

The

BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

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SERRANO ROAD PROJECTS PROCEED

Serrano's Parker Development has advertised for construction bids for the work to complete the intersection of the realigned Bass Lake Road and Serrano Parkway. Work on the intersection is expected to begin this fall and may be completed in about a year. County DOT plans for the intersection call for a traffic signal to be installed as part of the project. Parker is paying for the improvements under a development agreement with the county and may be eventually reimbursed when other Bass Lake Hills developers pay infrastructure development fees to the county.

Work on the extension of Silva Valley Parkway south under Highway 50 to connect with White Rock Road and the El Dorado Hills Town Center shopping area is proceeding briskly, and is expected to be completed by the spring of 2005. The project is expected to cost about \$3 million to complete. County Department of Transportation plans call for a new freeway interchange to be built at Silva Valley eventually.

When the two projects are completed, Bass Lake residents will have easy access to the shopping and commercial areas around El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Highway 50 without having to use the freeway. At the same time, traffic on Bass Lake Road is expected to increase rapidly as Serrano residents use the road to access both Green Valley Road and Highway 50 via the Serrano Parkway extension.

Proponents say that extending Silva Valley Parkway and Serrano Parkway will make it easier for drivers to get around town. However, BLAC president Kathy Prevost remains cautious. "All these improvements will be of no use unless Bass Lake Road is improved," she says. "Funnelling increased traffic onto an unimproved Bass Lake Road is a

recipe for disaster." BLAC is on record with the county Department of Transportation and Supervisor Rusty Dupray in recommending that Bass Lake Road be substantially improved before the road is burdened by any additional traffic. ✍



WHITE PELICANS RETURN TO BASS LAKE

The white pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) have returned to Bass Lake.

Spotted last year by some of our more observant members, this huge bird can reach heights of 55-70 inches. It is distinctively white with a long, flat, bright orange bill, and black tipped wings. Breeding pelicans are found from British Columbia south to northern California.

Wintering grounds are from central California, the Gulf Coast, and Florida south to Panama. They prefer shallow lakes to coastal lagoons. The white pelican is gregarious, usually travelling in flocks and nesting in colonies. They do not dive for food like the brown pelican, but cooperate to surround fish in shallow water where they scoop them into their pouches. That is why they congregate in the shallower northern part of the lake.

In recent decades the number of pelicans has dropped drastically to as few as 34,000 birds because of the use of pesticides, human disturbance, and the draining of wetlands. See a number of pictures taken of the pelicans at Bass Lake at our website. ✍

BASS LAKE PARK DEIR DUE OUT OCTOBER 5

At the Parks Commission meeting on September 1, El Dorado County Parks Department Manager Mike Gray informed BLAC representatives Tom Stuchell and John Thomson that the consultant that is preparing the Draft Environmental Report (DEIR) for proposed Bass Lake Regional Park has targeted October 5 as the release date of the draft EIR.

Citizens and state regulatory bodies will have a 45-day period thereafter to submit comments on the DEIR to the county Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will also hold a public hearing at which it will solicit comments from the public on the DEIR.

BLAC will be furnishing its members and the public with updates and information pertaining to the status and disposition of the Draft EIR. ✍

UTILITY WORK STARTS ON NEW ROADWAY

Passers-by may have noticed a great deal of construction activity near the new Pleasant Grove Middle School on Green Valley Road. The county Department of Transportation is planning someday to realign Bass Lake Road from Bass Lake north to where it will eventually emerge onto Green Valley Road. It will intersect with Green Valley just east of the school. Concrete culverts that have been prepared for the realigned road can clearly be seen from Green Valley Road.

Based on information we have received, it appears that the El Dorado Irrigation District is trenching along that road right-of-way to install water and sewer pipes to service the new Travois and Silver Springs housing developments. ✍

ASBESTOS SCIENCE SEMINAR DRAWS A CROWD

Last month the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) provided local residents with an overview of naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) and the effect of the mineral on human beings. Condensing a complex subject into a few hours, scientists and health experts set forth the basics of what NOA is, the diseases it is believed to cause, and sought to educate the public as to ways to contain NOA.

The seminar was conducted at the Folsom Community Center, and the same presentation was repeated the following evening. BLAC representatives Kathy Prevost and John Thomson attended the first presentation and videotaped the proceedings. The videotapes are available for viewing by BLAC members who were unable to attend. The following narrative summarizes the presentations.

