



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

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SUPES OK GREEN VALLEY CONVENIENCE CENTER OVER SOME OBJECTIONS

Over the objections of a half-dozen residents known as Friends of Green Valley, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors gave the go-ahead on plans for an ARCO am/pm gas station, car wash and convenience mart at its March 22 meeting. The project's official name is Green Valley Convenience Center.

Friends of Green Valley thus lost the latest round in the effort to delay or prevent development on 2.12 acres at Green Valley Road and Sophia Parkway. The project has been on the books for more than four years. First approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2013, the group of local residents challenged and won a writ of mandamus (more commonly: a writ of mandate) against the developer Strauch Companies and the county to force the rescission of its approval and to complete a targeted environmental impact report.

Details of that order (issued Aug. 13, 2014) were published in a Sept. 16, 2014, Mountain Democrat article.

"The peremptory writ of mandamus ... requires the county to complete a focused EIR that includes: traffic impacts; review of the installation of a "pocket lane" and installation of a full deceleration lane eastbound at Sophia Parkway and Green Valley Road," the earlier article noted.

The writ further required that alternatives be considered for the "pocket lane" and deceleration lane and for the intersection with respect to potential impacts to vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists.

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Illustration of the new Silva Valley Interchange showing the location of the on- and off-ramps, and the realignment of some of the adjacent roadways. The multi-million dollar project is scheduled to be finished sometime this summer.

SILVA VALLEY PARKWAY INTERCHANGE PROJECT ON TRACK

Readers will recall that the Silva Valley Parkway Interchange Project is constructing a new overcrossing over U.S. Highway 50, complete with new on and off ramps with signalized intersections, and new bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The contractor is Myers and Sons Construction.

The purpose of the project is to provide an additional access point to U.S. 50 for motorists in El Dorado Hills. The project is expected to decrease congestion on several area roadways and is projected to improve travel times by providing more direct access to U.S. Highway 50 for many area residents and businesses that would otherwise be required to access U.S. Highway 50 from El Dorado Hills Boulevard, Latrobe Road, or Bass Lake Road.

Since last December, the contractor has been busy installing electrical systems and

metal beam guard railing, along with with vegetation control, at various locations for the project.

Motorists may have noticed that work on the slope adjacent to the new westbound auxiliary lane for the new westbound off ramp resumed in the middle of February. Concerns regarding the stability of the existing rock resulted in the decision to cut the hillside back further to the north. Because they ran into extensive rock formations, the contractor had to close the freeway several times this year to accommodate the need for blasting at this location. Depending on the weather, the slope work at this location may be completed by the beginning of May.

Recently the contractor installed a rock drapery system on the cut slope adjacent to the westbound on-ramp auxiliary lane. Rockfall drapery systems are wire mesh panels that are fastened on unstable slopes to prevent rocks and debris from falling onto the roadway. As surface debris on the slope loosens and falls, it is forced to work its way down between the mesh panels of the drapery system and the ground surface until it reaches the base of the slope where it can be removed.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Everyone,

This month I would like to call your attention to an honor recently bestowed upon one of our BLAC members, Hal Erpenbeck. Hal has served as a director of BLAC for many years.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors issued a Proclamation at their March 22 meeting, in recognition for Hal's "Dedicated Service to the Citizens of El Dorado County and El Dorado Hills."

Specifically commended in the Proclamation were Erpenbeck's services to the community—as a veteran, as an officer of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, for helping to co-found the Clarksville Region Historical Society, for helping to launch a local history research program at Oak Ridge High School, for serving as a Member of the Commission on Aging since 2009, for serving as a member of the El Dorado County Grand Jury, for volunteering at the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma as a docent, for leadership on the Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee of El Dorado Hills, for serving as an Alternate Member on the County Charter Review Committee, and for leadership in the expansion of the Senior Day Care center in El Dorado Hills. And this is only a partial list.

The Proclamation concluded by extending the Board's "great gratitude to Mr. Hal Erpenbeck for his dedicated service and inspiring leadership, for the improvement, advancement and enrichment of youth, seniors, the community of El Dorado Hills and all citizens throughout El Dorado County."

Hal is only one of many citizens in our county who serve the needs of many. That's what makes living here in El Dorado Hills so enjoyable.

Sincerely,
John E. Thomson
President

GREEN VALLEY *(continued)*

Other issues for the EIR as required under the California Environmental Quality Act included examination of biological and riparian impacts with regard to a wetlands area reportedly at the proposed construction site.

Staff with the Development Services Division of the Community Development Agency recommended the board adopt two resolutions: first certifying the EIR and its Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program and second approving the Green Valley Convenience Center planned development.

Issues raised during last week's hearing included wetlands, noise and traffic. Development Services Planner Tiffany Schmidt pointed out that the project would not encroach on an intermittent stream and that a 50-foot setback did not apply because there is no "isolated wetland" at the property.

Acoustical consultant Paul Bollard told the board that while the "busy road is noisier during the day," his study results showed that the sounds "all meet the county's requirements for noise." The area does not act as a "reflecting bowl" for noise, he added.

