



our town

AWARD WINNING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY

DEC/FEB 2010-11

Apple Valley Police – providing “A Safer Way of Life”

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Substation coming to James Woody Park

Growing in size and reputation since 2003, the Apple Valley Police Activities League (PAL) is thriving at the James Woody Community Center. Recently recognized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC) of San Bernardino County for excellence in youth programming, PAL employees and volunteers have worked hard to create an atmosphere where kids can develop discipline, a positive self-image, mutual trust and respect.

Led by Deputy Darren Gilmore and Deputy Mike Bradbury, housing the PAL program at James Woody has the added benefit of increasing police presence at the park. The Town is in the process of adding a Police Substation and PAL offices in the Community Center as well.

“With the office space and new signage, there will be no doubt that this historic park is the home of the Police Activities League,” said Police Captain Bart Belknap.

Deputies Gilmore and Bradbury, along with Community

Relations Officer Trish Hill, PAL Program Coordinator Gary Harbison, and Officer Vinny Arlotti from the Apple Valley School Police, were all honored by Congressmen Lewis and Baca, Senators Dutton and McLeod, Assemblyman

Carter and County Supervisors Brad Mitzelfelt and Josie Gonzales, in addition to the JJDPC.

Participants in PAL can hang out in the Youth Center that features after-school tutoring, games and a computer lab. There is also a boxing program and field trips. The PAL program also encompasses SHOCK, a juvenile intervention program designed to combat the negative influences in today’s society. Applications are now being taken for the seventh session, scheduled to start in March 2011. For more information visit www.avpal.org



Special Forces

The Apple Valley Police Department responds to an average of 6,500 calls for service per month. The department has responded to noticeable trends by creating specialists among the uniformed officers. For example, the gang task force, implemented in 2006, has identified, tracked and prosecuted gang activity in Apple Valley as well as coordinated efforts regionally. A retail theft deputy has worked closely with loss-prevention departments in our growing commercial areas, which has helped to catch serial shoplifters. Most recently, Acting Detective Crystal McCormick has been assigned as the liaison for group home issues.

Safety Tips

Winter warm-up: Do not leave your unattended car unlocked and running to warm up. Each winter brings a sharp increase in auto-thefts on cold winter mornings.

Identity theft: Holiday season brings increased opportunities for identity theft. Keep your credit cards and identification in view at all times. Watch for people looking over your shoulder as you pay. For online shopping, make sure the site offers secure shopping. (Look for the padlock symbol, or websites that start with <https://>.)



MEETING CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place in the Council Chambers at 14955 Dale Evans Parkway

TOWN COUNCIL

2nd & 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6 p.m.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

1st Thursday of alternate months, 6 p.m.

EQUESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday of alternate months, 7 p.m.

HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

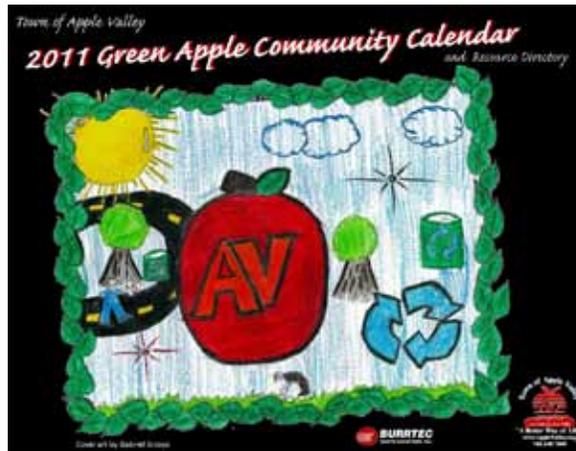
3rd Thursday of alternate months, 3:30 p.m.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

*Every Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Public Works Yard
22411 Highway 18
Information: 240-7000 x 7522*

DISASTER COUNCIL

*Tuesday, January 13, 1:30 p.m.
Fire Station #336
19235 Yucca Loma Road
Information (760) 247-7618*



Free 2011 Green Apple Valley Community Calendars

Free commemorative calendars for 2011 will be available for pick up at Town Hall beginning December 8. The full-color calendar features selections from the Third Annual Art/Photo/Essay contest on each page. Listings of council and commission meetings, special events, Town Hall closures and a two-page

Town Services guide make for a resource you won't want to be without. With a "Green Apple" theme, the calendar also features environmental, civic, and health-related tips and resources. We are grateful to AVCO – A Burrtec Waste Industries Company for their significant contribution toward this project as well as Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company for their support. Calendars are free while supplies last. For a list of contest winners please visit www.GreenAppleValley.org.

