

BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. XIII No. 11

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

November 2015

www.basslakeaction.org

BASS LAKE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS MOVE FORWARD



Above, the long-awaited improvements to Bass Lake Road began last month when the contractor began grinding the road level, removing an inch or more of old pavement (left). The paving machines followed the grinding operation, applying a new layer of asphalt paving to the roadbed prepared by the grinding process and the application of an adhesive (right). All of the improvements, which include raising the shoulders and adjusting some guard rails, should be completed in the coming weeks.



EDH FIRE, RESCUE FIRE DISCUSS MERGER

A joint meeting of the El Dorado Hills and Rescue fire protection district boards last month gave El Dorado Hills residents a detailed overview of the potential annexation of Rescue Fire Protection District.

It was an informal meeting, with 30 or 40 people in attendance, and mainly attracted those who oppose an annexation, or those who had concerns. Everyone who wished to express their opinion was heard and, at times, interacted with fire board directors who were present as well as other officials. Similar meetings have been held in Rescue.

The panel was led by EDH Fire Chief Dave Roberts, who introduced the discussion and laid out the main issues. The full panel included El Dorado Hills Fire Board
(continued on page 2)



Barber Jon

FAMOUS BARBER JON HAS MOVED

Interesting conversations and great haircuts are never in short supply at Barber Jon's World Famous Barber Shop.

Owner Jon Rivera opened his doors 19 years ago with one chair. Today, he has nine barbers and more friends in the community than could fit in his barber shop, which is also home to the Museum of Curiosities and Oddities — a collection that includes aboriginal shrunken heads, an authentic

jackalope and the remains of a Fiji Mermaid.

After being next to The Purple Place for 20 years, Barber Jon has moved his barbershop and curiosities museum to 881 Embarcadero Drive, next to the El Dorado Saloon in El Dorado Hills. When asked why he moved, Rivera says, "They have updated buildings and better parking there."

Fantastic creatures aside, Rivera said his strong emphasis on customer service and supporting the community — he has donated to numerous charities, causes and events over the years — have made his shop a success.

He also credits God. "I fee like God is the author of my life," Rivera explained. "Everything I have comes from Him." ~

Credit: Julie Samrick, Village Life





PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello All,

This month we will all have much for which to be thankful. As I write this, the gentle rain is filling the earth with gladness, giving our plants the stuff of life, water from the Heavens. Let us hope it keeps up.

Those of us who live along, and drive upon, the northern portion of Bass Lake Road can be thankful for the overlay that has smoothed out the road and hopefully repaired it for some years. How many years is anyone's guess, but I understand that anything but a total rebuilding of the road is but a temporary fix, as the road was built many years ago as a country road and never received the proper subgrade, or foundation.

Last month I inadvertently left out Noelle Mattock in my listing of supervisor candidates. Currently serving on the El Dorado CSD board, after attending Oak Ridge High School, she studied at San Jose State and at Sacramento State. She completed a Masters in Public Policy and Administration. Her public sector experience includes a stint at the California Health and Human Service Agency's legislative unit. "I am running for Supervisor with a clear mission: to make sure the County hears and responds to our concerns, protects our communities, and preserves El Dorado Hills' unique character," says Mattock.

I certainly wish all of the candidates the best of luck in the upcoming primary elections in June. I think we have a field of outstanding folks running, but it's up to the voters in the end.

So have a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy your turkey and stuffing!

Sincerely

John E. Thomson

President

MERGER *(continued)*

Vice President John Hidahl and Directors Jim Hartley, Greg Durante and Doug Hus; Rescue Fire District Vice Chair Ken Humphreys and Directors Anne Walker and Scott Thorne; El Dorado County District 3 Supervisor Brian Veerkamp and District 1 Supervisor Ron Mikulaco (Veerkamp and Mikulaco serve as the El Dorado County Board Fire Committee); El Dorado County Chief Administrative Officer Larry Combs and El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Executive Director José Henriquez (both Veerkamp and Humphreys serve on LAFCO).

Deputy Chief Thomas Keating also participated. Keating became chief of the Rescue Fire Protection District in 2006. In 2013, under a Shared Services Agreement, Roberts became fire chief of both El Dorado Hills and Rescue and Keating became deputy chief of both.

Chief Roberts began by recognizing that change is difficult. Even though they are neighbors, the two districts have different cultures and levels of funding. His presentation relied on the "Fire and Emergency Services Study for the El Dorado LAFCO" dated May 13, 2010 and done by Citygate Associates Inc. The three-volume study is available on edhfire.com.

The considerations fall into two categories: operational and financial. Another way to look at them is individual district vs. systemwide.

