



The  
**Ruralist**

Check us out at [www.cherryvalleyca.org](http://www.cherryvalleyca.org)

Dedicated to Keeping Cherry Valley Rural – May 2006 issue

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## ***Where Does the Time Go?***

It has been a busy Spring. We have finally settled a very long-running legal battle that has been going on since 1998. As you may be aware, many changes have been made since we first became involved.

Way back then, CVAN decided to initiate legal action because the development was, potentially, taking a very large piece of our open space south of Cherry Valley Blvd.

## ***We Won!***

A lawsuit was filed, and we prevailed. The School District purchased the western portion of the land (above Brookside Ave), for the new high school. That facility will soon be ready for use.

The Water District purchased the eastern portion of land (above Brookside), and construction has begun on the “settling ponds.”

These settling ponds are intended to catch runoff water, as well as to eventually receive State Project Water, and perhaps even recycled water.

The time frame for operation of the ponds is unknown at this time.

## ***We Won Again!!***

Another lawsuit was filed on the remaining portion of the project, involving the City of Beaumont and San Geronio Pass Water Agency. This was a water issue, and again, we prevailed.

The remaining property, north of 14<sup>th</sup> Street (now Oak Valley Parkway), west of Beaumont Ave, and south of Brookside Ave, will be developed into the City of Beaumont.

Some conditions of settlement are: larger lot sizes resulting in less density; permanent care of the Deodar trees along that portion of Beaumont Ave on the west; the exterior wall of the development will be set back 40 ft from the trees; the homes will be built under the standards of the California Green Builders certification, and three intersections will be improved, Cougar way, Brookside and Cherry valley Blvd.

CVAN feels we have negotiated to the best advantage possible, so we are happy to put this to a close and move on.

## ***Important Work -- Still Ahead***

However, there are still a number of very important issues

facing us. A court date for the Banning Bench issue is set for May 26.

Also, the Black Bench Environmental Impact Report has been published, so we have been pouring over it, trying to determine how it will impact our area.

We have submitted a letter addressing our concerns regarding the adverse effects that the addition of 1500 homes will have on our water, traffic, air quality and noise levels.

## ***Our Biggest Fight Yet!!***

The Draft Environmental Impact Report for SUNNYCAL EGG ranch was received on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We have 45 days to reply.

They want to build 597 houses on 200 acres, less 19 acres for parkland: 4 acres for trails; 8.7 acres of landscaped buffers.

Lot sizes will be 7,000-8,500 sq.ft! AND ANNEXATION TO THE CITY OF BEAUMONT.!

If this doesn't set well with you, I urge you to call, e-mail, or write Supervisor Ashley ( 955-1050) ([district5@rebos.org](mailto:district5@rebos.org)). LAFCO AT 369-0631. City of Beaumont 769-8520, and the Riverside

Planning Department; Mr. Robert Johnson, 955-3265. It is apparent they didn't get our message when we attended the two town hall meetings Mr. Ashley held at the Noble Creek.

CVAN Board cannot fight this alone! We need the support of every member and those who are not members but want to keep Cherry Valley's rural life style.

This will be the MOST IMPORTANT FIGHT we have ever taken on.

Are we UNITED?

## ***The Mountain on Cherry Valley Blvd***

That huge pile of dirt you see on Cherry Valley Blvd is the result of digging for a five million gallon underground water tank. Once it's finished, the property should once again be a pleasant sight.

## ***Membership***

2004 / 2005 was our best year ever for memberships, as we reached well over 500 members! Thank you very much!

It is membership renewal time again, and we are reaching out to our community once more. It looks like we still have a lot of work ahead of us, and we will need all the support we can get. Help us to continue to fight the good fight to keep the Cherry Valley area beautiful. Please renew your membership for 2006 / 2007.

Membership is still a great deal at only \$10.00 per family. That

small contribution buys you membership from July 1<sup>st</sup> until the following June 30<sup>th</sup>. What a deal!

Encourage your neighbors to join....

Use the enclosed form, and please mail in your dues before it slips your mind. Thank you.

## ***Elections***

The months of June and November will see some very important elections this year.

We will be electing a supervisor, an assemblyman, senators, and various new board members to the Beaumont / Cherry Valley Water District, and the San Geronio Pass water agency.

Cherry Valley residents have always been very active when it comes to getting out there and voting. This is good for all of us, and we want to help in that process.

So, in order for folks to become more aware of the choices they face on election day, CVAN has been having candidates speak at our meetings, at the Grange. We have also posted some of their campaign material on our web site.

This is important! The winners will be making decisions that will affect your lives for years to come. You need to have a say in who they are! Check out our website to learn more about them.

Voting is a privilege and a duty. Let's prove again how important we know this privilege is, and turn out in record numbers at this year's election.

## ***"Danny Thomas" Property Sold***

The "Danny Thomas" property has been sold, and the owner is already contemplating a large development and proposes to ANNEX TO CALIMESA.

This Development will be right in the middle of the area designated as "The Cherry Valley Gateway."

The owners of the property to the west are also looking to develop -- over 300 homes! Add the two together and you will soon see -- at the least -- 500 homes in the "ditch" and on the "hillsides."

If you recall, from the meetings with Supervisor Ashley at Noble Creek Rec Center, Calimesa has their eye on all the property from the freeway to Nancy Ave. If these two developments are successful in annexing to the City of Calimesa, there will be no stopping the "rape" of our community.

This, along with the threat of SunnyCal Egg ranch development, and our community is in real jeopardy!

If this upsets you, please make an effort to assist CVAN, and become an active member. Attend the Calimesa Council and Planning meetings. Be willing to speak out against these high density developments on the hills and in areas where wild life migrate.

It is impossible for the same one or two of us to attend every meeting, and to keep on top of all

that is happening in our area. Please help us to help you, and volunteer your time if you can.

## *Visit Our Web Site*

Please visit our website at

[www.cherryvalley.org](http://www.cherryvalley.org)

Here you will find interesting information on the history of Cherry Valley, dating back to the early 1800's. There, as well, is information on our organization, Cherry Valley Acres & Neighbors, or CVAN, and what we have accomplished since 1958.

You will also find links to important organizations, and special announcements about things you should know about.

Please be sure to check out our FORUM section. This is where you can let us know your concerns, and ask questions (and hopefully we'll be able to answer).

Don't be afraid to join in. The FORUM can be a great tool if we put it to use. Please log in at...  
[www.cherryvalleyca.org](http://www.cherryvalleyca.org).