



Gas pressure regulator

WOODRIDGE PROPANE TANK PRESSURE REGULATOR ALERT

One of our Bass Lake Action Committee neighbors in Woodridge recently reported a potentially dangerous situation to us. Their propane gas hot water heater started giving off propane gas fumes and soot. Their first indication of trouble was the smell of soot and smoke in the garage. They shut off the gas and called a plumber, who diagnosed the problem as their propane gas pressure regulator outside their house being set too low. The plumber found that their gas pressure regulator needed significant adjustment.

Woodridge residents had an original contract with Amerigas whereby the piping and regulator from the propane tank to the house became the property of the homeowner after the original three-year contract was up. After that, the homeowner is responsible for the piping from the tank into the house and the gas pressure regulator.

The propane gas regulator is one of the most important parts of a propane gas system. The purpose of the regulator is to control the flow of gas from the propane tank and provide the proper pressure to the gas appliances in the house.

Regulators have internal moving parts that are subject to wear and tear, and after some time, the regulator needs to be replaced. The industry norm is 15 years before a regulator needs replacement. Although propane regulators may be adjusted, they are not repaired, they are replaced. Call your propane company or a licensed plumber that is familiar with propane gas applications if you think you might have a problem. ~



Site of planned development across from Pleasant Grove Middle School

90 ACRES TO BE DEVELOPED ON GREEN VALLEY ROAD

Last month the Board of Supervisors approved Summerbrook, a cluster-style residential development, on 90 acres of what is now rural land north of Green Valley Road across the road from Pleasant Grove Middle School.

The planned-development project calls for 29 single-family lots on 90 acres off Green Valley Road, about 500 feet west of the Bass Lake Road intersection. Approximately 35 acres will remain as open space, providing a buffer between the homes and most of the neighboring parcels. In exchange for dedicating the 35 acres as open space, the developer will receive a density bonus, amounting to 11 more homes than typically allowed under the zoning.

Though the proposed one- to two-acre lots are large by suburban standards, neighboring property owners argued that such a development is not compatible with the area's rural character.

Owners of adjoining parcels raise horses and livestock, and two share a private shooting range. Residents also complained that

allowing the higher-density development would contribute to traffic congestion on Green Valley Road, a popular route for people traveling to Folsom or south Placer County.

Area residents also expressed concern about the destruction of historical features on the property, including 700 feet of stacked rock wall. Although the developer said the wall would be protected except at locations where it crosses public improvements, residents said they feared a significant portion would be lost.

Conditions imposed on the developer by the county Department of Transportation include improving the existing signalized intersection on Green Valley at the middle school entrance to accommodate the primary access road to the development site as the fourth leg of the signalized intersection; signaling the intersection at Green Valley Road and Deer Valley Road; making improvements to Green Valley Road consistent with the approved improvements plans, which include the intersection widening to provide for right and left turn channelization and acceleration/deceleration lanes; and undertaking to sign and stripe a Class 2 bike lane for a distance along both sides of Green Valley Road. ~

B.O.S. CANDIDATES KNIGHT AND MICHELIN ADDRESS BLAC

Bass Lake Action Committee hosted supervisor candidate for District 1, John Knight, and supervisor candidate for District 2, Rachel Michelin, at the April regular meeting.

After introductions, both Knight and Michelin gave the attendees a background sketch and stated their reasons for running for county supervisor. A lively question and answer period followed the presentations.



John Knight, District 1

Knight earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Economics from California State University Long Beach and continued graduate courses at UCLA. For several decades he worked in asset management for major banks and savings and loan institutions. He currently serves as an elected member of the El Dorado Hills Fire Board and was appointed to the County Planning Commission by Supervisor Rusty Dupray.

Knight has earned the Trainor-Robertson Humanitarian Award in 2002 from the Association of Commercial Real Estate and was awarded Citizen of the Year 2006 by the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce.

