaver Valley Web Site
www.orgsites.com/az/bvia
Sam Thielke, 480-357-8755;
E-mail: thielke-Az@cox.net

Beaver Valley Fire District
911 W. Beaver Flat Rd.; Payson AZ 85541
E-mail: beavervalleyfd@hotmail.com
Sam Baker, Chairman, 928-474-6392
Mike Williamson, Fire Chief, 928-472-4711

Beaver Valley Fire Dept. Auxiliary
HC 3, Box 670-L; Payson, AZ 85541
Joyce Lynch, treasurer, 928-474-6806

Beaver Valley Improvement Association
P.O. Box 594; Payson, AZ 85547
E-mail: Cullen@AzFiveStar.com
Cullen Bennett, President, 602-463-6549

Beaver Valley Firewise Committee
E-mail: cobrown@q.com
Carol Brown, Chairperson, 928-468-9269

Beaver Valley Domestic Water Improvement District
Box 575 W. Beaver Flat Rd.
Payson, AZ 85541
E-mail: bingbrown@q.com
Bing Brown, Chairman, 928-468-9269

Community Club Corner

by Lucy Kieft

As we start 2011, despite winter storms and other stressing events, let's remember to take time to visit with friends and enjoy times with neighbors in Beaver Valley.

The "Out to Lunch Bunch" has changed its meeting day to the second Wednesday of every month. We have fun eating at a new place each month and keeping up with happenings in each other's lives. You are welcome to join us, just let me know ahead of time, because I need to make reservations at the restaurant, and you don't want to end up sitting on the floor!

Congratulations to Sue and Sam Baker who are celebrating the international awards in World Masters Cyclocross racing competition by their son, Ward. This sport is like extreme mountain bike racing, done in mud and very tough country in Belgium and Holland. (See related story below.)

Plan to attend our next big event on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 1 - 4 p.m. in the community room at the BV fire station. It will be a program about staying healthy by stressing wellness and prevention of illness through natural methods. We will have speakers discussing the health benefits of using nutrition, herbs, essential oils and massage, including pressure points you can use yourself.

People in the audience can share their own experiences using natural healing or holistic medical treatments. Everyone is affected by rising health care costs and some solutions seem to lie in the area of staying well by combining some of these things with traditional medicine.

Everyone is invited to attend this event. You may want to bring paper and pencil to take notes. We will have light refreshments available. There is limited seating, so call ahead to make reservations for this free event. For more information, call Lucy at 474-6931

Son of BV couple places high In European bike races

Ward Baker, son of Sam & Sue Baker, Unit 1, recently finished in the top dozen of three major European bicycle races. Ward lives in Colorado and started riding mountain bikes while in high school and college. Now he does competitive mountain bike racing and won a national championship last year. Then he set his sights on international awards and was part of a team from Boulder, Colorado that entered the

Cyclocross Masters World Championship 2011 in The Netherlands.

In January finished in 8th place in the Belgium races and 7th in Holland. The big championship race took place on Jan. 22 in Belgium. Ward earned 12th place in a field of 70 international racers who were all master cyclocross racers. Sue Baker explains that this sport is extreme bike racing in mud.