

## Animal Care & Control has pets interest at heart

In the Town of Apple Valley a group of caring individuals is looking after the well-being of some special Apple Valley citizens – the four-legged kind. For the philosophy of these employees, look no further than the department name. It isn't just animal control, but Animal Care and Control.

From the customer service staff to the animal control officers to our own certified veterinary technician, each has a deep-rooted love of animals. The goal is to find loving homes for every animal that comes through our doors, and these folks practice what they preach. Among 15 department employees, over 20 animals have found new homes!

Animal Care and Control has four primary functions:

- Enforce the Municipal Code
- Encourage pet adoption
- Educate the public
- Involve the citizens

### Enforce

Animal control officers are in the field, proactively enforcing animal-related municipal codes as well as responding to calls from citizens.

With an average of 493 calls a month, a typical shift might include picking up stray animals, checking on animal welfare, or confirming that a dog is properly licensed. In between, we have the occasional snake that strays too close to civilization, a lost tortoise and even an injured barn owl.

One proactive program is canvassing to insure that dogs are properly licensed. There are 14,381 licensed dogs in the Town of Apple Valley. Our dog licensing program offers a greatly reduced rate for spayed and neutered dogs. The higher license cost for a dog that has not been spayed or neutered includes a voucher to have it done for free.

### Encourage

While we have many animals to adopt, animal ownership should not be taken lightly. At the holidays we often see well-intentioned people give someone a pet as a gift. However the hectic holiday season is not a good time to introduce a new pet into a home. As an alternative, the Apple Valley Animal Shelter offers the "Gift-A-Pet" program. You can purchase a gift certificate good for a dog or cat adoption. The recipient can visit the shelter to pick their perfect match.



Your Animal Care and Control Staff

### Educate

Pet adoption is a long term commitment of time and money. The list of things a pet needs is short, but each is just as important as the other:

- **Clean water**
- **Fresh food**
- **Shelter**
- **Basic medical care**
- **A safe home and yard that your pet can't escape from**
- **Love and affection**

If you add basic obedience training and an owner who never takes them out except on a leash, you'll have one happy and safe addition to your family.

Occasionally a dog's desire to see the world exceeds our best efforts to keep him contained. Your best bet to get him back home is to have him microchipped, another service offered by Animal Care and Control. For \$20 your dog or cat can have a tiny tube implanted under the skin – generally a painless procedure, no worse than a vaccination. The tube is encoded with a number which you register with your name and contact information. Virtually every animal control department and veterinarian nationwide is equipped with a scanner that will immediately identify the pet's owner.

### Involve

Volunteers play an important role at the shelter, including grooming and exercising animals, as well as general shelter and office duties. We also need foster homes. Some animals may not adapt to the shelter environment, but will thrive in a private home while awaiting permanent adoption.

We are also planning to build a new animal shelter. The current shelter is a converted warehouse and was not designed to serve in this capacity. It is also too small to handle the needs of our growing town. Tax deductible donations for the construction of a new shelter can be made through the Apple Valley Community Resource Foundation, the Town's non-profit corporation.

For more information, please visit the town website at [www.applevalley.org](http://www.applevalley.org) or call Animal Care and Control at: 240-7000 x 7555. See page 5 for information on our next low cost rabies clinic.

## 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.  
(Excluding Dec. 25)

**Planning Commission**  
1st and 3rd Wednesday, 6 p.m.

**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

**Equestrian Advisory Committee**  
2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m.

**Historical Advisory Committee**  
3rd Thursday, 2 p.m.  
(No meeting in December)

**Disaster Council**  
January 8, 1:30 p.m.  
Fire Station #336  
19235 Yucca Loma Road

**Household Hazardous Waste**  
1st & 3rd Saturday  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Public Works Yard  
22411 Highway 18  
Information: 240-7000 x7522

## Event Calendar

Call 240-7000 for information.

### December

5 Rabies Clinic  
7 Christmas Family Campfire  
8 Children's Christmas Party  
15 Community Christmas Caroling

### January

5 Tween Time Karaoke  
19 Special Apples Sports Night

## What's happening for the Holidays?



**Winter Youth Basketball:** Learn sportsmanship, basic skills, teamwork and fun! All girls and boys ages 7 - 17 are invited to play in this exciting winter league. Practices (one hour per week) will begin in mid-December. Games are played on Saturdays, January 5 through March 1. Separate leagues for girls and boys will be offered in five age divisions. The fee includes a nine-week season, game shirt, officials, and scorekeepers. Volunteer coaches are needed. Due to limited capacity, we recommend registration before the December 1 deadline. Cost is \$40 per person and games are played between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information call 240-7880.