Asbestos is a term used for a group of silicate minerals that occur as asbestiform fibers. They have high tensile strength, flexibility, and heat and chemical resistance. Asbestos minerals belong to either the serpentine mineral group or the amphibole mineral group. NOA is a naturally occurring asbestiform mineral that appears all over the state of California, in 42 of 58 counties. Naturally occurring asbestos can be found most abundantly in and around Humboldt County, in areas of San Benito and Monterey counties, and in western El Dorado county. The BLAC Board of Directors has been aware of the possible presence of NOA at the proposed Bass Lake Regional park site, and our concern about possible NOA was made clear in the letter BLAC submitted in commenting on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the park. The California Geological Survey's Report, "A General Location Guide for Ultramafic Rocks in California - Areas More Likely to Contain Naturally Occurring Asbestos," reports a broad swathe of possible NOA in Western El Dorado County that includes Bass Lake.

The most common type of NOA found in California is chrysotile, a serpentine mineral. In fact, the California state rock is serpentine, a testament to how common it is to find it in the state's geologic formations. Other types of asbestos include tremolite and actinolite, which are am-

phibole minerals. Tremolite can occur in a variety of crystal shapes and sometimes occurs as asbestiform fibers.

The World Health Organization, the federal Department of Health and Human Services, and the USEPA have determined that asbestos is a human carcinogen. Scientists do not yet know with certainty how much exposure to asbestos can result in a person developing asbestos-related disease, but scientists do know that long-term exposure to relatively high concentrations of airborne asbestos is a potent cause of disease. Therefore, it is prudent to reduce environmental exposures whenever possible. The assessment of some El Dorado Hills schools proposed by the USEPA seeks to improve scientists' knowledge about the health effects of NOA.

Exposure to NOA can cause an illness known as asbestosis as well as lung cancer and a rare cancer of the lining of the lungs called mesothelioma. Exposure occurs when asbestos fibers are inhaled, but the effects from exposure are not seen for 20 to 50 years. Cigarette smoke and asbestos together significantly increase the chances of getting lung cancer. Therefore, persons who have been exposed to asbestos should stop smoking. This may be the most important action that individuals can take to improve their health and decrease their risk of cancer.

NOA fibers in rock can become airborne, and therefore a potential health risk, when disturbed. Scientists are still studying how much asbestos in rock or soil becomes airborne when disturbed. In El Dorado Hills, USEPA is paving dirt roads and covering bare soil at Oak Ridge High School to prevent naturally occurring asbestos in the soil from becoming airborne, where it can be inhaled.

Materials containing NOA that are not disturbed or exposed do not, in general, pose a health risk and can be left alone. Any action to minimize dust generation from NOA sources will generally help to reduce one's exposure. First identify the location of ultramafic rock (including serpentine) or faults on your property. If you are unsure whether the rock is ultramafic, a registered geologist can be contacted. Some suggestions to consider to reduce dust generation include (1) paving over unpaved walkways, driveways, or roadways which contain ultramafic or serpentine rock; (2) having crushed ul-

tramafic or serpentine rock in yards/gardens covered with soil; (3) having family members and guests remove shoes at the door to reduce track-in (a major entry route of outdoor asbestos fibers); (4) keeping windows and doors closed on windy days and during periods when nearby ultramafic or serpentine rock may be disturbed, such as during construction; (5) using a wet cloth to dust, as opposed to a feather duster; and (6) using washable area rugs on your floors.

If you suspect that you may be exposed to asbestos in your home, contact your state or local health department or the regional offices of the USEPA to find out how to test your home and how to locate a company that is trained to remove or contain the fibers.

The videotapes of the seminar are available to loan to BLAC members from John Thomson. ✍



MINI-STORAGE FOES DELAY FUND-RAISER, MAY WIN CONCESSIONS

Foothill Residents for Appropriate Land Use (FRALU), recently postponed their scheduled auction/dinner fundraiser that was to have been held on August 28.

They recently announced that they have entered into negotiations with the disputed site's new property owners, and they feel that they may be able to come to an agreement that will provide for less intrusive development on the site.

