

The

# BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. IV No. 6

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community  
[www.basslakeaction.org](http://www.basslakeaction.org)

June 2006



Bass Lake Road and Highway 50 interchange scheduled for signalization and improvement



The point where Silver Springs Parkway will extend from Bass Lake Road north to Green Valley Road

## RUSS NYGAARD OF DOT TO GIVE ROADS UPDATE

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep the residents of Bass Lake informed as to what is going on in our neighborhood, the regular June 5th meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee will feature a one-hour presentation by Russ Nygaard, Deputy Director of Engineering, Foothills Division, El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT).

Russ will be discussing the proposed road improvements along Bass Lake Road, including the Silver Springs Parkway extension through the Silver Springs development, and the improvements planned on Green Valley Road. Also up for discussion are the road work scheduled for Cameron Park Drive, Silva Valley Parkway, El Dorado Hills Boulevard, and US Highway 50. Russ will be bringing updated plans for the areas of interest.

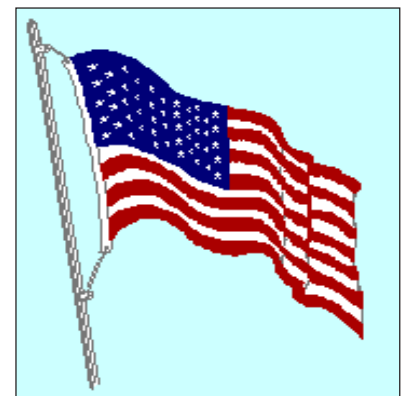
In his position Russ is responsible for establishing and growing the new Foothills Division for the DOT. The Foothills Division office is located in the El Dorado Hills Business Park and handles projects from the

County Line to approximately Cameron Park Drive. The Division's engineering staff manages County Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), as well as Developer Driven CIP. In addition, the Highway 50 Corridor improvements from the County Line to Ponderosa Road are being planned and initiated by this group.

Russ has been with the Department of Transportation for over a year. He was initially hired as a Senior Civil Engineer, was promoted to Supervising Engineer, and recently took on the responsibility for the Foothills Division in January 2006. He worked for private consulting firms in the Sacramento region for fifteen years before coming to the County. His previous positions have been in the areas of department, section, and office management for medium and large engineering corporations. His engineering experience includes design and construction of transportation projects throughout the state, and his field of expertise lies with bridges and structures, inter-

change and highway projects, and project management.

All Bass Lake Action Committee members are invited to attend the meeting, which will be held on June 5 at 7:00 PM at Kathy and Herb Prevost's home, 1080 Jasmine Circle, in Woodridge. Please call Kathy at (530) 672-6836 and let her know you are coming so we can arrange for seating. ~



**FLAG DAY**  
**JUNE 14th**

Artist's concept of planned casino and hotel



## SHINGLE SPRINGS CASINO MOVES FORWARD AS COUNTY'S LEGAL FEES REACH \$2.2 MILLION MARK

Last week the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors lost yet another round in their ongoing fight against the Miwok Indian casino planned for Shingle Springs. So far, legal fees have soaked up more than \$2.2 million of county taxpayers' money.

In the latest action, a court-ordered supplemental environmental impact report prepared by the California Department of Transportation shows that the highway interchange serving the proposed tribal casino would result in levels of smog and dust that meet federal air standards. The current project calls for a casino of 238,500 square feet flanked by a 250-room hotel.

The analysis says that the numerous vehicle trips per year to the Shingle Springs casino and hotel would cause smog ingredients called volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and carbon monoxide (CO).

The report says that the Shingle Springs interchange and casino projects are estimated to generate 2.02 tons per year of volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) and 16 tons per year of nitrogen oxide (NOx). With respect to carbon monoxide (CO), the interchange and the casino project would produce an estimated average of 2.1 parts per million (ppm) over eight hours, according to the report.