Green Activities

Tire Amnesty Day is Saturday, January 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lion's Park. Residents of Apple Valley can turn in tires free of charge. Passenger car and light truck tires without rims are accepted and proof of address must be provided. The event is open to all residents within the Town of Apple Valley. No commercial dealers will be allowed. The event is sponsored by Burrtec Waste. Lion's Park is on South Outer Highway 18, between Flathead and Dale Evans Parkway. Information: www.AVCode.org or call Apple Valley Code Enforcement at (760) 240-7560.



Shred Fest is February 5, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Victor Valley Materials Recovery Facility Recycling Center, 17000 Abbey Lane in Victorville. Free shredding services will be available on-site for High Desert residents. Limit four boxes. At the MRF you can also redeem CRV bottles and cans for cash and drop off old TVs, computers and appliances for free. Information: (760) 955-8615.

Appliance Collection Day is February 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lion's Park. Apple Valley residents may dispose of old appliances at no cost. Stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers and water heaters are examples of accepted items. Residents should be prepared to unload the item from their vehicle. Proof of Apple Valley residency will be required, and items disposed after 3 p.m. will be considered illegal dumping. Information: www.AVCode.org or call Apple Valley Code Enforcement at (760) 240-7560.

Master Composters Training is February 26 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Recreation Center. Information: (760) 240-7000 X 7521.

A Better Way of Life



Winter Wonderland

Train rides, photos with Santa, inflatables, crafts, live music and falling snow highlight this family event on Saturday, December 4 from 2 to 5:30 p.m. at Civic Center Park. Then, stroll next door to the Town Hall Christmas Tree Lighting. Enjoy free holiday refreshments from local businesses and join in Christmas carols with neighbors and friends. The Mayor will flip the switch on our 65-foot tree covered in thousands of shimmering lights promptly at 6 p.m. Ornaments will be given away while supplies last. Information: www.AppleValleyEvents.org or (760) 240-7000 x 7071.

Recreation Events

Apple Valley's Most Talented Kid: Enjoy singing, dancing, amusing acts and old fashioned root beer floats Friday, December 3 from 6 to 9 p.m., for only \$3 admission. Talent participation is free and open to ages 3 to 18; awards are given to the top three performers in each age category. Space is limited and the deadline to sign up is November 24. Information: www.AVRecreation.org or (760) 240-7880.

Santa in the Park: Santa is making the rounds in Apple Valley. Visit with him December 8 and 15 at James Woody Park from 3 – 5 p.m. Visits with Santa are completely free and he'll be listening to wish lists so be sure to bring a camera. Information: www.AVRecreation.org or (760) 240-7880.

Winter Day Camp/Cave: Day Camp and CAVE each include a full schedule of age-appropriate fun and activities for children

in grades K to 4 for Day Camp and 5 to 8 for CAVE. Held during Winter Break from December 20 through 31 at James Woody Community Center, these programs vary in cost from \$45 to \$88 per week based on your child's schedule. Information: www.AVRecreation.org or (760) 240-7880.

Teen Art Festival: Middle school or high school students, enter your work of art in drawing, painting and photography for a show February 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Apple Valley Branch Library. Judges will award first through third in each category for each age group. Each entry also has a chance to win a Best of Show or People's Choice Award. Entry forms may be picked up from the Recreation office or the Library. Deadline is February 16 by 5 p.m. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Apple Valley Library. Contact Alicia Dannelley at (760) 240-7000 X 7891 for more information. 

“Picture Perfect” program for pets

It's like mug shots for pets, only in this case it will help keep them OUT of lock-up! A primary goal of our Animal Services Department is to reunite lost pets with their owners. While licensing and microchipping are critical components in this effort, the Town is expanding our database to include photos of your furry family members. Indexing the photos by breed and other characteristics will give us a better chance of finding the owner, especially if they have lost their collar.

Participation in this free program is optional, but we hope you'll take advantage of this extra insurance against lost pets. Please email a jpg of your pet to AVpetID@applevalley.org. Put AV Pet ID plus the license number in the subject line. Include the owner name, pet's name and breed, street address and dog license number. While cats do not have to be licensed, you can send a photo and have them included in the database as well.