As a planning commissioner and commission chairperson, Knight provides oversight and an in-depth understanding of the voter approved General Plan. He believes that the general plan is critically important in addressing legal requirements and for preserving the precious natural resources of El Dorado County.

As a fire board member, Knight championed efforts to reduce costs for a proposed fire fighting training facility. He is currently facilitating discussions to create a new Sheriff's station adjacent to the fire station on Bass Lake Road, which would increase the presence and decrease response times for law enforcement.

Knight also serves as a member of the El Dorado County Habitat for Humanity and as a trustee on the Marshall Medical Foundation. For over a decade, he served as a board member of the American Red Cross, Sacramento Sierra Chapter. He has been a volunteer firefighter, retired lieutenant, member and president for the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce and the El Dorado Hills Rotary.

John has been married to his wife Georgianne for 37 years and both his children, Joy and Cliff, attended Brooks Elementary School and graduated from Oak Ridge High School.

"El Dorado County is a great place to live, but to keep it that way, we need to elect people who have the commitment, and the ability, to reduce traffic congestion, improve public safety, hold the line on taxes and control growth," according to Knight. "My work on the Fire Board and County Planning Commission have given me broad experience and a clear understanding of the problems—and solutions—facing Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills. I will put my experience and commitment to work identifying community needs, and work with the community to solve real problems. I'll make public safety the County's top priority, say no to tax increases, and ensure that growth is controlled with oversight and restraint."



Rachel Michelin, District 2

After receiving her degree in Communications and Political Science, Michelin held multiple positions in public service at a grassroots and statewide level. During much of her career she has worked to positively influence public policy in every position she has held, and to help make government more accessible to constituents.

Currently, Michelin works as the CEO and Executive Director for the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research. This position requires an extensive understanding of public policy and the political landscape of California. In this role she feels her strong leadership abilities and effective

communication techniques have made a difference in encouraging women to become active leaders in their communities.

Michelin is the Chair of the El Dorado County Economic Development Advisory Committee, where her public policy background has been invaluable to the committee. She also has worked as the Member Services Liaison in the California State Legislature, Advertising Marketing Media Supervisor for a Presidential campaign, and held leadership positions with multiple California Legislators. While working in the Legislature, Michelin spent time in the districts visiting schools, hospitals, farms, and businesses to better understand the issues that were facing Californians.

Outside of work, Michelin donates her time to various community organizations. Promoting health and nutrition awareness, Rachel is a member of the American Heart Association, the California Nutrition Network Joint Steering Committee and the California Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Statewide Advisory Committee. She has also donated time to working with the Women's Health Summit Advisory Committee.

Currently Michelin lives with her husband Brett and their daughter Ashley in El Dorado Hills. Michelin looks forward to using the skills she has acquired along the way to serve the people of El Dorado County.

Michelin says, "My family and I moved to this community several years ago because we wanted a better life. Over the years, I have been proud to watch El Dorado County grow. However, my experience tells me that if we continue to sit back and watch it develop without a balanced plan, we will lose the small town feeling we have worked so hard to create. I am running for County Supervisor because I know I am uniquely qualified to lead this community, to develop its full potential and to prepare for the future."

"Because our county is one of the fastest growing counties in the State, major developments in infrastructure will be necessary to keep pace with the demands of the community," she continues. "In order to embrace our growth, without losing our small town communal feel, we need leaders at the county level who will fight for the needs of the community without creating bureaucratic gridlock. As your Supervisor I will have an open door policy to invite all to participate in the planning processes of our community, and I will always lead with the best interests of the voters of my district." ~

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello Everyone,

The other day Fran and I were treated to a tour of the Red Hawk (formerly Foot-hill Oaks) Casino construction site on the Shingle Springs Rancheria. We were hosted by Mike Sproull, Community Relations Representative for the Shingle Springs Rancheria Community Network.