VOCs are formed and enter the air when fuels are incompletely burned or can come from decomposing garbage in landfills and solid waste disposal sites. Many household products give off VOCs. Some VOCs also come from natural sources. For example, live pine trees give off VOCs, and forest fires emit VOCs into the atmosphere. Per-year emission of 25 tons or less of VOCs is rated as minimal, and therefore acceptable,

under the Federal Clean Air Act. NOx is produced during combustion, and is believed to aggravate asthmatic conditions and react with the oxygen in the air to produce ozone. NOx emissions of 25 tons or less per year are also considered minimal by the Clean Air Act. For CO, a finding of 9 or fewer ppm average over an eight-hour period meets federal standards.

The Federal Government has established the right of federally recognized tribes to enter into gaming on their lands. Passed by Congress in 1988, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) set the terms for Indian gaming and is widely regarded as the first step toward self-reliance for Native American tribes. California permits gaming on federally recognized Indian reservations pursuant to the provisions of Proposition 1A, which was approved in 2000 by nearly 65% of California voters.

Most of the revenues generated by Indian gaming are designated for tribal government programs, such as educational opportunities, scholarships and health care, improving infrastructure on the reservation by providing basic services to reservation homes, paving roads and installing lighting, cultural preservation and economic diversification. For the Shingle Springs Miwok tribe, Indian gaming is seen as a steppingstone to other economic ventures and a way to bring hope and prosperity to their tribal members.

A public hearing on the supplemental EIR will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7, at the El Dorado Firefighters Memorial Hall, 3734 China Garden Road, Diamond Springs. The report may be read at the Cameron Park Library, 2500 Country Club Drive. ~

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

Our Bass Lake neighborhood is surely changing: some things are for the better, and some things could be better.

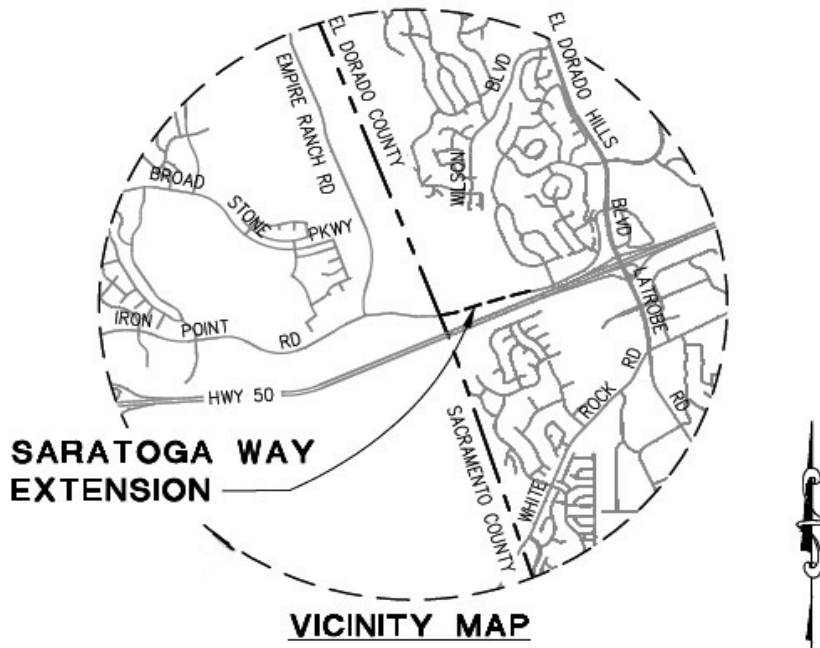
It seems that I can't get around in Folsom because of all the road repairs and paving going on. In El Dorado Hills, I can't seem to get around for all the potholes. The county comes around and throws some cold patch in them, but that's soon gone, and we're back where we started.

I was at a meeting the other day, and happened to ask Tom Celio, the DOT Deputy Director of Road Maintenance, why we couldn't have a load limit put on Bass Lake Road, since it was obvious that the large trucks were tearing up the old part of the road. Tom replied that in order to put a load limit on a substandard road like Bass Lake Road, you have to have a plan in place to eventually upgrade the road. I saw the logic: the county has no plan, therefore there can be no load limit, so the trucks continue to tear up the road! Is that smart planning? On the contrary, that's no planning at all.

