



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. VIII No. 9

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

September 2010

www.basslakeaction.org


Road crew paving Bass Lake Road near Madera Way

BASS LAKE ROAD REPAIRS COMPLETED

Worst portions fixed

The county Department of Transportation (DOT) recently completed repaving several sections of Bass Lake Road that were in the poorest condition. The repairs were concentrated in the old two-lane portions, which are the oldest. The road was also completely restriped for better visibility this coming winter.

Kathy Prevost, Bass Lake Action Vice President and Political Affairs Officer, expressed thanks that DOT was able to fix the road to the extent possible, as county finances and money to fix roads in the county is limited. "Many thanks to our supervisors, John Knight and Ray Nutting, and county DOT, for responding to our requests for needed repairs on the road," said Prevost.

The county has been deferring work on Bass Lake Road in hopes that developer money collected through Traffic Impact Mitigation fees would finance the rebuilding of the remaining two-lane sections of the road. Those sections must be totally rebuilt, since the roadbed itself, dating back to the 1860s, has never been brought up to modern standards. Hopes that the southern portion of the road would be rebuilt and improved by the Pulte Company were dashed when the housing boom collapsed in 2008.

Parker Development will be responsible for improving the intersection of Bass Lake

Road and Serrano Parkway when the proposed shopping center is built on the southern corners of the intersection. Those improvements will include putting traffic signals and turn lanes at the intersection. Housing developments in Villages J will pay for improving the road northward from the intersection to circle around Bass Lake.

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) estimates that local governments in the Sacramento region should spend an estimated \$350 million annually to keep all streets and roads in a good state of repair. Only \$250 million is currently spent per year to maintain, repair, rehabilitate and reconstruct the region's 10,000 miles of local roads, streets, bridges and sidewalks. Thus, cities and counties are deferring about \$100 million, or 30 percent, of critical road maintenance, according to SACOG.

Road maintenance is a local funding responsibility. The only available funds are the local share of the gas tax, sales taxes and local general funds. State or federal transportation funds are reserved for capital improvements or major rehabilitation, and cannot be used for general road maintenance. Preventive maintenance is key to controlling long-term costs. It costs less in the long run to have good roads than bad roads—if you keep up with preventive maintenance continuously. This region is not doing that.

Deferred maintenance drives up long-term costs by shortening the cycle for rehabilitation, which often leads to pavement failure and eventually complete reconstruction at ten times the cost. Heavy-truck traffic and wet weather comprise the two most critical factors in pavement deterioration. In simple terms, one fully loaded 80,000-pound truck causes as much pavement wear as 10,000 automobiles. Since 1990, heavy-truck travel has grown at a 50 percent greater rate than

automobile travel. Many local agencies have identified wear and tear damage from heavy trucks on arterial streets as a rising factor in poor pavement condition. In Sacramento, trucks commonly use arterial roads due to the lack of cross-suburban freeways.

Given funding shortfalls, local agencies do a creditable job of keeping roads functional, says SACOG. Still, deferred maintenance continues to be the Achilles' heel of the whole system, forcing costlier future repairs. The real damage of deferred maintenance is elusive, as local agencies report it in different ways and the damage occurs out of sight beneath the surface pavement. It affects jurisdictions unevenly, depending on such factors as age and design of roads and truck traffic. ~



EDH ROAD WIDENINGS HINGE ON STATE FUNDING

The county Department of Transportation (DOT) is soliciting bids for the widening and improvement of two stretches of roadway in El Dorado Hills. However, the county's ability to award the contracts will depend on whether the state funds their half of the costs in the new state budget.

The first project involves widening Silva Valley Parkway to four lanes for a mile south of Entrada Drive, which would include the section of road in front of Oak Meadow Elementary School. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1.5 million

The other project would widen White Rock Road to four lanes from Post Street eastward about three-eighths of a mile and

(continued on page 2)

ROAD WIDENING *(continued)*

install signals at the intersection of While Rock Road and Windfield Way to improve access in and out of the El Dorado Hills Business Park. This project is estimated to cost around \$1 million in total.

The county's one-half share of the projects would be paid for out of the county's Traffic Impact Mitigation Fund, which is paid into by developers and may be used only for road improvements.

Any further widening of Silva Valley will most likely be deferred until the new Silva Valley interchange over Highway 50 is built east of the present Highway 50 underpass, some years in the future. Funding is uncertain for the proposed interchange. DOT documents show the project being completed in 2014 at a cost of \$60 million. Until then motorists will continue to use the present two-lane Highway 50 underpass. ~



EARLY FORECAST FOR THIS WINTER

Weather forecaster AccuWeather.com has released their initial forecast for this winter. The company provides local fore-

casts for everywhere in the United States and serves paying customers in media, business, government and institutions.

The forecast divides the nation into four general weather regions.

AccuWeather.com is predicting that the worst of winter's cold and snow will be from the Pacific Northwest into the

northern Plains and western Great Lakes. Other cities predicted to receive above-normal winter snowfall include Chicago, Omaha, Minneapolis, Detroit, Cleveland, Seattle and Portland. El Dorado County is included in the southern part of the Pacific Northwest region (see map).

