

BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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Photo of new Bass Lake Road segment looking toward the new Serrano Parkway intersection, taken from a point near the EID facility driveway.

BASS LAKE ROAD – SERRANO PARKWAY WORK PROGRESSES

The site of the new intersection of Bass Lake Road and Serrano Parkway has been a beehive of activity in the last few weeks. The laying of the underground utilities, which was held up by wet weather, appears to have been completed, and grading for the roadbed has begun. Work on the bypass road on the east side of the road is also underway. Completion of the project is slated for mid-summer.

Most Bass Lake residents are aware of the project, which will give Bass Lake shoppers easy access to downtown El Dorado Hills without having to contend with Highway 50 traffic. The project extends Serrano Parkway to a new intersection and provides a new Bass Lake Road segment that will connect to the current Bass Lake Road near the entrance to the EID facility.

Parker Development has contributed \$1.8 million to the project. ~

BLAC PUSHES BASS LAKE ROAD REPAIRS

A combination of a long rainy season and increased traffic took its toll on Bass Lake Road this winter. BLAC president Kathy Prevost and vice president John Thomson met with representatives of the county Department of Transportation (DOT) in April to discuss, among other things, the deteriorating condition of the roadway. Prevost and Thomson emphasized that the increased traffic would continue to pound the crumbling roadway, and that until both the widened and the realigned portions of Bass Lake Road were completed, the road would require an increased level of maintenance.

They were assured that the county understood that the road needed maintenance, and that the county would do its best to keep the road repaired. So everyone was pleased to see the county DOT crews out patching the road in April. ~

EPA STUDY VALIDATES BLAC CONCERNS

The study recently released by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) that shows high levels of naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) in western El Dorado County emphasizes the potential danger to residents living in El Dorado Hills from inhaling NOA, and supports BLAC's ongoing efforts for NOA assessment and remediation in the Bass Lake area.

In 2003 BLAC included warnings of possible NOA contamination in its comments on the Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the forty acre parcel of the proposed Bass Lake regional park. At that time, BLAC cited studies by the state of California that the area was designated as an area more likely to contain NOA. BLAC urged rigorous testing to determine the levels of NOA and to mitigate any NOA that was found so as to protect nearby Bass Lake residents from possible NOA contamination. The release of the Draft EIR by the county has been delayed for many months, and the delay is thought by many residents to be due to a finding of NOA at the proposed park site.

In March of 2004, BLAC petitioned both the USEPA and the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct assessments of the suspected NOA at the proposed park site, citing the studies that show that the area is one in which the presence of NOA is a distinct possibility.

(continued next page)





Photo taken near the fire station on Bass Lake Road shows recent road repairs, and the new utility poles on the left to provide for road widening

EPA STUDY *(continued)*

Besides the issues surrounding the park, BLAC has been active in monitoring contractors' compliance with the dust mitigation plans they submit to the county.

BLAC president Kathy Prevost has expressed the hope that BLAC's efforts have helped to focus on the NOA issue. "We hope that our EIR comments and our petitions have helped move the discussions further along to a mutually acceptable resolution of the NOA problem for all parties," Prevost said recently. ~

COUNTY FACES ROAD MONEY SHORTFALL

Facing a shortage of more than \$200 million over the next ten years, supervisors last month looked at increasing sales taxes and impact fees, moves perhaps coupled with lower roadway standards, to close the funding gap.

Supervisor Jack Sweeney advocated scaling back the standards so as to build more miles of road for less. He said that roads should be the primary focus, with curbs, gutters and sidewalks being a secondary consideration, depending on affordability and safety needs.

The shortfall became evident when the supervisors were advised that anticipated

road projects over the next ten years would cost the county an estimated \$629 million. Over that time, funds available from development fees of \$122 million, the Missouri Flat Master Circulation and Finance Plan of approximately \$10 million, about \$100 million in federal and state transportation funds, and current development fees of \$175 million, total only \$407 million. The county will have to decide how to cover the \$222 million balance.

