



# BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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April 2020

[www.basslakeaction.org](http://www.basslakeaction.org)

## ALL EL DORADO COUNTY SCHOOL CAMPUSES CLOSED FOR THE YEAR

All 15 El Dorado County school district superintendents signed a joint letter April 1 that confirms schools will operate through distance learning for the remainder of the school year as administrators do their part to attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19.

“While we recognize this extension of school facility closures poses challenges and hardship to many families in El Dorado County, the most effective way to slow and disrupt the transmission of this pandemic is by continuing to implement social distancing practice,” states a press release from the El Dorado County Office of Education. “We are grateful to community members throughout El Dorado County for their tremendous prevention efforts during this unique and challenging time.”

The move follows statements in late March from Gov. Gavin Newsom and state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond declaring they expected schools wouldn’t reopen for in-person classes before summer.

“Due to the current safety concerns and needs for ongoing social distancing it currently appears that our students will not be able to return to school campuses before the end of the school year,” Thurmond said in a statement. “This is in no way to suggest that school is over for the year, but rather we should put all efforts into strengthening our delivery of education through distance learning.”

Oak Ridge High School Principal Aaron Palm sent a message to parents after the announcement was made, thanking everyone for their patience and commending teachers and students for their adjustments to alternative teaching/learning methods.

“Our teachers were up and running in

a matter of days,” Palm wrote. “And after the first week our students, for the most part, have been engaging the learning. I am deeply appreciative of everyone.”

Palm’s letter also addressed some pressing student concerns, especially those of seniors. ORHS has canceled prom, a decision Palm calls “heart-wrenching” in his letter; however, he added, “We are determined to hold some type of graduation ceremony at some point and time. We will be working with different student and parent groups on how to do this. We will likely be putting out a survey to get feedback from our families as well. We will be making one unified decision as a district.”

Local students expressed their sadness over all that is lost due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

“I’m still trying to wrap my head around the fact that the events we have all been waiting for are gone. No more senior prom, senior breakfast, getting your last yearbook signatures, saying goodbye to your favorite teachers, getting to witness every 10 minutes and counting down the days until graduation — all gone,” senior Taylor Baker told Village Life. “I just wish I had one more day to walk around the campus and know it was my last.”

Senior Amanda Foley called the realization that she and classmates can’t go back to campus to finish their senior year “heartbreaking.”

“My classmates have worked so hard and we were looking forward to prom, graduation, signing yearbooks and our senior trip to Disney,” she shared. “It’s just so sad we didn’t get a proper goodbye to Oak Ridge, our friends and our teachers.”

*(continued on page 2)*

## AMBLING IN EL DORADO COUNTY

As luck would have it, I happened upon a Sunset Gold Rush Country guide from 1989 that belonged to my parents that was originally printed in 1957. They loved the Mother Lode country and had made many trips over the years from the later 1950’s when they lived in Alameda. Later they lived in Virginia but that did not deter their return trips and subsequently they retired to Northern California.

Long time residents of El Dorado County are probably aware of the rich history of our area that has evaded many of us who moved here in the last 20 years or so. In particular, I was interested in the history of Shingle Springs since it has an historic marker near the Post Office and the train line went through that area at one time. Shingle Springs was once a center of business and industry for the Sierra Foothills and it has the third oldest Depot in California. With a cluster of cool, clear Springs, this was a natural spot for emigrants traveling along the Carson Emigrant Trail. Like many towns in the California Mother Lode, it grew on the site of a mining camp of gold miners that supported the Gold Rush.

The name came from a horse-drawn shingle machine once located near the Springs at the western edge of the mining camp. It was built by David B. Scott who was so impressed with the area that when his party disbanded, he returned with a group of men in 1850 and built the shingle machine near the Springs.

The shingle machine was operated by horse power and it could produce 16,000 singles a day which was worth about \$800 to \$900 delivered to Sacramento.

The Nevada Silver mines further pushed the need for a trade center. The mining in the area, which began in 1850, only met with varying degrees of success as the -

*(continued on page 2)*

## ALL EL DORADO COUNTY SCHOOL CAMPUSES CLOSED FOR THE YEAR *(con't)*

“This is definitely such a strange experience because I don’t think any of us could have ever imagined that our senior year would be turned upside down,” added student Harleen Bal. “For years, I personally had really looked forward to sharing my last few months of high school with all my family and friends and it’s been shocking not to have that. It’s also difficult having a lack of closure and no proper goodbyes with classmates and teachers, but it makes me really happy to know that our school is working to make sure that we at least have graduation.”

Senior Brent Malde also lamented the loss of experiences and said he will miss all his friends.