Photos should be clear and well lit, and the file size no larger than 1MB. Information: www.AVAnimals.org or call (760) 240-7000 X 7555. 

Animal Services Events

Adoptions: Having a hard time getting to the shelter to adopt a pet? For your convenience the Town of Apple Valley Animal Services Department has partnered with PetsMart to hold adoptions the second Sunday of every month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These include January 9 and February 13. The prices are the same as at the shelter, \$35 for cats and \$75 for dogs. Come meet your new best friend!

Applebees: To help with medical expenses, special offers and events, the Animal Services Department is scheduled to hold two fundraisers at the Apple Valley Applebee's. There will be a \$10 all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast January 30 from 8 to 10 a.m. and a “Dining to Donate” event February 15 all day. Pick up your tickets or flyers at the shelter.



Vaccine Clinics: Did you know that all dogs four months of age or older residing within the Town of Apple Valley must be vaccinated for rabies and have a current license? This includes small dogs and dogs who are always indoors. Lucky for residents, the Town of Apple Valley Animal Services Department hosts numerous low-cost rabies clinics for dogs residing within town boundaries at the Town of Apple Valley Animal Shelter, 22131 Powhatan Road. Rabies vaccinations are only \$6. Bordetella and Distemper-Parvo vaccinations will be available for an additional fee. Microchips will also be offered for \$20. Clinics are December 11, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; January 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; February 2, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Pet Owner Classes: Other upcoming events include the Pet First Aid Class, January 19 from 3 to 6 p.m. for \$45 and a free Pet ResPAWnsibility class January 26 from 5 to 7 p.m., including the chance to win prizes such as poop scooping service, dog obedience classes and microchips.

Spay Day USA is on February 22. Keeping pets spayed or neutered is vital to our community. Pet overpopulation leads to over-crowding in animal shelters and an increasing numbers of strays; even worse, unwanted pets being put down or left to fend for themselves. To support our mission of healthy, happy pets make a tax deductible donation through the Apple Valley Community Resource Foundation. For more information call (760) 240-7382 or write AVCRF@applevalley.org. 

For more information on Animal Services events visit www.AVAnimals.org or call (760) 240-7000 X 7555.

A Better Way of Life



Town offers 0% interest home repair loan

Does your house have repair needs but you're short on cash? Apple Valley homeowners may qualify for a 30-year deferred, 0% interest loan for up to \$20,000 for eligible repairs. Homeowners must be within Town boundaries and must be low- to moderate-income; for example, a household of two is limited to \$41,600 annual gross income (AGI); a household of four is limited to \$52,000 AGI.

Known as the Residential Rehabilitation Loan Program (RRLP), the program provides money to address health, safety and code violation issues, energy conservation, weatherization, accessibility and deferred maintenance. Eligible items include, but are not limited to: roofing, heating and air conditioning, evaporative coolers, doors and windows, painting, flooring, insulation, plumbing, and electrical work.

There are no required payments during the 30-year term of loan, but the loan becomes due if the property is sold, transferred, no longer the primary residence or refinanced for cash out. The applicant must complete an application packet and provide evidence of income, show responsible credit history, and be current on house payments, property taxes and insurance.

Residents interested in participating in the RRLP loan program may call (760) 240-7000 X 7919 or X 7921 for further information. The program has been very successful and is currently funded for the 2010/2011 program year. A program brochure and additional information may be downloaded from the Town of Apple Valley website at www.AppleValley.org - look under Community, then Housing Programs. ○

New conference center available for rent

From corporate events to weddings, from club luncheons to retirement parties, the Apple Valley Conference Center is the newest venue in town. The 6,000 square-foot facility features built-in audio/visual capabilities, a spacious lobby and a catering kitchen. Up to 300 can be accommodated in dining or lecture style, or the room may be divided in half.