Since construction is ongoing, we were first fitted out with hard hats and safety vests, and were taken to the construction site in a comfortable van.

Though still some months from completion, as we approached the casino building it indeed looked impressive. The steel beams that frame the six-story casino building are now in place, the floors have been poured, and the outside covering is currently being installed.

After touring the outside grounds in the van, we were escorted inside the building to see the ongoing construction and the layout of the casino. When completed, the vast gaming floor will have 2,000 slot machines, and will offer blackjack, poker games, and pai gow.

The future site of the high stakes gaming area was pointed out to us, and we saw where three of the five restaurants will be located, which will range from a gourmet steak house to an informal buffet. We also saw where the bars were going to be.

Still going up is the six-story parking structure adjacent to the casino building. It is made of massive precast concrete sections that required special trucks to transport them to the site, and it will accommodate 3,000 cars.

The casino will employ approximately 1,750 people, including dealers, casino hosts, restaurant staff, and other administrative and support positions.

We asked Mike if they are really going to meet their October opening date. "Right now," he replied with a smile, "We are just saying it will be open sometime this Fall."

John E. Thomson

President



A pair of river otters

RIVER OTTERS SPOTTED IN EL DORADO HILLS WATERWAY

A group of four river otters has set up residence at Cameron Park Lake for a number of weeks, according to a recent report in the Mountain Democrat. As interesting as the otters may be to watch, the otters, which are believed to be a couple and their two kits (as young otters are called) could become territorial if they feel threatened by children being in the lake with them. The Cameron Park Community Services District says it's coordinating with the California Department of Fish and Game to determine how and where to remove the otters.

What is probably less well-known is that a family of otters has reportedly set up house-keeping in the marshy creek area west of Silva Valley Parkway between Serrano Parkway and the freeway. They have also been glimpsed at the lake in front of the Serrano Visitor's Center where one usually sees our flock of resident geese. Speculation is that they came to the area from Carson Creek, to which the marsh is a tributary.

Less known than its cousin the sea otter, the river otter is found in many United States and Canadian waterways. River otters have existed for a long time, and date back to the Pleistocene period.

Physically, river otters are three to four feet long and weigh 15 to 25 pounds. They live up to 25 years in captivity and about 15 years in the wild. Their colorful coats range from nearly black to reddish or grayish brown on their backs. The belly is silvery or grayish brown. The throat and cheeks are silvery to yellowish gray. The velvety thick fur is the most durable North American fur and has been in demand ever since Europeans came to this continent.

River otters are active all year, and are nocturnal, being most active from early

evening through early morning. They are expert swimmers and divers, and can stay underwater for up to two minutes. Unlike muskrats or beavers, the otter barely makes a ripple when swimming, or a splash when diving. Their ears and nose openings have flaps that close and keep the otter watertight underwater. Otters observe much with their noses, mainly by smelling marked territories. When they do talk, it is with chirps, chuckles, grunts, whistles and screams.

Otters have few natural enemies, especially in water. Due mostly to trapping for their fur, river otter have become rare through most of their range. River otters use a variety of habitats, and are sensitive to changes in their surroundings. They frequent lakes and ponds, but usually live in marshes and along wooded rivers and streams, usually living in dens borrowed from beavers, muskrats or woodchucks.

River otters require a large amount of range, which varies considerably depending on the otter's age, gender and food availability. Otters may occupy only a few miles of river at one time, but often move to different places along a stretch of fifty or so miles of the stream.

Otters typically hunt by diving and chasing fish, or by digging in the bottom of ponds and streams. They are carnivores (meat eaters), and also eat crustaceans (shelled animals), amphibians (frogs), reptiles, birds and insects. Underwater they use their keen sense of touch and their sensitive facial whiskers to find and catch their prey. This talent is especially useful in the murky marsh

River otters breed in March and April and their offspring are born in late winter or early spring, about a year later. Litters vary from one to six kits, with litters of two or three being the most common. Mother otters can be quite protective of their young, and will defend them vigorously. Baby otters grow quickly, and can care for themselves in about five or six months. Young otters usually leave home when they are about 12 to 13 months of age, often when a new litter is born.