FRALU is opposed to a mini-storage development project that was approved by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors earlier this year. The development project would have occupied 6 acres of a 17-acre property approximately 800 feet west of the intersection of Green Valley Road and Francisco Drive. For up-to-date information about FRALU, visit them at www.nostorage.org. ✍



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Critters and Roads

Can it be Fall already? September and October are always pleasant months with the sun's rays not so warm, and a crispness to the mornings. I guess I better start my Christmas list any day now!

Our gorgeous white pelicans have returned to Bass Lake and are again stopping traffic! We couldn't figure out what kind of bird they were when we first viewed them flying in formation over our house last fall. Now we are sorry when they leave to move on to their winter feeding grounds.

However, one bird I would rather not see is the crane that sits on our back fence eyeing our small pond, which has goldfish in it. We noticed that the fish had been hiding for weeks and not even coming out to eat, and now we know why. Perhaps the crane thought they would be a nice snack.

Sue and Jeff Field were working in their yard early one weekend morning when a stunning pair of deer with full racks of horns strolled nearby through their property, across their driveway and into the neighbor's yard. The deer apparently were not the least wary of them and seemed perfectly at ease. Now I know how my roses got eaten last year!

For weeks now, BLAC has been monitoring the condition of Bass Lake Road as a result of the work being done on Stone Hill Road, and the much-anticipated development of Hollow Oak by Pulte Homes. As a result we sent a letter to Marcella McTaggart, Air Pollution Control Officer for the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District, complaining about the failure of the fugitive dust mitigation, dirt falling out of uncovered truck loads, and soil being tracked out onto Bass Lake Road. We included pictures showing the condition of Bass Lake Road as well as one of a truck laden with excessive soil.

Ms. McTaggart responded promptly. So did a representative of Pulte Homes, who have been very responsive to similar concerns voiced by nearby neighbors. However, Teichert Construction, the subcontractor hired by Pulte to actually perform the work maintains that they are going above and beyond the fugitive dust controls generally required in similar construction sites where there is no naturally occurring asbestos.

The Asbestos Dust Mitigation Work Plan for Hollow Oak is not meant to completely prevent dirt track-out, but is designed to control track-out and to reduce excessive emissions of dust. Teichert Construction is sweeping Bass Lake Road on a daily basis and will continue to do so until they feel it is not necessary. Hollow Oak/Stone Hill Road has a watering-down schedule of once an hour but they say they actually water every 30 to 45 minutes.

According to Teichert, all their employees and truck vendors have been warned about the 15 mph speed limit, and that this limit will be enforced for the duration of their work. They believe they are properly loading their trucks, and they felt our truck photograph was viewed from an unfavorable angle. In any event, they claim that the trucks were laden with soil from outside the area identified by Youngdahl Consulting Group as likely to contain NOA and is outside the scope of the ADMWP.

BLAC welcomes the addition of new neighbors of Hollow Oak, as well as the projected road improvements and enhancements this will bring to our area. However, we are concerned about the safety of Bass Lake Road this winter when any dirt will make the road surface muddy and slippery when it rains.

We also believe that, in view of the latest findings in Folsom at the high school, that NOA that is not detectable by the lower standards used in El Dorado County, might well be present in an area thought to be free of NOA. If you have thoughts on this subject, you may email Ms. McTaggart at mmctaggart@co.el-dorado.ca.us.

Have a great month,
Kathy Prevost

President
Bass Lake Action Committee



ORIGINS OF LABOR DAY

Labor Day is a national legal holiday that is over 100 years old. Over the years, it has evolved from a purely labor union celebration into a general "last fling of summer" festival.

Labor Day started as a celebration and parade in 1882 in New York, sponsored by the Knights of Labor, an early but short-lived labor union. In 1884 the Knights held their parade on the first Monday in September, and they subsequently decided to hold all future parades on the same day, a day they called Labor Day.

A few years later, labor organizations began to lobby various state legislatures for recognition of Labor Day as an official state holiday. The first states to declare it a state holiday were Oregon, Colorado, New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey in 1887, and Congress recognized Labor Day as an official national holiday in 1894. ✍

EDH CSD SEEKS BASS LAKE CC&R REPS

Cynthia Diez, the Covenants, Conditions and Restriction (CC&R) Compliance Officer for the El Dorado Hills Community Services District, is seeking volunteers from the Bass Lake villages to serve on the CC&R Citizen Advisory Committee. The Committee is composed of two representatives from each village.