Emergency services are rated by speed and weight. Speed is critical to fight fires. Every minute of delay results in the escalation of the fire. If a unit is close, it may be able to respond early and control the fire with one engine. As the minutes tick by, more and more resources are required. Weight refers to the multiple units called in response to significant emergencies. The Citygate study found that fire stations are well located for speed of attack; however, the region has a staffing problem per unit which creates a weight of attack problem. There are often not enough firefighters or volunteers to staff the units.

Ambulance service is the responsibility of El Dorado County. The issues of speed and weight apply to medical responses as well as firefighting.



The history of funding fire districts demonstrates the difficulties of adapting political jurisdictions to changing times. In most areas outside large cities, where fire and ambulance services are part of the municipal government, most fire districts are special districts, like water and schools. The services are paid for by the people served in the district. As costs rise for maintaining and replacing equipment and buildings, and as volunteers are being replaced by professional firefighter/paramedics, small districts are increasingly unable to sustain services.

Prior to Proposition 13, special districts were able to increase assessments to meet their needs. Now each county sets the percentage of property tax revenue for the special districts in their counties. In 1992 the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) was passed statewide to protect school revenues. In order to provide ERAF, the special district revenues from property taxes were reduced by 10 percent. In 1993 the voters passed Proposition 17. The proposition added a ½ cent sales tax to replace revenue lost to ERAF for public safety. El Dorado County directed all Proposition 172 funds to law enforcement. Law enforcement is the responsibility of counties.

Fire district tax rates in El Dorado County are highly variable. Lake Valley, El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park are highest. Rescue is eighth out of 13.

In 2001 the Board of Supervisors redirected \$1.6 million from the general fund to the eight smaller underfunded fire districts, including Rescue. By 2009, with falling property taxes, that funding was discontinued. The loss of Aid to Fire plus the reduction in property tax resulted in a combined revenue loss of 36 percent to the Rescue Fire Protection District.

The fire chiefs and fire board directors from all districts are working with the Board of Supervisors on funding.

Rescue Fire Protection District has cut to the bone. If it loses its ability to serve its residents, neighboring districts have to respond. That affects both speed and weight of response negatively. With the Shared Services Agreement, El Dorado Hills is responsible for Rescue. Roberts added that with wildfires in the West, El Dorado Hills has had strike teams out from the end of June into September.

Former EDH Fire Board member Larry Brilliant said he couldn't support annexation. "The Cameron Park annexation attempt didn't work," he said. "I'm not in favor. At best, it will dilute the service level."

Several people said that if Rescue resi-

(continued on page 3)

FIRE MERGER *(continued)*

dents want fire services they should vote to pay for it.

Rescue director Anne Walker responded that the State Responsibility Area fee that rural residents have to pay for Cal Fire prevention has made it difficult for residents to assume even more financial responsibility.

Other discussions centered around the possible financial and operational impacts on El Dorado Hills Fire, comparisons to the Latrobe annexation and other options, including joining Cal Fire.

Rescue Vice Chair Humphreys said his district had considered every feasible option. Annexation was not Rescue's first choice. The district would prefer to be self-sustaining. Rescue cannot afford Cal Fire and would lose local control. "We don't expect stations like El Dorado Hills. We are rural," Humphreys said. "We have no outstanding debts. We paid cash. We never borrowed from the county." ~

Credit: Roberta Long, Village Life



EID RATE INCREASE UP TO RATEPAYERS

On a split vote the El Dorado Irrigation District Board of Directors approved proposed rate increases over the next five years subject to the outcome of a Proposition 218 process.

At the same time the board approved a two-year operating budget, a proposed revised rate structure for small farm and agricultural properties with a residence and authorized staff to issue a Proposition 218 notice relative to the proposed rate changes.

If uncontested by ratepayers, potable and recycled water rates will both increase by 5 percent in 2016; potable, wastewater and recycled water will each increase by 5 percent in 2017; potable, wastewater and recycled water will each increase by 4 percent in 2018; and potable, wastewater and recycled water will each increase by 3 percent in both 2019 and 2020.

The proposed rate increases for water

and recycled water are expected to cost the average family per month an extra \$2.50 in 2016; \$2.62 in 2017; \$2.20 in 2018; \$1.71 in 2019; and \$1.77 in 2020.

For wastewater, the proposed rate increase will cost the average family per month nothing extra in 2016; but \$3.35 more in 2017; \$2.82 more in 2018; \$2.20 more in 2019; and \$2.26 more in 2020.

