

Reported in Sun City West Independent – Security at Beth Emeth of the West Valley.

Independent Newsmedia reporter Jennifer Jimenez met with Beth Emeth Congregation Co-President Arnold Becker for a story about measures taken to increase security and safety in the Sun City West Jewish house of prayer. Jimenez was told about the audio alarm system, the use of Closed Circuit TV with cameras both inside and outside which record sights and sounds throughout the day.

In addition, Becker explained the use of armed security guards from the Arizona Rangers for religious services as well as for events such as an Open House, Mah Jong Tournament and a game night. It was made clear in the story while the Arizona Rangers organization is paid by Beth Emeth, the Rangers are made up of volunteers.

It was also explained in the story all of the measures taken to increase security and safety are being paid with funds from a federal grant which Beth Emeth applied for. As Becker pointed out to Jimenez, it was through the grant the State of Arizona allowed Beth Emeth to make the changes to improve security.

The increase in attacks on Jewish religious facilities across the country and around the world ever since the October 7th, 2023 terror attack on Israel and the Mideast conflict which has ensued, led to the decision made by Beth Emeth to improve security.

The story written by Jimenez first appeared in the online version of the Sun City West Independent the first week of April and the print version appeared on April 15th. Not all of our congregation lives in Sun City West and my story helps inform you all about when stories about Beth Emeth appear in the Sun City West Independent.

by Gary Cohen, Beth Emeth Board Member