**Community Christmas Caroling:** Local families are welcome to get into the old-fashioned spirit of Christmas at our 2nd Annual Community Christmas Caroling event. Hot chocolate and refreshments will be served Saturday, December 15 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the James Woody Community Center. Admission is a minimum of one canned good to be donated to local veterans. For information call 240-7880.

**Christmas Family Campfire:** Jack Frost may be nipping at your nose, but you'll be toasty by an open fire, so grab your mittens for a night under the stars with Santa! Enjoy food, stories, campfire songs, hot cocoa, and s'mores! A minimum number of participants is required so sign up by November 30, then join us December 7 at Horsemen's Center from 7 – 10 p.m. for \$5 per person. For more information call 240-7880.

**Rent A Santa:** Reserve the jolly old elf himself and he'll visit your home or party! Santa can deliver your packages or listen to the kiddies' wish list. Santa is busy this time of year so call 240-7880 right away for reservations from December 1-24. Santa has to keep those reindeer fed and the sleigh in shape so it will cost \$40 for the first half hour, \$25 per half hour after and 48.5 cents per mile from Town Hall to your location. For information call 240-7880.



## Citizens On Patrol need YOU!

Do you ever worry about the safety of your neighborhood or the surrounding community? Do you feel helpless to make a difference? *You can change that!*

The Citizens on Patrol are looking for volunteers to help them with patrolling, neighborhood watch, children's fingerprinting, crime prevention and event safety. As a C.O.P. you'll get to meet new people and improve our community. You must be 18 years or older, have a good driving record and proof of U.S. citizenship. Call Trish Hill to sign up today at 240-7428.



## A safer way of life

The Town of Apple Valley is a proud participant in the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program. This program is designed to reduce crime, drugs and gangs at apartment properties. It is a partnership between law enforcement, businesses, owners/managers and tenants of apartments and mobile home communities – all of whom are committed to providing a safer living environment for our community.

The program helps rental property managers and owners deal with potential and current renters who may be involved in criminal activities within the rental property. All tenants and visitors are required to live a crime free lifestyle while on or near the property. Consequences for anyone caught committing an illegal act include immediate termination of the rental agreement and the eviction of tenants, their family members and guests.

Criminals are often transient. They move easily from one apartment community to another. With education and resources, property owners can learn how to keep unwanted illegal activity off of their property. Shira Mathis is a Sheriff Service Specialist and the Crime Free Multi-Housing Coordinator for the Town of Apple Valley Police Department. Her job is to work one-on-one with property owners and managers and ensure that crime is not tolerated in any apartment community. In the next issue of Our Town, learn more about this program and its benefits to the Town of Apple Valley. If you have any questions, or are interested in finding out more about this program, please contact Shira Mathis at 240-7400 x 7457.



## Holiday Lighting Safety Tips

- Make sure staples, tacks, and nails do not pierce or pinch wires. Use plastic zip cords instead.
- Do not use decorative lighting with frayed cords or other damage.
- Do not use lighted candles on trees or decorations.
- Use only lighting and cords approved by the Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Use lights and extension cords designed for outdoor use if placing them outside.
- Use only three strands of lights per electrical cord or outlet. An overload could cause a short circuit and a fire.
- Keep indoor trees well watered so that they won't dry out and become fire hazards.
- Keep lights away from carpeting, furniture, drapes and other combustible materials.

For more info. visit [www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com) and click on "Safety."

## There's a new Sheriff in Town

Captain Bart Belknap didn't want to be a police officer, but his brother did, and he talked Bart into applying for a job, too. Bart says, "It has been an incredible ride. I have no regrets." He worked as a deputy in Apple Valley from 1986 – 89, then returned as a sergeant from 1996 – 1999. He moved to Apple Valley five years ago and lives less than three miles from the station and Town Hall. He was appointed to the post of station captain in September. Bart says, "Because I have 62 very qualified employees and 52 volunteers, this job is actually easy. It's comforting to know that the employees are well trained and perform an exceptional job. I just spent 2 years in the Coroners officer. I enjoy working around people now who answer back when you ask a question.



Bart has been employed by the Sheriff's Department for 23 years and has had 16 assignments but he explains, "I love change so the moves have been healthy. Our agency allows you the opportunity to work the mountains, desert, Colorado River, Rancho Cucamonga, Public Affairs, Narcotics, S.W.A.T. and many other departments." Police services in the Town of Apple Valley are provided by contract with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Former Captain John McMahon has been transferred to the West Valley Detention Center. At the end of November, Lt. Keith Gulla will replace Lt. Greg LaScala as second in command. Keith is a 20 year veteran of the Sheriff's Department, most recently as Lieutenant/Executive Officer of the Court Services Department.

## Be Merry . . . and Green!

Southern California Edison (SCE) reminds customers that an energy-efficient approach is the merriest way to light up the holidays. Customers are also urged to remember the importance of electrical safety when stringing decorative lights and operating holiday devices such as model trains. For holiday lighting efficiency, use a timer to turn holiday lights on and off. Only use energy-efficient holiday lighting products and unplug light strands when you leave home or go to bed.