Leaving open space and marshlands in our community attracts all types of wildlife. It's really something when wild animals such as river otters take up residence. Let's be sure to give them lots of space, and not disturb them, or they may just go away. ~





Traffic jams predicted

I-5 WORK TO START IN SACRAMENTO IN MAY

Work on a section of Interstate 5 as it goes through downtown Sacramento will probably snarl traffic for a couple of months starting around the end of May, according to CalTrans. Contractor C.C. Myers of Rancho Cordova will replace the 38-year-old roadbed on one and a half miles of the freeway between Richards Boulevard on the north and the Capital City Freeway interchange to the south. The repairs are expected to take about 60 days.

The freeway's so-called "boat section," which sits below the level of the Sacramento River, has sprung leaks and will be a focal point of the repairs. The original freeway design called for the roadbed to "float" over a system of pumps and drain pipes under the roadbed to keep it from flooding from seeping Sacramento River water. The drains have since silted up and now the road has become prone to flooding.

Officials said they intend to keep the freeway open into downtown during the project but plan lane and ramp closures. They declined to say if they will close all northbound or southbound lanes at any point.

Initially expected to take 300 days, the work will take a dramatically shorter time than originally expected under a construction plan submitted by the contractor Myers. Caltrans officials decided that the public would probably prefer the shorter two-month disruption, though during those two months Interstate 5 will be partially closed, and the work may tangle traffic downtown and beyond and cause some of the worst traffic jams the Sacramento region has seen. Some 190,000 commuters, commercial truckers and other travelers use I-5 between Richards Boulevard and the Highway 50 junction each day.

The Myers company made headlines after

the 1994 Northridge earthquake when it rebuilt part of the Santa Monica Freeway in seven weeks, half the expected time. The company added to its reputation last year when it rebuilt a section of the MacArthur Maze freeway in Oakland ahead of schedule after it was destroyed in a tanker fire. Myers also teamed with Caltrans on a historic Labor Day weekend closure of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge last year to install a new road section, again beating the deadline.

Caltrans officials recently placed signboards on freeways warning commuters about the project and are devising detour routes they hope long-distance drivers will use instead of coming through the construction area. The main detour for through traffic on I-5 involves using other freeways through Yolo County north and south of downtown. Traffic projections indicate the project will cause traffic slowdowns on almost every freeway entering the metropolitan area, as well as on city streets.

Drivers are advised to take alternate routes and avoid the downtown Sacramento area for the duration of the freeway construction period. ~

OAK KNOLL PARK NEWS

Neighborhood Meeting

Bass Lake Action Committee and the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) are planning to co-sponsor a neighborhood meeting in the Oak Knoll Park clubhouse sometime this summer to discuss the future of Oak Knoll Park.

The CSD wants to formulate a park master plan for Oak Knoll Park.

Summer Program

The CSD has announced that a recreational swimming program will be offered this summer at the park. The pool will be open

on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, June 7 through August 17, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$2 per person (children under 12 months free). Children 9 years and under must be accompanied by a paying adult, and children 6 years and under must be closely supervised by an adult at all times. See the CSD's latest Recreational Guide.

Oak Knoll Pool and Clubhouse are also available for events. Call the CSD at 916-614-3217 for rental information. ~

MAY BLAC MEETING WILL FEATURE B.O.S. CANDIDATES

The next meeting of Bass Lake Action Committee will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 5 at the home of Hal and Barbara Erpenbeck, 9045 Orchid Shade Drive, in Woodridge.

Guest speakers will be Board of Supervisor District 1 candidate Shiva Frenzen and District 2 candidate Sam Teresi.

For more information call Kathy Prevost at 530-677-6836. ~

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