I'll leave you with this: with gasoline at \$3.00 a gallon, the gas itself only costs \$2.44. The rest is all tax. For every gallon of gas sold, the folks in Sacramento get 18 cents in state gas tax, the folks in Washington get 18 cents in federal gas tax, and the California sales tax is about twenty cents. That's 56 cents of tax per gallon altogether. Our roads are falling apart. Where's the money going?

*John E. Thomson*  
President





## SARATOGA WAY EXTENSION TO PROCEED

Completion of the long-awaited road link between El Dorado Hills and Folsom at Saratoga Way moved a step closer with the County's May 18, 2006, release of a Notice of Proposal (NOP) to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project.

The project would extend Saratoga Way approximately one-half mile from its existing western dead end in El Dorado Hills to connect with Iron Point Road at the City of Folsom (Sacramento County) border (see the map above). The County may also include an alternative in the EIR that would evaluate the option of extending Wilson Boulevard approximately one half mile from its existing dead end, so as to connect with Saratoga Way. The project would require the County to acquire rights-of-way, and may also require that temporary construction easements be obtained for project access or construction activities within adjacent properties. The project would include provisions for the future extension of utilities within the new road's rights-of-way, and would install drainage structures needed for adequate stormwater runoff.

Environmental impacts anticipated to be addressed in the EIR include land use, geology and soils; air quality; water resources; biological resources; noise; aesthetics; human health and safety; motorized and non-motorized transportation and circulation; public services and utilities; and cultural resources.

DOT is soliciting the views of interested persons and agencies on the scope and con-

tent of the information to be included in the EIR. In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, DOT is soliciting written comments regarding the scope and content of the EIR from interested persons and organizations concerned with the project.

The 30-day NOP review and comment period began May 18, 2006, and will end June 19, 2006. All written comments should be directed to El Dorado County DOT, Attention: Ms. Janet Postlewait, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667. Individuals and organization representatives are invited to speak out at an EIR scoping meeting that will be held on June 8, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Double Classroom located at the east end of the Community Activities Building in the Community Park at 1021 Harvard Way in El Dorado Hills, California. Persons with disabilities that may require special accommodations at the scoping meeting should contact Janet Postlewait at the above address or telephone her at (530) 621-5993.

Following the public input received during the NOP comment period, the County will prepare a Draft EIR which will be made available for public input during a 45-day review period. The County will consider all comments received on the Draft EIR, and will then prepare a Final EIR. The Final EIR will identify any necessary changes to the Draft EIR and provide responses to all comments on the Draft EIR. The Final EIR will then go to the County Board of Supervisors for certification prior to project approval. ~

## A CC&R REMINDER FOR WOODRIDGE AND HILLS OF EL DORADO FOLKS

The Chairman of the Citizen's Volunteer Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R) Compliance Committee has asked us to remind residents of the villages of the Hills of El Dorado and Woodridge that their homes are subject to their respective CC&R documents. The CC&Rs set standards for how homes and yards are to be kept up. They also require that many changes that a homeowner may want to make to the landscaping or the exterior of their home need to be approved in advance by the Design Review Committee (DRC) of the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) to insure that those changes conform to the village's CC&Rs. These changes include, but are not limited to, changing the paint color of your home, the removal of large trees, adding a structure, or changing the type of fence. The DRC approval application forms are available at the CSD, or can be downloaded from the CSD's website at [www.edhcsd.org](http://www.edhcsd.org) by following the link to the DRC page.

During all of the rain this past winter, the Compliance Committee was somewhat lax regarding the enforcement of landscape standards. Now that spring is finally here, the Committee will be looking a little more carefully at landscaping. The CCRs of both villages require that the yards be kept in an attractive and neat manner. Basically that means mown, weeded, watered, fertilized and pruned.

Our villages on the whole are doing fairly well, but there are still violations, which commonly include the following:

First, recreational vehicles, commercial trucks, trailers, and boats may not be stored on the street or seen from the street. There are several boats in the area that are stored behind fences that are in violation because they have their superstructures showing. If those owners would fold the superstructures down so that they could not be seen, they would be in compliance.