One of the county's problems is that the anticipated costs assume that road projects will conform to the level of service requirements adopted in the recently-approved 2004 General Plan. The county Department of Transportation (DOT) has based its estimate on the assumption that the road system must comply with policies established by the Board of Supervisors. These future projects, according to DOT, must be accounted for through a combination of available revenue, expected revenue and revenue to be raised through impact fees over the next 10 years.

One concern is that higher impact fees will deter present small property owners from being able to subdivide or develop their property.

The question facing the board is how to close the gap in a fair and even-handed manner. ~

SILVA VALLEY CONNECTOR NEARS COMPLETION

Residents of Bass Lake have long looked forward to the opening of the connector that will link the southern end of Silva Valley Parkway and White Rock Road. With that connector in place, Bass Lake residents will have easy access to the El Dorado Hills Town Center as soon as the intersection of Bass Lake Road and Serrano Parkway is opened. Parker Development (Serrano) has contributed \$1.7 million towards the Silva Valley project.

The Silva Valley-White Rock connector has been plagued with delays, including wet weather and the difficulties contractors encountered in laying the underground utilities in the solid rock underlying the right of way.

However, these difficulties seem to have been overcome, and the connector road is scheduled to be open in early summer. A recent inspection of the site revealed that the roadway is being graded in preparation for pavement.

Plans call for a freeway interchange at Silva Valley and Highway 50 to be built in a few years. The interchange will require the acquisition of an extensive right-of-way around the intersection of Silva Valley Parkway and Tong Road. The affected parcel is currently the subject of a rezoning request from residential to commercial use, and the county and the developer have not yet come to an agreement on the parcel's land use or the roadway right-of-way acquisition. ~

OAK KNOLL POOL TO REOPEN IN JUNE

Our own Oak Knoll Pool located on Alyssum Circle will open for recreation swimming starting in Mid-June, and a number of swim classes are also slated for the summer. The pool and clubhouse may also be rented for events this year. A schedule of Oak Knoll Pool activities may be found on page 17 of the El Dorado Hills Community Service District's 2005 Recreation Guide, which is also available on the CSD website.

For more information, contact the El Dorado Hills CSD Recreation Department at 916-614-3216. ~



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

-- Marcel Proust

Looking at our yard, as we wind into another spring and summer in the Sierra Foothills, I am reminded of our first home in sunny Thousand Oaks, California. The house was a mere two years old at the time when we moved in and had been landscaped with young one-gallon plants. We took a picture of me that day standing in front of the house and then another nine years later when we moved. The transformation was amazing, with one-foot tall plants now grown to well over ten feet tall. Of course, I hadn't changed a bit!

What fun we are having here in EDH, growing friendships as well as plants! My husband and I reaped the benefits of these friendships during his recent hospitalization and recovery, and while I have thanked all that supported us personally, a much-meant "Thank you" again can't hurt! Congratulations also go to our neighbors, Bobbi and Gene Hunner, who recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a reception at the Cameron Park Country Club including family, friends and neighbors from near and far.

On the more serious side concerning West Nile Virus, if you should find a dead bird and want to report it, you may call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (968-2473) or go to the website at www.westnile.ca.gov for further information. With the advent of warmer weather and the rains we had this winter and spring, it is anticipated the mosquito season will be heavier than usual. We have found two dead birds in our yard and did report them, although no one contacted us in return. Birds most

affected by West Nile virus are American Crows, Western Scrub Jays, Yellow Billed Magpies, and Steller's Jays.

Recently, the El Dorado Hills Telegraph had an article regarding the Mather Airport development, which has been a concern for Bass Lake neighbors because of the late night and early morning flights. The Sacramento Business Journal reported in their April 15, 2005, issue that the fast-growing China market could be a huge source of growth for Mather Airport. Combined with the domestic market growth, it could push Mather from its current 8.8% of the Northern California market to 12%, which is their goal.