District 2 Supervisor Shiva Frentzen, who eventually voted against the resolutions, asked Bollard if he would buy a home in the neighborhood.

"Yes, based on the objective data and county standards," he replied.

Opposition centered on safety concerns that turning in and out of the station could be hazardous due in part to the speed of traffic primarily on Green Valley Road. Discussions focused on tapered lanes, pocket lanes or other devices to safely enter and exit the center, however Deputy County Counsel Dave Livingston and Planning Division Chief Roger Trout assured supervisors that the EIR concluded that the special lanes or considerations for the project were not necessary or warranted.

Livingston also explained that "slight changes" would not require re-circulation of the EIR.

District 3 Supervisor Brian Veerkamp said that after four years of lost sales tax, it was time to move the project along. Supervisors Veerkamp, Sue Novasel, Michael Ranalli and Ron Mikulaco approved the project. ~

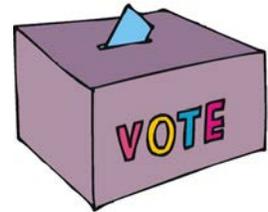
Credit: Chris Daly, Village Life



INTERCHANGE *(continued)*

Over the next few months, the Contractor will also perform additional drainage work to hopefully prevent erosion in future. The paving and permanent striping for the eastbound on-ramp and westbound off-ramp is expected to be complete by early summer. Construction on the project began in November of 2013 and, depending on the weather, the interchange is expected to be completed in the summer of 2016.

Myers and Sons Construction was awarded the contract to build the interchange for their low bid of \$29,715,154. The construction funds were furnished by Developer Advanced Funds, the 2004 General Plan Silva Valley Interchange Set Aside Fund, and State and Local Partnership Program Grants. ~



PRIMARY ELECTION LOOMING IN JUNE

The El Dorado County Elections Department has announced that the following District One Supervisor candidates will be on the June primary election ballot: Alan Day, local business owner; Steve Ferry, real estate businessperson; Beth Gaines, small business owner; John W. Hidahl, El Dorado Hills Fire Board Member; and Noelle Mattock, El Dorado Hills Community Services District Director.

Eleven candidates are vying for the Sixth District State Assembly seat currently held by Assemblymember Beth Gaines, including El Dorado Hill's own El Dorado County District One Supervisor, Ron "Mik" Mikulaco. Both Gaines and Mikulaco are termed out of their respective offices this year.

Also, the last day to register to vote in the June 7 primary election is May 23. To register to vote, you may click here to go to the [Secretary of State's website](#).

Voters are reminded that early voting is available in all elections for those who may not be able to vote on June 7th, Election Day. Early voters may begin to cast their ballots 29 days before the election, beginning on May 9th, 2016.

There are two early voting locations in El Dorado County. Early voters may vote at the

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ELECTION *(continued)*

El Dorado County Elections Department office, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville CA 95667, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., telephone (530) 621-7480, or at the El Dorado County Recorder/Clerk's office in South Lake Tahoe, 3368 Lake Tahoe Blvd. #108, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., telephone (530) 573-3409.

The Elections Department has announced that they have a need for poll workers for both the June and November elections, specifically Spanish-English-speaking bilingual workers on the west slope and Tahoe basin, and Tagalog-English-speaking bilingual workers in the Tahoe basin. If you are interested, contact Barbara at the Elections Department at (530) 621-7471. ~



**Supervisor Ron "Mik" Miculako
RECALL THREAT FAILS**

Four El Dorado County supervisors, including District One Supervisor Ron "Mik" Miculako, escaped potential recall elections as the deadlines to submit valid recall petitions passed uneventfully.

Petitions to recall District 5 Supervisor Sue Novasel and District 3's Brian Veerkamp were due March 29. Petitions for District 1 Supervisor Ron Mikulaco and District 2's Shiva Frentzen were due March 31.

Assistant Registrar of Voters Linda Webster has confirmed that no petitions were turned in.

Veerkamp and Frentzen are running for re-election this year. Mikulaco is running for the state's 6th Assembly District seat currently held by Beth Gaines.

Proponents have until April 12 to file their petition to recall District 4 Supervisor Michael Ranalli, and petitions against Auditor-Controller Joe Harn and District Attorney Vern Pierson come due May 22.

Citing the "tyranny of our elected officials ... who have failed to effectively and

efficiently operate county government," proponents under the title of El Dorado County Total Recall announced their plan to recall all five supervisors last fall. All notices, including those received by Pierson and Harn, contained relatively similar charges and non-specific accusations of corruption, cronyism, political retaliation and malfeasance. Under the provisions of the California Elections Code, the formal recall petitions were required to be much more specific than the notice of intent.