“My senior year being cut short has been extremely disappointing to say the least,” he told Village Life. “Closing down the school was the right choice but it is almost surreal we are the unlucky class to experience this and finish high school in front of a computer screen at home.”

*credit: Dylan Svoboda  
Sel Richards  
Village Life*

## FROM RESCUE USD: LUNCH & BREAKFAST AVAILABLE DURING CLOSURE

The Rescue Union School District Nutrition Services Department will provide an opportunity for families to pick up meals for the children in their family during our school closures at three locations.

To ensure the nutritional well-being of our students while at home or under other care, our district will be distributing FREE breakfast and lunch bagged meals every day, Monday-Friday during the school closure, starting Monday, March 16, for any child 18 years of age or younger to take home. No paperwork is required.

This will be a drive up or walk up service, where we will hand you the meals for each child that is in your vehicle, or care.

This is a pickup service only, and no meals will be consumed on site.

## AMBLING IN EL DORADO COUNTY *(con't)*

- canyons and gulches surrounding the camp were fickle. Some were hardly worth working but some were extremely rich and slowly the camp grew and miner’s cabins were scattered around the gullies and creeks.

The advent of the Gold and Silver Mines brought the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad to Shingle Springs from Latrobe in 1865, which was a benefit to the town. It was the destination of choice before the rail extension to Placerville and beyond.

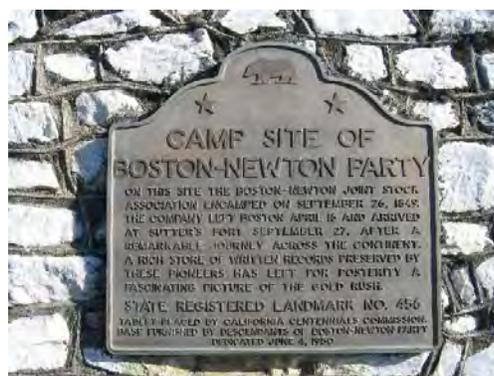
However, in 1867 the Central Pacific Railroad rail traffic was shifted from what was then called Placerville Road to Auburn. Today Shingle Springs has a population of about 4400 people and a federally recognized Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians is headquartered there. ~

*By Kathy Prevost*

*Credit: Shingle Springs Community Center and Sierra Nevada Geotourism*



*Shingle Springs Wells Fargo Building, Stone House  
Image Credit: Shingle Springs Community Center*



*Camp Site of the Boston-Newton Party Historical Marker  
Image Credit: waymarking.com*

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH: BLAC MEMBERS SPOTLIGHTED

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month. The Bass Lake Action Committee is fortunate to have members that volunteer significant time to the Community, as well as many other causes.

The El Dorado Hills Community Services district has been publishing a series of 'spotlight' posts on their social media accounts.

This month, BLAC Members Rowland and Sharon Gaal were spotlighted by the EDH CSD for their efforts to create, develop and implement outreach, programs, and services at the Oak Knoll Clubhouse, - offering After-School Enrichment, yoga, and other free classes designed to bring the community together.

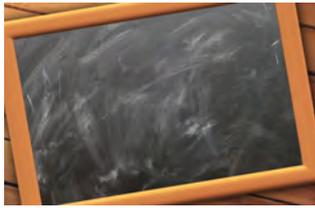
Two years ago, when the Oak Knoll Park Clubhouse roof repairs proved so costly that the EDH CSD was considering tearing down the facility, Rowland stepped into action. Recognizing that the Oak Knoll Park Clubhouse was under utilized, and seeking to find community solutions to increase the facility usage that would justify the roof repairs, Rowland walked the neighborhood - going door to door surveying and seeking ideas to improve usage. Now Rowland and Sharon manage the volunteer activities at the Clubhouse, and along with other community members, conduct many of the activities themselves

Rowland also is a member on the Bass Lake Regional Park working group, and is an EDH PROMISE Foundation board member.



*image credit: El Dorado Hills Community Services District*

The Gaals are residents in The Hills of *(continued on page 3)*



**From The BLAC Board**  
 President's Letter  
 April 2020

In the April 2005 Bass Lake Bulletin, I wrote about the beautiful pink flowers on the arching branches of our then two year old Mt. Fuji cherry trees which were packed with blossoms. Fifteen years later they are older and still beautiful trees gradually opening up to a changing world. They inspire fond memories of another time as we celebrate Spring while sheltering at home.