The facility is located adjacent to the new Town of Apple Valley Development Services Building, next to Town Hall, at 14975 Dale Evans Parkway. Information: www.AVRecreation.org or (760) 240-7880. ○



Partnership to result in improved Central Road

The Apple Valley Senior Citizens Club offers trips, classes and bingo, but road work? In an excellent example of a public/private partnership, the club has contributed \$12,000 toward improvements planned on Central Road from Ottawa Road to Lucilla. The widening will include a bus turn-out and acceleration lane in front of the senior center as well as a continuous left turn lane leading to Ottawa Road and restriping to add bike lanes along the stretch. The Town Council awarded the \$184,000 project to Sully-Miller Contracting Co. and work is expected to begin in December. ○

Winter Tips



For your car:

- Please remember to lock your vehicles and do not leave your car unattended.
- Check your vehicle's tires for proper inflation and tread wear.
- Check your antifreeze level to prepare for our occasional icy conditions and snowy days.
- Also allow extra driving time in the morning as there may be black ice due to weather conditions.



In your house:

- To prevent freezing pipes, wrap exposed water lines with fiberglass or foam pipe insulation. Use 10 mil pipe wrap, electrical tape, or duct tape to secure the insulation to the pipe.
- Reduce sprinkler times as lower temperatures mean less evaporation.
- Set watering times to mid-morning and early afternoon to prevent icy roads and sidewalks.
- Adjust your sprinkler heads year-round to prevent overspray.



In your yard:

- Protect any vulnerable outside plants from freezing temperatures by covering them with plastic bags or fabric.
- When there is a threat of frost, cover your plants before sunset, then remove the plastic covers early in the morning to let the warmer daytime air reach the plants.
- Prune trees and bushes in the fall to maintain plant health and to improve the quality of flowers/fruit/foliage, and to restrict unwanted growth.
- Fruit trees and roses are among many plants that need to be pruned on an annual basis.



On your Christmas Tree:

- Check Christmas lights for burned-out bulbs, empty sockets and frayed or damaged connections before installing.
- If using an artificial tree, make sure it is made of safe, fireproof materials.
- Check pre-lighted trees for burned-out bulbs, empty sockets and frayed or damaged connections before installing.
- Always make a 1-inch fresh cut to the base of a fresh tree to allow the tree to drink water.
- Keep fresh trees in water, and water daily.
- Keep trees away from sources of heat, including heater vents and fireplaces.
- Remove and recycle trees quickly.
- Do not burn Christmas trees in fireplaces or wood stoves as they burn too fast and are often explosive.

A Better Way of Life

Cash for Grass program is back

If you haven't heard the radio commercials, seen the ads in your local newspaper or received word in one of your communities' newsletters, MWA's Cash for Grass program resumed in November. Although the high-efficiency toilet and clothes washer rebates continue to be suspended since June 30, 2010 because of budgetary limitations, the turf removal rebate program - Cash for Grass - has \$500,000 available as financial incentive of \$0.50 per square foot for removing your high water using grass and replacing it with desert adaptive landscaping.

The program has been updated to provide a higher level of customer service with responsive staff and a streamlined process to help you complete your water-wise landscape conversion. Between now and March 1, 2011, customers can pick up program applications and turn them into their local water district and receive a pre-inspection to determine eligibility for program participation. To be eligible for the program, your grass must be living and maintained, specifically green - the removal of dead grass, trees and other plant types will not be eligible for a rebate. This allows the most time during the coolest seasons for applicants to convert their grassy landscapes into beautiful, low water using alternatives.



Between February 2008 and September 2010, 3.3 million square feet of turf has been removed and replaced with drought tolerant and desert adaptive landscaping. At this rate it means that 560 acre-feet of water will be saved each year, or enough to provide a year's worth of water to 1,100 High Desert families. One acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons, or enough water to cover a football field one foot deep. For more information, contact your local water provider or call Tamara Alaniz, Water Conservation Program Manager at (760) 946-7038 or by email at: talaniz@mojavewater.org.

Could your Christmas tree use a "Pick-Me-Up?"



The presents are unwrapped and the needles are starting to drop. It's time to give your Christmas tree the retirement it deserves – curbside pick-up! Instead of hauling it to a local drop off point this year, AVCO Disposal will pick up Christmas trees between December 27 and January 9 on your regular trash service day.

There are three simple steps to take:

1. Remove all decorations, tinsel and stands
2. Cut the tree in half
3. Place it curbside on your regular trash service day

The clean trees will be taken to California Bio-Mass for grinding and composting which conserves landfill space and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Please note that flocked trees cannot be composted, so they must be cut in half and placed in the green trash barrel for regular disposal. Seniors and handicapped citizens

do not have to cut their trees in half. Questions may be directed to AVCO Disposal at (760) 245-8607.