The supervisor notices were served by several different individuals with El Dorado County Total Recall. Former county Information Technologies manager Kelly Webb initiated the Harn and Pierson notices.~

Credit: Chris Daley, Staff Writer, Village Life



**CALIFORNIA SHERIFFS
OPPOSE NEWSOM GUN
CONTROL INITIATIVE**

California sheriffs announced last month that they are opposing Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom's gun-control measure aimed for the fall ballot, arguing it would not prevent criminals from obtaining guns and ammunition via the black market or theft.

Instead, the proposal would place additional restrictions on law-abiding people who want to buy ammunition for recreational use, retain guns and magazines that are currently legal, or pass down historical or family heirlooms, the California State Sheriffs' Association wrote in a letter to Newsom's campaign.

"Effectively, this measure will create a new class of criminals out of those that already comply with common sense practices that now exist," wrote Association President Martin Ryan, Amador County sheriff, and Political Action Committee Chair Gregory J. Ahern, Alameda County sheriff. "The focus of efforts to reduce gun violence in this state should be on those responsible for that violence, not those that have no intent to do harm."

The sheriffs note that they remain supportive of domestic violence restraining orders, existing background checks and waiting periods to purchase firearms.

But their position on the measure could add institutional heft to a coalition led by gun-rights groups. The chief critic to date had been the California Rifle & Pistol Association, whose Coalition for Civil Liberties considers the planned measure the biggest threat to gun rights in California in more than three decades.

Newsom's more than fifteen-thousand-word proposal, which must collect 366,000 signatures to qualify for the November ballot, would require most people to pass background checks to buy ammunition, sales of which must be made through licensed vendors and reported to the Department of Justice.

While California has some of the nation's most restrictive firearms policies, including a 1999 ban on assault weapons, the initiative would expand that prohibition to high-capacity magazines grandfathered in by the law. If it passes, the owners would need to sell them to a licensed dealer, transfer them out of the state or turn them in to law enforcement to be disposed of.

Newsom is working with the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, and their bid is backed by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the mayors of San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose and others. ~

Credit: Christopher Cadelago, Sacramento Bee



**GREEN VALLEY ROAD
BIKE LANE PROJECT**

April 11 Through April 22

El Dorado County Department of Transportation will be installing bike lanes on Green Valley Road between Loch Way and our local Pleasant Grove Middle School, beginning on April 11, 2016, and continuing through April 22, 2016. Loch Way is 2000 feet east of Silva Valley Parkway on Green Valley Road. The construction work will require lane closures with one-way reversing traffic control for which motorists should
(continued on page 4)

BIKE LANES *(continued)*

expect delays.

The closures are necessary to ensure motorist and worker safety while the County's contractor widens the shoulders with hot mix asphalt and installs Class II bike lane striping and bike lane signs.

Traffic control is expected to be in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Portable changeable message signs will be placed at each end of the work zone to keep motorists updated on the schedule for closures.

The county asks that motorists please slow down through the work zone, and you can expect delays during the one-lane only traffic control. Be sure to allow extra time when traveling through the work zone so you may arrive at your destination on time.

For questions regarding this construction, please contact the Transportation main line at (530) 621-5900. ~

OLD EL DORADO HILLS ROAD GETS NEW NAME

The portion of Silva Valley Road that goes under Highway 50 is getting a new name — Clarksville Crossing.



Plant a Garden

If your purse no longer bulges
and you've lost your golden treasure,
If times you think you're lonely
and have hungry grown for pleasure,
Don't sit by your hearth and grumble,
don't let mind and spirit harden.
If it's thrills of joy you wish for
get to work and plant a garden!

If it's drama that you sigh for,
plant a garden and you'll get it
You will know the thrill of battle
fighting foes that will beset it
If you long for entertainment and
for pageantry most glowing,
Plant a garden and this summer spend
your time with green things growing.

— Edgar Guest

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted in March to rename the portion of the current Silva Valley Parkway that is bypassed by the road's new alignment over the interchange bridge Clarksville Crossing.

The area south of the freeway has been known as the historical community of Clarksville, inspiring the new name for the old road. ~

DISPOSE OF OLD DRUGS AND MEDICINES

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and participating local law enforcement agencies, including the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, are coordinating a nationwide drug "take-back" day on Saturday, April 30, 2016. This one-day event will provide residents with no-cost anonymous collection of unwanted and expired medicines.

It's a great time to clean out your medicine cabinet! Protect our kids, families and environment by properly disposing of your unwanted and expired medicines. Medicines in the home are a leading cause of accidental poisoning and flushed or trashed medicines can end up polluting our waters. Rates of prescription drug abuse are alarmingly high—over half of teens abusing medicines get them from a family member or friend, including the home medicine cabinet, and often without their knowledge.

The Sheriff has announced two local collection sites.

In El Dorado Hills, you may drop off unwanted drugs at the Sheriff's Substation at 4354 Town Center Boulevard (near Post Street), from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In Cameron Park, you may drop off unwanted drugs at the Cameron Park Safeway store at 3380 Coach Lane, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ~

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



BLAC SETS MAY 2 BOARD MEETING

The next regular board of directors meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee will be held on May 2, 2016, at 7:00 PM at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court in Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-3039.

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. ~



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