## 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 26 and January 11 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 245-8607.

## Stories from the sewer

In Apple Valley, approximately 30% of our homes are served by the Town's wastewater collection system, while the rest use septic tanks. We rely on the sewer system to protect the public health and the environment by safely transporting wastewater to the treatment facility. Most are not aware of this 140-mile network of sewer pipes and pumping stations. However without proper inspection and maintenance, the sewer infrastructure would quickly make its presence known through overflows – in homes, businesses, roads and storm drains!

The official name is Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), and they can occur due to many factors such as:

- Peak flows that exceed system capacity
- Blockages caused by tree roots
- Vandalism
- Sewer system age
- Mechanical problems

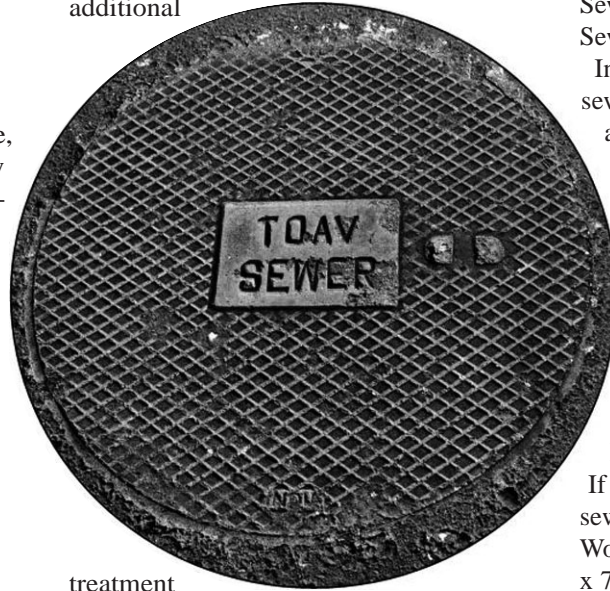
However most SSOs are preventable with proper system maintenance. At the Town of Apple Valley, our Wastewater Division does their part with constant cleaning, maintenance and monitoring of pipes and pump stations. We need citizens to do their part by banishing the FOG!

That's right, FOG, one of the leading causes of sewer system backups and overflows. FOG stands for Fats, Oils and Grease. It doesn't matter how hot the FOG is; when you pour it down the drain it eventually cools down and sticks to the insides of the sewer pipes.

Over time, this will cause backups and overflows in the sewer line coming

from your home as well as the public sewer mainline.

This can lead to contaminated public areas, environmental concerns and other public health hazards. Then once FOG reaches the treatment facility it requires additional



treatment and disposal methods. This costs money, and the customer sees the result through higher sewer fees.

The Town is in the process of developing a written Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP).

In 2006, the State Water Resources Control Board issued General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems, also known as Sanitary Sewer Order 2006-003.

In simple terms, the Order will improve sewer system maintenance and performance standards to reduce sewer overflows throughout the state.

Every sewer agency in California is developing an SSMP to comply.

We began the process earlier this year and will complete it in August 2009. Updates will be posted on the Town's Public Works webpage in the coming months.

So let's work together to banish the FOG and keep the wastewater flowing. If you have any questions on the Town's sewer system, SSMP, or any other Public Works issue, contact us at 240-7000, x 7500.

### Don't be a pain in the drain! Banish the FOG!

- Scrape food scraps into your trash, instead of your garbage disposal.
- Use a sink drain strainer to catch food scraps.
- Never, ever pour paint, stain, or other household chemicals into the sewer.
- Pour excess fat, oil and grease into a coffee can or other suitable container. Store the container in your refrigerator or freezer for disposal with your weekly trash, or bring it to the Town's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

For more information on the proper disposal of household hazardous waste, visit <http://www.applevalley.org/municipal/waste/recycle.htm>.

### Lights, poles, action!

From Little Leaguers to adult rugby players, sports participants in Apple Valley are seeing the light. We're pleased to announce the completion of the ball field lighting project, upgrading three of the Town's fourteen parks with state of the art energy efficient lighting.

With the new remote controlled computer operated system our parks staff will be able to set timers based on scheduled use, saving the expense of sending staff out to each field to turn lights on and off for every event. The project included over 15 acres of energy efficient lighting at three community parks. The work was performed over a 20-month period and enables the Town to add Mendel Park to its list of available nighttime sports and recreation venues. For more information or to book your events please contact the Community Services Department at 240-7880.