The worst of the winter -- in terms of precipitation and cold -- is expected from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Plains, while Southern California and the Desert Southwest will be drier than normal. Last season, the Pacific Northwest had less rain and mountain snow than normal, along with warmer-than-normal temperatures, while Southern California and the Desert Southwest had an abundance of rain.

The Deep South is expected to be warmer and drier during the 2010-2011 winter, a marked change from the frequent bouts of snow and cold that occurred last season.

The main weather story of last winter was the record-breaking snow in the mid-Atlantic, and while the amount of snow is not expected to be epic, this region is forecast to be in the battleground of winter weather. ~



Work proceeds on the new HOV lanes east of Bass Lake Road

HIGHWAY 50 HOV LANES EXTENSION BEGUN

The work to extend the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes now being constructed on Highway 50 between El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Bass Lake Road to a point past Bass Lake Road is off to a good start. Work on the new lanes in the center divider, and the widening of the Bass Lake overpass, have begun.

The extension of the HOV lanes past Bass Lake Road is pursuant to an agreement concluded among El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT), CalTrans, and the contractor to increase the scope of the current phase of the project. Ultimately the project will have several phases, and the HOV lanes will go all the way to Greenstone

Road.

The agreement provides for widening the Bass Lake overpass and extending the eastbound HOV lanes past Bass Lake Road. Doing so will allow the eastbound truck lane to continue to merge at the top of Bass Lake grade and the HOV lane to end a mile or two later, avoiding a top-of-the-grade bottleneck at Bass Lake Road that would otherwise result.

The agreement allows the contractor more money, but not more time, to extend the HOV lane. All of the work is expected to be completed by the end of this year, the same time the original work on the current phase was to have been completed. ~

BLAC MEETINGS SET FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

The October regular meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee will be held on October 4, 2010, at 7:00 PM at the home of Dee and Denny Olberding, 4068 Kirkwood Drive, Woodridge, El Dorado Hills 95762, (530) 677-8739. The guest speaker that evening will be John D'Agostini, candidate for El Dorado County Sheriff.

The November meeting will be held on November 1, 2010. The guest speaker that evening will be Sue Farris, District Manager, El Dorado Disposal.

For further information, please contact Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

The weather, which always can be a topic of conversation, has been on everyone's lips more than ever this summer. Starting with a late and wet spring, and developing into a mild summer, this year's weather will no doubt be talked about for years.

Of course, most people are happy that we had a mild summer, but for crops like wine grapes, the unusual weather could be disastrous. For example, by this time last year, Fran and I had harvested and crushed our zinfandel grapes and the wine was in the fermentor, well on its way to being wine. This year we will probably be harvesting in mid-October.

Wine grapes need to have a certain amount of what are called "degree days" during the summer to ensure that they fully ripen. This is because grapes should be ripe enough to have a high sugar content balanced with acids at harvest. The sugar converts to alcohol in the fermenting process, and the acid gives the wine flavors. Of course, one may add sugar and acid if grapes are picked when they are not quite ripe, but the wine never seems to turn out the same as if you started out with fully ripe grapes.

Of course, this summer is also one which should develop our patience. Fran and I have a tendency to be impatient and pick too early, when waiting another week would have been better. Herein lies the beauty of wine: At a time when we don't have to wait for much, the wine harvest makes us hold our breath, sit tight and do just that (and, in the case of current weather patterns, pull out our woolen hats and sweaters and go with the flow).

Sincerely,

John E. Thomson

President



"Vote for me!"

CSD CANDIDATES NIGHT AT FOUR SEASONS ON OCTOBER 11

Bass Lake Action Committee and Four Seasons Civic League will co-host a Candidates' Night for those running for seats on the El Dorado Hills Community Services District Board in November. Civic League Chairman John Raslear is coordinating the event, which will take place at the Four Seasons Lodge on Monday evening, October 11, 2010, and will begin at 6:30 PM.

The formal portion of the program will be followed by coffee and cookies, and an opportunity for attendees to personally meet with the candidates.

Those vying for the open board positions are incumbents Tony Rogozinski, Billy Vandegrift, and Justin Masters; and challengers Wayne Lowery, Chuck Hammond, and David Keneller.

The Four Seasons Lodge is located in the Four Seasons senior community on White Rock Road south of Latrobe Road. To get to the Lodge, enter off White Rock Road at Four Seasons Drive and continue on Four Seasons Drive until you see the Lodge on your right. The entry gates will be open for the event.

For further information, contact John Raslear at 916-933-2203 or Bass Lake Action Committee Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~



"Do you remember when . . ."

RANKS OF EL DORADO COUNTY ELDERLY GROWING FAST

California is projected to be one of the fastest growing States in the nation in total population. In 1990, California comprised 12 percent of the nation's population and is expected to have 14 percent of the nation's population by 2020 (an increase of 15.7 million people).

In California, the elderly population is expected to grow more than twice as fast as the total population and this growth will vary by region, according to the California Department of Aging. El Dorado County is one of those counties with the fastest-growing population of elderly in the state.