Spring is celebrated in different ways around the world and we particularly enjoyed the Sakura Matsuri or Cherry Blossom Festival in Japan. We all know about the White House Easter Egg Roll usually held yearly, however, Thailand celebrates Songkran, a national holiday marking their New Year on April 13 every year. Many other countries in Asia also celebrate their New Year celebrations around the same time.

In the U.K. many communities have Easter performances of Morris dancing, a traditional type of folk dance from the Middle Ages. It is thought that the dance drives the spirits of winter away and brings good luck. Egg jarring is another Easter tradition with two players smashing hard-boiled eggs together and whoever has an egg that's still intact is the winner. That sounds like fun!

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**UPDATE:  
 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE  
 REALIGNMENT - BASS  
 LAKE ROAD SIGNALIZED  
 INTERSECTION**

The Bass Lake Action Committee received a status update in mid March regarding the Country Club Drive realignment project, that will Country Club Drive's intersection at Bass Lake Road and US 50, 1700 feet to the north, to a new signalized intersection, with left turn lanes, and right turn pockets.

George Carpenter, Vice President at Winn Communities provided the following status:

*"You recently inquired about the status of the Country Club Drive/Bass Lake Hills re-alignment project. Below is our best estimate of the timing of the various components of the project that remain. This schedule is subject to various factors including the economy (e.g. availability of labor, equipment and materials), the weather, and various government agencies.*

*As you know, the project is currently shut down due to weather. We anticipate starting again on May 1, 2020 with the Bass Lake Road detour and mass grading operation to cut in the new Bass Lake Road alignment. This phase of work, including pavement of the new road, will continue through Aug 15, 2020. Bass Lake Road, with the new signalized intersection at Country Club Drive, would be re-opened to traffic in mid-August. Starting in mid-August, the existing Country Club Drive would be closed and converted to non-vehicular access. The entire project should be complete by October 15, 2020."*

Infrastructure construction projects have been deemed an essential item during the current COVID-19 crisis, and as such, the expectation is the Country Club Drive realignment project would not be interrupted. However, there are many variables that contribute to the project time-line: things like construction supplies and deliveries, as well as the availability of trained construction laborers.

The project, when complete, will provide enhanced circulation and safety items to one of El Dorado County's most substandard intersections. ~

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION  
 MONTH: BLAC MEMBERS  
 SPOTLIGHTED** (con't)

- El Dorado Village.

Also recognized by the EDH CSD this month, BLAC Treasurer Wil Brunet. Wil is a Woodridge resident, and volunteers at both the El Dorado Hills Gilmore Senior Center, and the Oak Knoll Clubhouse, leading the Chess Club - since 2015!

Volunteers in our communities can be found helping with a myriad of causes. Focusing on our youth - things as simple as reading in the classroom with young students starting their academic life, working on school Parent Teacher Organizations, helping out with Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, or Youth Sport Leagues. Volunteers help in the fight against diseases.

Volunteers also help in our faith communities, and look to aid the underserved - working to help hungry families, the homeless, and those attempting to recover from substance abuse.

The Bass Lake Area is very fortunate to have amazing volunteers like Rowland, Sharon, Wil, and many others, working so selflessly, to improve our Bass Lake and El Dorado Hills communities! BLAC is thrilled to support these local volunteers. ~

image credit: El Dorado Hills Community Services District

# GOATS IN THE HILLS

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District began some vegetative management last week in The Hills of El Dorado at the village entrance on Magnolia Hills Drive and Tea Rose Drive, but the tools and techniques used this year haven't been seen here in about a dozen years: goats!



image credit: Meirve Davey

The goats were later moved into the problematic "un-owned" Green Springs Creek Drainage parcel between Watsonia Glen Drive and Tea Rose Drive - which hasn't been touched in 25 years. The goats also spent some time on the hill at at Oak Knoll Park.

On Saturday April 11th, the goats were moved to Bass Lake - where the schedule indicates that they could remain for up to 12 days.

Some other EDH CSD areas getting goat attention soon include Community Park, New York Creek Trail, and the Power line areas over the Ridge to the County line. ~

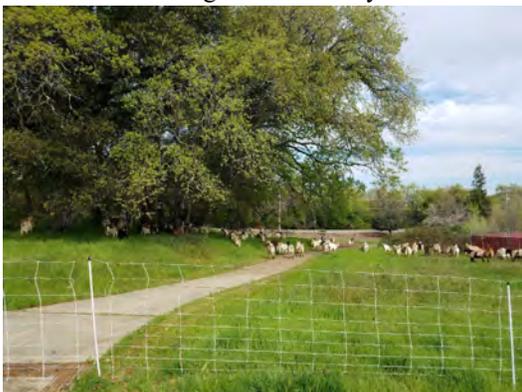


image credit: Meirve Davey

# AND MORE GOATS: IN WOODRIDGE

Woodridge resident, and Woodridge fire prevention work in Woodridge open spaces.