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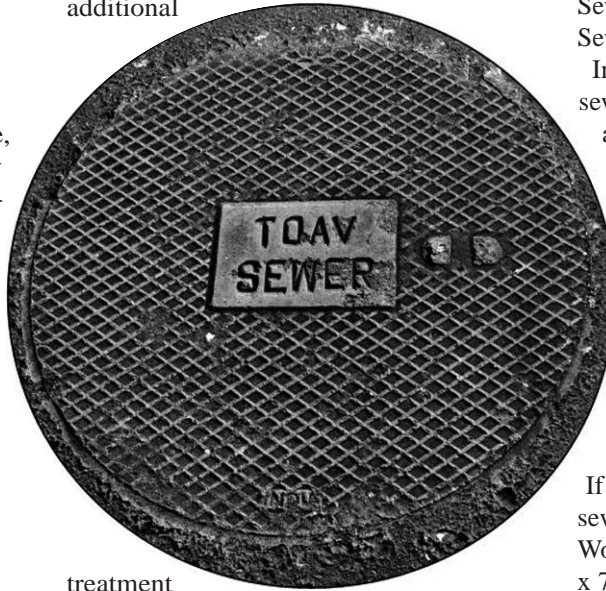
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## Get going and get ready

The recent wildfire storm in Southern California should be a call to all Apple Valley residents to be disaster-ready. After all, disasters DO happen. Unfortunately, most residents are not prepared.

Developing a family disaster preparedness plan can be done in 10 simple steps:

1. "Survival" kit: Put together supplies including water, non-perishable food, sturdy shoes, clothing, sanitary supplies, extra car keys, battery-powered flashlight and radio, etc. Everyone's kit will be different depending on personal needs. Think about what you would need if you didn't have access into your home for a few days.
2. Evacuation route and meeting places: Develop an evacuation route to quickly get out of your home safely. Have a meeting place out front to take a head-count and ensure everyone's safety. A second meeting place should be designated about a mile from home in case you can't get into your neighborhood. This can be the home of a friend or relative, or simply the parking lot at the corner store.
3. Designate an out-of-state contact for communications. If local telephone service is unavailable, you may be able to call your out-of-state contact to relay messages among all family members.
4. Have working smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in your home.
5. Know the location of utilities and when and how to shut them off.
6. Know CPR and first aid.
7. Know the disaster response plans of your workplace, your spouse's workplace and your children's schools.
8. Have accommodations for the elderly, infants and pets. This includes transportation, food and any other special needs.
9. Share your plan with caregivers, sitters, etc.
10. Keep copies of important documents (paper or electronic) in your disaster survival kit. This includes insurance, certificates, financial records, will, household inventory (with photos), etc. Be sure you have adequate property insurance to cover potential losses.

Start planning today! To learn more about the Apple Valley disaster preparedness program, call the Apple Valley Fire District at 247-7618 or log on to [www.applevalleyfd.com](http://www.applevalleyfd.com) or [www.applevalley.org](http://www.applevalley.org).



### Town Information

Rick Roelle, Mayor  
 Tim Jasper, Mayor Pro Tem  
 Peter Allan, Councilmember  
 Scott Nassif, Councilmember  
 Bob Sagona, Councilmember  
 Jim Cox, Interim Town Manager

#### How To Reach Us

**Emergencies**.....911  
 Police (business calls).....240-7400  
 Police Dispatch after hours.....245-4211  
 Town dispatch after hours.....961-6001

**Town Hall**..... 240-7000  
 Department EXTENSIONS – Dial: 240-7000, plus:  
 Animal Control..... x 7555  
 Building & Safety.....x 7101  
 Economic Development.....x 7900  
 Finance.....x 7000  
 Personnel.....x 7600  
 Planning.....x 7200  
 Public Information.....x 7072  
 Public Works.....x 7500  
 Town Clerk.....x 7800  
 Town Manager.....x 7051  
 Transit.....x 7522

**Other Town Departments & Services** (dial direct)  
 Code Enforcement.....240-7560  
 Parks & Recreation..... 240-7880  
 Trash (AVCO)..... 245-8607  
 Emergency Preparedness ..... 247-7618

### Contact Us

E-mail: [applevalley@applevalley.org](mailto:applevalley@applevalley.org)  
 Websites: [www.applevalley.org](http://www.applevalley.org)  
[www.applevalleyprojectfiles.com](http://www.applevalleyprojectfiles.com)

AV E-News: Have news from Apple Valley delivered right to your inbox. Just visit [www.applevalley.org](http://www.applevalley.org) and click on the "Sign Up!" link in the top right corner. You will receive news two to four times a month on council agendas, events, announcements and more.

*Our Town is published bi-monthly by the Public Information Department.* Questions or comments on the newsletter should be directed to Kathie Martin, Public Info. Officer, at 240-7000 x 7072.



**Town of Apple Valley**  
 14955 Dale Evans Pkwy.  
 Apple Valley, CA 92307

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