Second, the CC&Rs for both villages allow homeowners time to load and unload vehicles in front of the house. This means that one could bring their RV home to be loaded Friday evening and set off for a camping or fishing trip on Saturday morning. Upon returning, time is allowed to unload before the RV is returned to storage.

*(continued next page)*

**CC&Rs** *(continued)*

Third, portable basketball hoops may not be stored on the street or sidewalk when not in use.

Fourth, trash containers must be stored out of sight. After trash collection day they are to be moved off of the street and stored properly. The CC&R volunteers in the Bass Lake villages know the area fairly well, so if you are not home for a couple of days, or your trash container gets left out every once in a while, you will probably not get a letter.

Fifth, operating a business out of your home is perfectly all right as long as it does not produce visible commercial activity around your home. For example, habitually storing or parking commercial vehicles where they can be seen is not acceptable. On the other hand, a home office is not a problem as long as you do not have clients or customers come to your home.

Please remember that the CC&Rs are a contract with your neighbors to observe certain standards. Everyone signed them, and agreed to abide by them, when they bought their home. It is not the intention of CC&Rs to make life difficult for you or your neighbor. They are intended to help preserve the value of all of our homes.

If you have a spare moment sometime, get out your CC&Rs and go over them. They are probably in with your home's closing documents. Knowing what is in them will help you remember what you agreed to do, and may spare you some embarrassment down the road.

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) administers and enforces our CC&Rs. Remember, the CC&Rs are an agreement, a contract, between you and everyone who lives in your village. That means that neither the DRC or the CSD have any power to modify or change the CC&Rs. Only the residents of a village have that power to make changes in their CC&Rs.

If you have a question about the DRC or CC&Rs, call Cindy Diez at the CSD at (916) 933-6624. If you cannot find your CC&Rs, you can get another copy from the CSD for a small charge, or you may be able to download a copy from the CSD website.

Remember that a compliant neighborhood is a beautiful neighborhood. ~

**DINING OUT WITH BLAC**

By La Contessa de Cuisine

Do you have a taste for the exotic? The spicy hot? Chicken? Seafood? Beef? A feast of appetizers or more substantial fare? If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, you'll probably enjoy the Chantara Thai Restaurant in the El Dorado Hills Town Center. Tucked behind Café Campanile, Chantara Thai's modest entrance opens into a bar surrounded by elaborate Thai carvings and wicker chaired tables completing a small dining room. The larger dining room looks out over the Town Center Lake and has one of the nicest views in the shopping center.

The menu is extensive, with appetizers ranging around \$6.50 to \$8.00 per item and meat and seafood-based entrees ranging from \$8.95 to \$11.95. In addition to traditional Thai dishes using lots of curry, lemongrass and coconut milk, other offerings resemble Chinese or Japanese delicacies such as fried rice, egg rolls, shrimp tempura, and fried wontons. The pot stickers and satay chicken or beef melt in the mouth. One could feast on several of the many appetizer-sized plates (as we did), or enjoy more substantial offerings such as Thai cashew chicken, duck curry, or a deep-fried

whole fish in chili sauce. Pork, chicken, beef, or seafood can be had with a wide variety of sauces and toppings. Desserts vary, but on the menu at our visit were fried banana with ice cream and sticky rice with mangos.

The wine list features local wineries, and we enjoyed a delightful Charles B. Mitchell Sauvignon Blanc that was modestly priced. Service was excellent, and we enjoyed the additional treat of the staff playing a traditional Thai instrument called the "Can" that sounds reminiscent of bagpipes. Later we were well entertained by a live jazz combo. We were there on a Friday night, so we can't attest to music being available every evening. This restaurant gets a thumbs-up recommendation from the Le Count et La Contessa De Cuisine.

Chantara Thai Cuisine, 4361 Town Center Blvd., Suite #110, El Dorado Hills, phone 916-939-0389. ~

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**Proposition 59**



Government open to the people