Staff said in comparison to other water agencies in the region, EID's water rates are below average. A chart displaying the bi-monthly bills for those agencies ranged from a low of \$68.26 for the Citrus Heights Water District to a high of \$165.22 for Elk Grove with EID on the low-end at \$104, even with the proposed 5 percent increase in 2016.

Sewer bills were similar, with EID on the low end of the scale in comparison to agencies that do tertiary treatment of their wastewater. But EID's rates are higher than agencies that do only secondary treatment.

Director Greg Prada criticized the charts,

saying other water districts may not receive property tax money while EID does and those funds help subsidize rates. Claiming that water rates had increased 94 percent since 2009 while connection charges (FCCs) had only increased 6 percent, Prada motioned to delay any rate changes until the FCCs were reviewed and adjusted. That motion failed with only Director Alan Day supporting it.

Day then made a separate motion to approve the two-year operating budget but to put off action on the rate increases until the FCC charges were updated. His motion also failed with only Day and Prada voting for it. ~

Credit: Dawn Hodson, Mtn. Democrat



FAITH EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTS:

the

Best Christmas

Pageant Ever

The **WORST-BEHAVED** Kids are performing in the Christmas pageant. It's sure to be a **DISASTER** ... or is it?

Friday Dec. 4 & Saturday Dec. 5 @ 7 p.m.

at Faith Episcopal Church, 2200 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park
Proceeds benefit Faith's mission outreach programs

Admission: \$10 adults / \$5 ages 17 and under

Tickets/info: www.faithec.org • tickets@faithec.org



EID IRRIGATION TIMES CHANGE THIS MONTH

The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) has announced that the drought plan for homeowners that irrigate their landscape will change on November 16th.

From this November 16th to next April 15th, once-a-week watering will be allowed on Sundays for customers with addresses ending in even numbers (0, 2, 4, 6, 8), and on Saturdays for customers with addresses ending in odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7, 9). On your scheduled day, you must limit watering to before 10 AM and after 7 PM.

If you have any questions, you may call the EID main office on 2890 Mosquito Road in Placerville at (530) 622-4513 or (916) 965-0930, or visit them on the web at eid.org. ~



Autum Dream, Lana Wynne

November

The wild November comes at last
 Beneath a veil of rain;
 The night winds blow its folds aside,
 Her face is full of pain.
 The latest of her race, she takes
 The Autumn's vacant throne:
 She has but one short moon to live,
 And she must live alone.
 A barren realm of withered fields,
 Bleak woods of fallen leaves,
 The palest morns that ever dawned,
 The dreariest of eves
 It is no wonder that she comes,
 Poor month, with tears of pain:
 For what can one so hopeless do
 But weep, and weep again?
 —Richard Henry Stoddard



EDH CONNECTOR SEGMENT MOVES FORWARD

The Capital SouthEast Connector JPA recently released an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration that analyzes the environmental impacts of the 5.5-mile segment of the expressway that will be built between Prairie City Road south of Folsom and Latrobe Road in El Dorado Hills.

The JPA proposes to reconstruct White Rock Road on a new alignment south of Highway 50 as a four-lane expressway with a center median and adjacent multi-use trail. The project also includes signalized intersections and a realignment of Scott Road to connect with Prairie City Road.

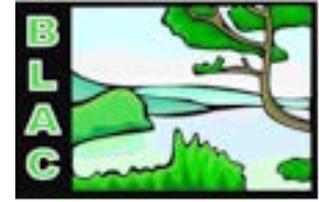
However, some local residents from El Dorado Hills' Four Seasons community, which is right off White Rock Road, have said the project would ruin their peaceful neighborhood and shift Sacramento's congestion to El Dorado County. Others are concerned it will induce more growth.

The documents are available on connectorjpa.net and at the JPA office, 10640 Mather Blvd., Suite 120, Mather. It also can be reviewed at the El Dorado Hills Library, 7455 Silva Valley Parkway.

Adoption of the study by the Connector JPA board is anticipated in early 2016. ~



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



BLAC ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTION COMING IN DECEMBER

The next regular meeting of Bass Lake Action Committee will be BLAC's Annual Membership Meeting, Board Election, and Christmas Party, to be held on Monday, December 7, at 7:00 PM at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court in Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-3039. Remember to save the date.

Invitations will be sent to all BLAC members and invited guests in November.

As always, all BLAC members are cordially invited to attend all meetings. For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

The Bass Lake Bulletin is published monthly by the Bass Lake Action Committee, El Dorado Hills, California.

Copyright © 2015. 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@aol.com
 530-677-3039

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

Vice President Kathy Prevost
blacinfo@aol.com
 530-672-6836
