

01

January
2024

New Year
Community
Update



Bear Valley Community Council

Contact Information

Cheri Lipps
Chair, 345-1378
BearValleyCC@gmail.com

Kaitlyn Jackson
Vice-Chair
Connie Livsey
Secretary
Angie Pinsonneault
Treasurer

Road Issue Contacts

Bear Valley Road LRSA
(King's Way & Above)
William Ennis - 345-5633

Paul Flint – 441-1250

Seat B: Vacant

**Rabbit Creek View/Heights
Road LRSA - (Heights Hill)**
Verne Pomraning, 250-1755
verne@pomraning.org

David Lipps
345-1378
tdlippsalaska@gmail.com
Scott Pexton, 350-5163
srpexton@icloud.com

Grandview beyond the Gate
is a Homeowners Association

MOA Website www.muni.org
APD Non-Emergency
311 or 786-8900

Crime Stoppers 561-7867

MOA-Right of Way 343-8240

Anchorage Animal Control
343-8122 or 343-8119



this issue

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A message for the New Year by Cheri Lipps, BVCC Chair

We've successfully transitioned into yet another new year here in Bear Valley. I wanted to take a moment to thank you, our community members for your participation and support this past year. As a community we have succeeded in a number of ways. By coming together as neighbors we continue to succeed in retaining the long-standing Alaskan approach to local community decision making. We maintain a slightly "out of town" feel to our neighborhood and are holding fast to many natural wonders we are fortunate to see day-to-day, including the incredible wildlife. However, as time continues to pass, we often not so gracefully are adjusting to changing times, changing regulations and growth to our community. I encourage each of you to pause a moment and recall what brought you into Bear Valley and then take another moment to meet your neighbors. Learn what brought them to our community and what their vision is, then share yours as well. I'm willing to bet they are very similar visions. We just might see them as slightly different paths to the same outcomes. Be willing to listen, to share, and to grow.

I would also like to welcome our newest neighbors into Bear Valley. Be sure to take the time to meet your new neighbors too. Learn about the community because let's be honest here folks, when buying that new property or home, you don't always get the whole story, the local nuances and the inside scoop. Please

participate in local events like the block parties, summer clean-up & BBQ, and holiday kid focused fun such as our Halloween Trick or Treat Trailer. I invite each of you and your families to attend the Bear Valley Community Council meetings. After all, this is now your community too. We always appreciate new ideas and support for our existing issues.

Council meetings are held by Zoom during the winter months and in-person as we move into spring. Here is your opportunity to become a new registered member, re-register or just meet the neighbors. Membership is free! We only ask for a \$5.00 annual donation to help support our resources. We have seven Council Officers seats including three Member-at-Large positions, all up for nomination and election each October. Consider joining us! Just join the meeting and we'll show you the way.

For over 22-years you have asked me to hold an officer board seat but the majority as Chair. I appreciate your confidence and ongoing support that I can assist our community. It is an honor.

I also want to acknowledge the many neighbors who have also taken the time over the years to participate and be part of the Council as Officers. You are all sincerely appreciated!

I truly enjoy meeting so many of you, our neighbors, and getting to know your families.

-Cheers to 2024! Cheri

What is BVCC?

The Bear Valley Community Council is a non-profit, voluntary, self-governing association composed of residents, property owners, business owners, and representatives from non-profit associations and other entities located within the council boundaries.

The purpose of this Council is to call forth from Bear Valley residents, participation enabling them to address local issues and to empower them to communicate about and resolve these issues in an efficient, workable, effective manner.

The Bear Valley Council has a policy and practice of open membership, which encourages participation of persons from all segments of the community. The Council has a continuing obligation to remain, in the opinion of the Anchorage Assembly, representative of the residents of the district.

This is where we need you! To continue being recognized as a council we must maintain a voice of the community. To conduct meetings, we are required to have a quorum of seven (7) members present. To effectively pass resolutions we need majority two-thirds votes of present members. Most decisions depend on membership participation.



What Bear Valley Residents need to know about Roads

Limited Road Service Area LRSA

Within the Bear Valley

Community Council boundaries, we have two primary LRSA's. Bear Valley (BVL RSA) which begins where Clark's Road pavement ends and becomes King's Way and above. The other is the Rabbit Creek Heights and Rabbit Creek View (RCVH LRSA) which encompasses these two subdivisions at the point Clark's Road meets the top of Heights Hill and on up to Paine Road via Nickleen and Carl Streets.