2020 FIRE PREVENTION WORK Begins in APRIL, 2020

The Woodridge Open Space Maintenance Association (WOSMA) manages six open space areas in and around the Woodridge Subdivision. The annual fire prevention work in the open spaces will begin this month. Similar to last year, we are concentrating on the 30 feet adjacent to homeowner's property fences, cutting weeds and brush and trimming trees to provide a "clear zone" of defensible space.

This year we are doing the work in two phases, and with two different methods. In the larger open space areas we will utilize goats to eat their way thru the weeds, brush and lower limbs of trees to provide this defensible space. In the other areas where the terrain is particularly steep or heavily brushy, we will use the hand crews and small equipment you saw last year to provide the clear zone. The goats will begin the week of April 20, weather and schedule permitting and last 5-7 days. The hand work will begin in May, also weather and schedule permitting, and also last 5-7 days. A map is enclosed to identify the open space areas and which method of vegetation management will be utilized.

For the areas that the goats will work, 500-600 goats will be on site and there are some special, temporary rules necessary for the protection of the goats, adjacent homes and residents. Portable Electric Fencing is installed, surrounding the areas that the goats are in. This fence is placed along the homeowner's fence or property line as well as across the ends of the open spaces to keep the goats in and others out. DO NOT TOUCH the electric fencing. Keep kids and dogs away. Trails through the open spaces will be temporarily closed while the goats are there. Trail closures should last no more than 2-3 days.

A goat shepherd and herd/guard dogs will be on site 24/7 with the goats. The shepherd will maintain the electric fencing to assure the goats stay in the assigned areas and the herd dogs will manage the goats.

The goats, shepherd and dogs are very familiar with working in residential neighborhoods such as Woodridge, along adjacent property, and with pets in the area. Please do not feed the goats or dogs.

Once the fire prevention work is complete, full access to the open space areas can resume. Please remember the key rules for use of the open space:

- Let it be natural, passive recreation only
- No motor vehicle use of any kind at any time
- Avoid the wetland areas; do not disturb the wildlife; pick up after your pet
- No trash or yard waste dumping



Phase 1 – GOATS	Rules:	Phase 2 – HAND/EQUIPMENT WORK
Begins week of April 20, 2020	Electric Fence surrounds active goat areas – DO NOT TOUCH!	Begins mid- May, 2020
5-7 days duration	Walking/Bike path through open space – temporarily CLOSED while goats in place	5-7 days duration
Areas: Open Space South, Peach Spruce South, Peach Spruce North	Keep dogs away from goats, fence, or on leash	Areas: Great Heron North, Indigo Court, Lot B North
	Contact on site shepherd with questions	Rules: Machinery & power equipment in use – STAY AWAY!
	Please don't feed the goats or guard dogs	Flying Debris possible
		Keep dogs away from workers, work areas, or on leash

## MODEST SPRING SELLING SEASON

Interestingly, while many Californians who put their houses on the real estate market earlier this year have chosen to take them off and wait for better times, others are putting their houses up for sale and there is a modest spring selling season underway.

In March, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) lobbied for the labeling of the real estate industry as an "essential group that should be allowed to continue fully conducting business" and subsequently the federal government issued revised guide lines doing so. However, the advisory added these were guide lines, not rules, and they would defer to the will of state and local governments.

On March 31st, the California Association of Realtors (CAR) issued a directive that agents should adhere to their local governments orders and that, in general, "showing should be done virtually, if possible".

They also listed "best practices" for entering a house such as disinfecting the lockbox, the doorknob, wearing gloves, etc., as well as guide lines for showing properties. In short, they were as follows:

A single agent and no more than two individuals shall be in a dwelling at the same time during a showing.

Sellers are to be advised that they should not be present within a dwelling at the same time as other individuals.

Any person on the property must agree to adhere strictly to the social distancing guide lines at all times

by remaining at least six feet apart.

Any person entering a property shall provide by declaration that to the best of their knowledge they are not currently ill.

All persons visiting a property will agree to wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer prior to entry and to wear disposable rubber gloves and a protective face mask, if one is made available.

If anyone who enters the property is later diagnosed with Covid - 19, the person who is diagnosed must immediately inform the listing agent who will make the best efforts to inform everyone who enters the property after the person is diagnosed.

Additionally, CAR released a Listing Agreement Coronavirus Addendum or Amendment (RLA-CAA) for sellers and listing agents to sign and a Property Viewing Advisory and Declaration (PEAD) to be given to and signed by the seller, buyer, agents and anyone else who will be entering a property.