Town secures water rights to historic golf course



Clearing the way to close escrow on the historic Apple Valley Country Club, the Town of Apple Valley recently settled with the High Desert Community Foundation to secure the rights to 709 acre-feet of water for a cost of \$750,000. The estimated market value of the water is approximately \$3 million.

The Town assumed management of the course in December 2008 and the 62-year old private course opened to public play. The club interior was refurbished and some long-neglected maintenance issues were addressed. Monthly passes and special rates for residents have resulted in a large increase in play.

The Town has spent approximately \$2 million in operations, including water purchases and legal fees since taking over, and the purchase price to finalize the sale will be settled in the near future.

Overall, the Town estimates taking possession of this community icon after an investment of less than \$5 million.

A critical point of the recent settlement also included securing the reversionary rights, which have stated that should the land cease to operate as a golf course the land would revert back to the grantor of these rights. Now that both the water and reversionary rights are held by the Town of Apple Valley and, soon, title to the land as well, the value of the property is whole again.

The next steps for the Town include closing escrow, then reviewing and prioritizing the recommendations of the Council-appointed task force to determine how to continue to increase revenue and decrease costs. Visit www.applevalleycountryclub.com for the latest program information and news. ○

Course Highlights

Hole-in-one on Hole 17



Bryan Austin of Apple Valley had a hole-in-one at Apple Valley Country Club on September 19. He used a 6-iron on the 17th hole, and the whole thing was witnessed by Kevin Austin. Bryan plays about once a month at AVCC and carries a 12 handicap.

This is his first hole-in-one since he started playing golf 15 years ago. Needless to say, he was quite excited when it happened. Congratulations, Bryan!

Hole of the Quarter: Hole 16

The 16th hole at Apple Valley Country Club is arguably the toughest hole on the course, if not in the entire High Desert. Stretching to 460

yards from the back tees, this hole has out of bounds left, right and beyond the green. It also has a fairway bunker down the right side of the landing area and the green is protected by 3 bunkers, two right and one left. When you finally get your ball on the green, the putting surface is quick and well undulated.

Pro tip:

Hit your tee shot with a little left to right spin, favoring the left side of the fairway and avoiding the fairway bunker on the right. Your approach shot to the green, which is slightly down hill, ideally should end up below the hole since the green slopes pretty good from back to front. However, keep in mind avoiding the two greenside bunkers that are in front of the green waiting to intercept any miss hit shots. In short, if you par this hole, consider yourself fortunate and run to the 17th tee. ○

Save \$5.00 Monday green fees

On green fees (cart included). Coupon must be printed and presented in person. Redeem as many Mondays before expiration between 7:00 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.

Offer Expires: December 31, 2010

Save 50% Monday in restaurant

Buy one lunch entree, get the second at 50% off. Coupon is good for food only. The second meal must be equal or lesser value. Coupon must be printed and presented in person. Redeem as many Mondays before expiration between 11:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. This coupon is not valid with any other discount, promotion or offer.

Offer Expires: December 31, 2010

Please visit our website at www.avcc.com for details on these and other upcoming events:

Valentine's Day Dinner
Mountain Meadows Senior Men's Club Golf Outing
Barstow Kiwanis Golf Outing
Gabrielson Memorial Golf Outing

Relay For Life Golf Outing
Whispering Lakes Golf Outing
Parboilers Golf Outing
Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing

Blood Drives:

LifeStream and the Town of Apple Valley invite all healthy individuals to give the gift of life the first Thursday of every other month including January 6 and March 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Town of Apple Valley Conference Center, 14975 Dale Evans Parkway. For every lifesaving donation, participants receive points as part of the "Gift of Life" Donor Loyalty Program, complimentary cookies and juice and more! For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.LStream.org or call LifeStream at (800) 879-4484. Donating blood takes about an hour, yet gives someone a lifetime.



Holiday Closures:

Town Hall will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays from December 23 through 31, and will reopen Monday, January 3. Additional closures include January 17 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and February 21 for the President's Day holiday.