These two LRSA's are managed by the Municipality of Anchorage Maintenance and Operations Department, and each have a Service Area Board of Supervisors. These are residents within that LRSA. Board members are elected at the annual municipal general election each April. Board positions are staggered three-year terms. These seats, although elected positions are 100% voluntary.

These LRSA's are funded through our property taxes levied by the Assembly based on the maximum mill levy approved by the voters, and the annual service area budget is adopted by the Assembly. The current mill levy is not the same for BV-LRSA as for RCVH LRSA and budgets vary. Also, each LRSA does not always have the same contractor as the other.

The service area boards have been granted limited powers, authority, and responsibilities to oversee the contractor for road maintenance and repair service within the mill levy chosen by residents. The Municipal Service Area Coordinator serves to assist LRSA boards with their endeavors and guides boards and residents through the electoral and administrative processes. All these powers and duties are set out in the Anchorage Municipal Code.

Currently both LRSA's historically operate far above the existing budgets due to our extreme weather conditions and rustic roads. It is not uncommon for the LRSA's to be given loans by the Assembly to continue with its necessary *minimal* road services like snowplowing, sanding, and general maintenance. There are generally not enough reserve funds to perform often necessary road repairs and more technical road upgrades.

Bear Valley Community residents need to participate in their LRSA meetings and interact with the LRSA Board of Supervisors for your area. This is the only way to stay on top of our road needs.

What residents **do not do** is contact the contractors or their crews directly. If you have

concerns, questions, or service needs; contact a representative on your LRSA Board. These representatives are here to oversee these issues and are the only ones authorized to request or dispute service.

Again, your LRSA Board members are volunteers! Be patient and courteous as they navigate each issue, need, and priority within each area and within the budget.

Significant snow years such as this season it is especially important to be patient for services and be properly prepared for conditions.

If you or someone you know is interested in filing for election to a board seat, please contact the **Municipality Maintenance and Operations Department at 343-8176**

Required qualifications:

- 1.) Registered Voter
- 2.) RESIDENT of the service area; and
- 3.) Not be an employee of the Municipality

No Exceptions: It is illegal and subject to MOA Fines to push, plow, or otherwise move snow from your property in, on, or across the public roadways. It creates safety hazards and additional expenses to everyone.



Neighbors Needing Neighbors

In today's ever-changing world, many of us rely on technology. We have computers, smart (or not so smart) phones, and it's easy to stay in touch with family or friends. But what about those in our community that don't have that technology or perhaps someone they can count on when they need an extra hand.

Before all that technology, it was called a Phone Tree. A community list was made and passed around throughout to those who wanted to participate and be included. This way there

was always someone to call if you needed an extra hand. Perhaps this could be useful for any elders or single parents with young kids or folks with health/mobility concerns who could benefit from a Bear Valley neighborly check-in or offer of assistance in case of earthquake or when the weather gets truly weird. Someone to check in on things if you were out of town or in case of any situation that didn't necessitate a public agency to respond.

This "tree" can consist of telephone, email, and other resources participants are interested in. We could even increase how often we send a newsletter style community update much like this one for those who are unable to attend meetings.

BVCC Member-At-Large: Committee Coordinator, Kori Marchowsky is prepared to facilitate a BV Community Tree for anyone interested in participating. Contact her at: kmarchowsky@gmail.com or 907-406-0506

How Can You Support Bear Valley Community Council?

Be a Member and Participate in monthly meetings. Bring your ideas, concerns, and resources to the table.

Have a suggestion for meeting guests or topics? Reach out during a BVCC meeting or NextDoor app.



Bear Valley Community Council Website

Hosted by the Federation of Community Councils.

www.communitycouncils.org

- Select Bear Valley

Updated information, documents and meeting minutes are available online.

Bear Valley Nextdoor Web or mobile app

Nextdoor is a online network for neighbors to share community events, recommendations, items for sale, crime reports, baby/house/dog sitter and more. BVCC posts meeting notifications and neighbor updates here as well.

Join this free network on your PC or Mobile device at <https://nextdoor.com/join>

Become a BVCC Member

Please make checks payable to **BVCC - Financial Donations**
All donations are tax deductible.

Dues are voluntary and do not affect membership or voting privileges

2023 - 2024 Membership (Oct '23 to Sept '24)

\$5.00 Annual Membership Dues General Donation \$ _____

Do you prefer to receive newsletters and agendas via: Email Postal Mail NextDoor App online

Name(s) _____

Subdivision: _____ Residence Rental

Mailing Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Mail to: Bear Valley Community Council Treasurer
C/O FCC 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., Ste 100, Anchorage, AK 99508