Realtors, who are part of one of the state's biggest industries, seem to have mixed reactions with some continuing to show properties and others only showing homes through virtual tours.

Open houses, which are a long time staple for successfully selling homes by many, are no longer an option under the current guide lines.



Sacramento real estate data analyst, Brian Lundquist, reported at the end of March that pending sales were down 42% from two weeks earlier. Also, there were 34% fewer new homes coming on the market for the same period.



Ken Calhoun who writes for the Home Source section of the Mountain Democrat in El Dorado County, mentioned in his April 10th article that 25 % of active listings have been canceled or placed on hold with instructions "do not show" since the statewide shelter-in-place order took effect on March 19th.

The same Home Source publication lists 17 homes that had sold and closed in El Dorado Hills in March 2020 ranging in price from \$461,000 to a \$1,575,000. They also listed 168 residential homes for sale in El Dorado Hills ranging from \$359,900 to \$3,550,000.

Other industries that also bring people close together and are considered to be essential services include Home and Commercial construction, grocery stores and health facilities. ~

By Kathy Prevost



April 2020

*President's Letter - (con't)*

To mark the beginning of Spring on the island of Corfu in Greece, residents take part in the annual "Pot Throwing" which is a tradition that marks the beginning of Spring and is supposed to symbolize the new crops which will be gathered in new pots.

Spring is a time of renewal and while we are encountering very uncertain times, it has been very heartening to see how supportive our community has been of each other. In spite of our current situation, I hope you all have a wonderful spring, stay well and be strong.

"Look for something positive in every day even if some days you have to look a little harder".

Brian Ford

Kathy Prevost  
President, Bass Lake Action  
Committee

## EL DORADO DISPOSAL UPDATE

El Dorado disposal has modified their services because of the shelter-in-place requirement for the residents of El Dorado County.

For the month of April, El Dorado disposal is offering an added service and each household may add one extra bag of trash on their regular pickup day. They do require the trash be securely bagged and placed next to the household trash can.

Also El Dorado disposal must be advised of this extra trash in advance by calling 530-626-4141.

Their material recovery facility is open for regular service hours and all trash pickup routes are running normally.

Their call center is maintaining regular hours and may be contacted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or by email at customerservice4030@wcnx.org.



## BASS LAKE PROPERTY: NO TRESPASSING NO FISHING

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District shared this announcement in their April 6, 2020 emailed newsletter, and in various social media outlets:

### *Private Property Reminder*

***Bass Lake is private property, and is not available for public use. Signs have been taken down, fences have been damaged, and the Sheriff was called over the weekend. Please respect our law enforcement officers, and obey any No Trespassing signs.***

Recently, residents have been observing groups of two to eight individuals inside the Bass Lake fences, as well as fishing, while standing in the water of the Lake.

Bass Lake was owned by the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) for decades. EID sold the Lake Property to the Rescue Union School District (RUSD) in June of 2014. Later, RUSD purchased a campus site on two parcels between Bass Lake Road and Sienna Ridge Road, just south of the Sienna Ridge Shopping Center.

In 2018, the RUSD sold the Bass Lake property to El Dorado Hills Community Services District (EDH CSD). The EDH CSD is planning a 200+ acre regional park .

In the course of several decades, and three ownership groups, the Lake has always been marked as no trespassing, and fishing has always been prohibited to the public.

In the past two weeks, the Bass Lake Action Committee has been contacted multiple times daily about people trespassing at Bass Lake, entering the lake water, and illegally fishing.

The EDH CSD asks that residents report trespassers:

Business hours 916-933-6624

After hours 916-825-6690



***"It's a spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want to — oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"***

***Mark Twain***



## BLAC MAY 2020 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING ON HOLD:

The Scheduled BLAC Board of Directors Business Meeting for May 11, 2020 at 7PM has been put on hold. An alternate meeting date will be published.

Due to the continuing COVID-19 outbreak, El Dorado County has issued a directive to remain at home through the end of April. At press time, there has been some suggestions that this could continue on into mid-May or even through May.

In the event that the May 11th BLAC Quarterly Board Meeting is able to be held as scheduled, it will be at the home of John and Meirve Davey, 3907 Watsonia Glen Drive. BLAC Members will receive an emailed copy of the Agenda. For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice-President John Davey at 530-676-2657, email [basslakemembers@gmail.com](mailto:basslakemembers@gmail.com), or visit our online membership form at <http://basslakeaction.net/members> ~

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*Editor Emeritus John Thomson Ph.D.*

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