The elderly age group will have an overall increase of 112 percent during the period from 1990 to 2020. More than half the counties will have over a 100 percent increase in this age group. Eleven of these counties will have growth rates of over 150 percent.

In El Dorado County, the number of elderly residents is expected to double by 2020. Only nearby Placer county and Mono County are expected to have a larger increase, with their elderly population more than doubling.

The results of the 2010 census will be of particular interest, since all of El Dorado Hills will be included in the data as a Census Designated Place (CDP). The El Dorado Hills CDP area boundary was realigned for the 2010 census to be the same as the boundary of the El Dorado Hills Fire Department. The data will be able to identify our elderly population in El Dorado Hills, and allow us to plan for our aging population.

The more-elderly counties like El Dorado county are located throughout the central and southern areas of the State. The influence of the 60 and over age group on California is expected to emerge most strongly between 2000 to 2020. ~

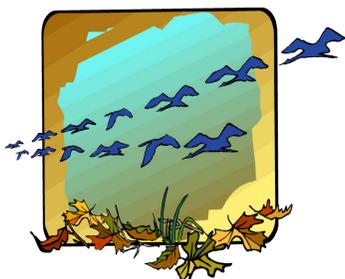


SHERIFF CANDIDATE THERKILDSEN TALKS TO BLAC

Craig Therkildsen, candidate for El Dorado County Sheriff, was the guest speaker at the September Bass Lake Action Committee meeting on Monday, September 13. Craig shared some general information on his background, experience, and hopes for El Dorado County and answered specific questions submitted to President John Thomson by members.

In his opening remarks, Craig explained that he has lived in and around Placerville for most of his life. He has worked for the Sheriff's office for 27 years, although most of his work experience was in Cameron Park and Georgetown. He currently is the Captain in charge of the Placerville and South Lake Tahoe county jails.

In response to a question about what steps he would take as Sheriff to protect the vulnerable elderly population, Craig stated that he sees the Woodridge neighborhood as very, very safe. He said that in El Do-



September

When the goldenrod is yellow,
And leaves are turning brown
—Reluctantly the summer goes
In a cloud of thistledown.

When squirrels are harvesting
And birds in flight appear
—By these autumn signs we know
September days are here.

—Beverly Ashour

rado County violence against the elderly is virtually non-existent. He said that STARZ could assist in educating the elderly, especially related to various scams by email and telephone.

John asked Craig what he would do as Sheriff to prevent gangs from moving into El Dorado County. Craig said that the gangs are already here and they are a tremendous problem. There are special deputies who are assigned to gang-related crimes.

John asked Craig whether the County has a disaster plan for emergencies. Craig said that the two major emergencies in the Sacramento area are likely to be flood and fire. In the Bass Lake area, neither of these emergencies is really a problem.

With regard to the problem of pot growing and drug manufacture in El Dorado County, Craig said that the best way of counteracting the problem is through educating residents and realtors about the warning signs that a home is being used for illegal pot growing.

With regard to the County's current budget crisis, Craig said that the County has found that it's original budget shortfall was overstated by \$5 million due to some contingency funds that had not been counted. Although that somewhat helps the financial situation, Craig feels that, through his years of experience in the department, he is ideally suited to identifying areas where money can be saved. His priority is keeping deputies on the streets, and he knows how to accomplish this by moving the right people to the right jobs and identifying what things are nice to have and what can be done without.

Regarding his policy on granting concealed carry permits, Craig said that he would make sure that personal risk is given the same weight as business reasons. Craig said that he is a "Constitutionalist," supports the Second Amendment, and is pro concealed carry.

Bass Lake Action Committee
501 Kirkwood Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

PROPANE REPORT

Effective September 1, 2010, the Targa San Ramon wholesale price of propane rose to \$1.20 a gallon. The JS West contract delivery charge remains 6 cents per gallon for Woodridge-Bridlewood-Sierra Crossing contract customers, making the current laid-in price \$1.26 per gallon.

With 299 homes now signed up, the mark-up remains 59 cents, making the per-gallon contract delivered price \$1.85 per gallon. The next threshold is 300 or more contract customers, when the markup over the laid-in price will go to 50 cents per gallon. For new contract customers the first fill is currently \$1.65 per gallon.

The benchmark Mont Belvieu, Texas, wholesale cash price for propane on Thursday, September 16, 2010, was \$1.1415 per gallon. One year ago the price was 97.05 cents per gallon.

In September 2009 the Amerigas price for Woodridge residents was \$1.92 per gallon, plus an additional \$9.04 delivery charge billed as fuel and hazmat fees. ~

The Bass Lake Bulletin is published monthly seven to ten days after the regular monthly BLAC meeting, by the Bass Lake Action Committee, El Dorado Hills, California
Copyright © 2010. Permission to reproduce unabridged articles is granted if appropriate attribution is given to the Bass Lake Bulletin

John E. Thomson, Ph.D.
President and Editor
doctorjet@basslakeaction.org
530-677-3039

For additional information
see our website, basslakeaction.org
or contact

Vice President Kathy Prevost
kathyp@basslakeaction.org
530-672-6836