Cynthia may be contacted through the CSD offices at (916) 933-6624 or at cdiez@edhcsd.org for further information on the duties and requirements of the positions, and how to apply. ✍

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."

— Margaret Mead

BLAC COMPLAINS ABOUT HOLLOW OAK DUST AND DIRT

Last week BLAC president Kathy Prevost wrote Marcella McTaggart, Air Pollution Control Officer for the El Dorado County Air Quality Management Department, to report mitigation violations by Teichert Construction on the Hollow Oak and Stone Hill Road projects. Kathy, along with BLAC vice president John Thomson, witnessed and photographed dual dump trucks leaving the area with dirt loads rising above their cargo hold; trucks tracking dirt on nearby Bass Lake Road; and construction vehicles disturbing dust on local roads. Such actions are in violation of the asbestos dust mitigation work plan for those projects prepared by the Youngdahl Consulting, copies of which were obtained by BLAC through the California Public Records Act.

"The legal and regulatory requirement that dust mitigation plans be prepared and followed is based on legitimate concerns for the health and well-being of the community," Kathy told McTaggart. "Compliance with a dust mitigation plan at the mechanically minimum level when that minimum effort does not effectively provide protection to the community is not true compliance."

Kathy asked that construction crews water down streets frequently and follow the Mitigation Work Plan "to prevent the generation of visible dust during all grading and construction activities." "We urge that these (mitigation) measures be implemented at once," she said.

McTaggart defended Teichert based on reports submitted to her by the contractor. According to the Teichert report, BLAC's concerns are not valid because the area where the violations were photographed is not the same location where the Youngdahl found a possible threat of asbestos.

Yet an examination of the asbestos dust mitigation and management work plan prepared by Youngdahl and filed with the county does not appear to provide for any exceptions, or "optional" enforcement areas, in the plan's mitigation requirements. A copy of that asbestos dust mitigation and management work plan may be viewed on BLAC's website.

Residents may report possible air pollution violations to Ms. McTaggart at mmctaggart@co.el-dorado.ca.us

NEIGHBORHOOD PETTY CRIME RESURGENT

Though the capture of a gang of thieves last spring seemed to slow the crime rate in El Dorado Hills, petty crime, including car and garage break-ins, continues to plague neighborhood residents.

Last month someone broke the driver's side window of a 2000 GMC pickup parked overnight on the 3300 block of Alyssum Circle, El Dorado Hills, and stole items from inside the cab, including a wallet containing credit cards. The thieves also took several tools, including a band saw, rotary hammer, water pump and impact wrench, from the truck bed. Also in EDH, a wallet containing credit cards and cash was stolen from a 1998 Mercedes and a blanket was taken from a 1991 Toyota truck when both were parked overnight on the 800 block of Shasta Circle; and a pool vacuum worth \$400 was stolen from a residence in the 3800 block of Meadowwood Drive.

As reported in the August Bulletin, at the July Neighborhood Watch meeting Sheriff's Deputy Scott Crawford, a Woodridge resident, told homeowners that the most common types of crime around Bass Lake are car and garage burglaries. To avoid being a victim of crime, Deputy Crawford advised residents to put valuables kept in a car out of sight, to leave lights on around the house, to keep the garage door closed, and to lock the side door to the garage.

Thieves are always looking to take advantage of a homeowner's failure to put away and lock up valuable property. Try to remember not to leave wallets or tools out where they can be seen and stolen. Lock up your garage, especially the side door. Don't give thieves a chance.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING REMINDER

All BLAC members are invited to the general membership meeting that will be held on September 13, 2004, at the home of Kathy and Herb Prevost, to vote on the proposed changes to the BLAC Articles of Incorporation.

Members who will be unable to attend the meeting are urged to send in their signed voting proxies as early as possible. Attending the meeting and voting in person will cancel your proxy. Many thanks to the members who have already sent theirs in.

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The Bass Lake Action Committee is a group of concerned homeowners from the communities adjoining Bass Lake. Our purpose is to provide a voice for Bass Lake community homeowners in dealing with the county and other community organizations and agencies.

For information, see our website or contact:

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