Eat, drink and be merry

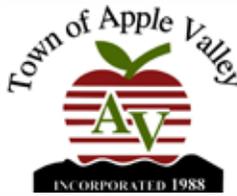
The Apple Valley Country Club restaurant is open to the public for lunch every day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and our full breakfast menu is available Saturday and Sunday from 7 to 11 a.m. Happy Hour drink and appetizer specials are available in the bar from 3 to 6 p.m. every day. Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AVGolf for weekly lunch specials.

We also have banquet rooms still available for your holiday parties; reserve them now! We can provide everything you need to start your holidays right!

Brown is the new green - winter conditions

Cooler temperatures signal the end of the growing season in the High Desert. Visitors to the course will notice the grass turning brown soon. It's not dying, though, just going dormant, as the component that gives grass its green color is stored in the roots until warmer weather rolls around again.

Another condition of cold weather is the frost. Much to the annoyance of golfers, frost delays are a given on some cold winter mornings. However, long-term damage can result if pressure is applied by walking, cart traffic or maintenance operations. Turf is ninety percent water. When low temperatures cause ice crystals it also freezes the cells of the turf. Under pressure, brittle cells inside the turf rupture and the turf plant dies. Once defrosted, damaged areas will turn black and could remain visible for the entire winter.



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TOWN INFORMATION

TOWN COUNCIL

Ginger Coleman
Curt Emick
Scott Nassif
Rick Roelle
Barb Stanton

HOW TO REACH US (All numbers 760)

Emergencies911
Police (business calls)
..... 240-7400
Police dispatch after hours
..... 245-4211
Town dispatch after hours
..... 961-6001
Town Hall 240-7000

DEPARTMENT EXTENSIONS

DIAL (760) 240-7000 PLUS:

Animal Servicesx7555
Building & Safetyx7101
Economic Developmentx7900
Financex7000
Human Resourcesx7600
Planningx7200
Public Informationx7072
Public Worksx7500
Town Clerkx7800
Town Managerx7051
Transitx7522

OTHER TOWN DEPARTMENTS

& SERVICES (dial direct)

Code Enforcement 240-7560
Parks & Recreation 240-7880
Trash (AVCO) 245-8607
Emergency
Preparedness 247-7618

E-mail: applevalley@applevalley.org

Website: www.applevalley.org

Get AV E-News: Just visit our website and click on the link at the top of the homepage. You can sign up for as many or as few subjects as you like.

WS-RT SORT **CR
Postal Customer
Apple Valley

2010 Official Apple Pie of Apple Valley

The 2010 Apple Valley Fall Festival was a day full of old fashioned fun for the whole family, including our second annual contest for the town's Official Apple Pie. Warm congratulations go to Apple Valley resident, Deanna Carlson, for her award winning Crunch Carmel Apple Pie entry!

Filling

½ cup sugar
3 Tablespoon flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon salt
6 cups chunked, peeled apples (Approx. 5 Jonagold or Fuji's work well)
1 recipe crumb toppings (recipe included)
½ cup chopped pecans
¼ cup caramel topping (Smuckers Toppings, Caramel Flavor)

Pie crust

1 ½ cups flour
½ teaspoon of salt
1 egg, beaten, use only ½ of beaten egg
3 tablespoons ice water
1 teaspoon vinegar
¾ cup of shortening

Crumb Topping

1 cup brown sugar, packed
½ cup flour
1/2 cup quick cooking rolled oats (Quaker 1 minute oatmeal)
½ cup butter, cold



Crust: Mix flour, shortening and salt until crumbly. Add beaten egg to water and vinegar and mix with four mixtures. Roll on floured cloth. Place in deep dish 9-10 inch pie plate and trim just beyond rim for decorating later. Makes one large pie shell.

Crumb Topping: Stir together the brown sugar, flour, and oats. Cut in the ½ butter until mixture is coarse. Set aside.

Pie Filling: Pre-cook apples in the microwave just until tender, there is less shrinkage when baked. In large mixing bowl, stir together sugar, flour, cinnamon and salt. Add apple chunks and toss gently until coated. Transfer mixture to pie shell. Sprinkle crumb topping over apple mixture. Cover

edges of the pie with aluminum foil. Back in pre-heated 375 degree oven for 25 minutes. Remove foil and back for another 23-30 minutes without foil. Remove from oven and sprinkle the chopped pecans on pie. Then drizzle the top of the pie with caramel topping. Decorate as desired. Cool on a wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature. (Tastes great served ala mode) ○