It is anticipated that global airfreight traffic will grow at a 5% rate through 2008. With top-rated instrument landing equipment in place by 2007, the airport staff expects UPS to build a regional hub at Mather, a sorting center for DHL, and for Federal Express to move to Mather from Sacramento International. However, foothill residents say inbound cargo jets fly too low over Folsom and El Dorado Hills, bringing noise and interrupted sleep and are against further development at Mather.

Did you know that the 2004 women's NCAA golf champion is from Shingle Springs? Her name is Sarah Huarte and she turned pro just last year. She has placed in the top ten in her first two pro events in February while playing on the West Coast Ladies Golf Tour in Arizona.

On another front, the El Dorado Hills Incorporation Committee has an uphill battle ahead of them as they deal with the county on revenue neutrality issues. At a recent Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO) meeting, not only were there projected to be cost overruns accounting for another \$35,000 needed from the Committee (\$395,000 total), LAFCO also did not indicate which of the two city boundary plans they preferred, despite having been asked to do so by the Incorporation Committee at an earlier meeting. If they had done so, they would have made the revenue neutrality issues a whole lot easier!

The Incorporation Committee has set up a BLOG (web log), which may be accessed through their website at www.edhcity.org for computer users to exchange comments on cityhood. The next LAFCO meetings will be May 18, 2005 in Placerville at County Government Building C at 5:30 PM, and May 25, 2005

in El Dorado Hills Community Services District Headquarters at 5:30PM. If you feel the subject of incorporation should be brought to the voters for a decision, you should attend these meetings or comment by email or letter to LAFCO. Because a number of people who attended the last meeting suggested it was difficult for EDH residents to attend a 5:30PM meeting in Placerville, the issue of incorporation will be placed later on the agenda for the upcoming meetings.

Locally, the EDC Parks Department now is moving forward on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Bass Lake Regional Park, so we anticipate having park information to report in our June Bulletin. At the moment, John Vegna, the new Park Project Manager, is meeting with ESP, the company drafting the DEIR, and is also attempting to establish the projected costs to build the regional park. John is a proponent of bike and walking trails, and he would like to see a wide trail the length of Bass Lake Road.

If you have a special event or happening you would like me to mention in my President's column, please email me and I will be happy to do so.

Enjoy!

Kathy Prevost

President

Bass Lake Action Committee

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BLAC ENDORSES EDH CITYHOOD VOTE

At their April meeting, the Bass Lake Action Committee board of directors, though not taking a position for or against cityhood, endorsed the premise that the citizens of El Dorado Hills should be given the opportunity to vote up or down on the issue of forming the city of El Dorado Hills.

The next LAFCO public hearing on cityhood is scheduled for May 25, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. in the El Dorado Hills Community Services District Administrative Building, 1021 Harvard Way, El Dorado Hills.

BLAC president Kathy Prevost is encouraging all BLAC members to attend the meeting on the 25th and to express their opinion on cityhood to the commission. ~



This stretch of old Highway 50 pictured in last month's Bulletin was correctly identified by BLAC member Kevin Stankevitch as now being part of the Old Bass Lake Road that runs west from Bass Lake Road toward Silva Valley Parkway.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day or Decoration Day is a patriotic holiday in the United States. It is a day to honor Americans who gave their lives for their country and is celebrated as a legal holiday in most states. Most Northern States and some Southern States observe Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.

This date was made a federal holiday by a law that became effective in 1971. In 1966 the U.S. government proclaimed Waterloo, N.Y., the birthplace of the holiday. The people of Waterloo first observed Memorial Day on May 5, 1866, to honor soldiers who had died in the Civil War. Businesses were closed, and people decorated soldiers' graves and flew flags at half-mast.

Major General John A. Logan in 1868 named May 30 as a special day for honoring the graves of Union soldiers. Logan served as commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War. They had charge of Memorial Day celebrations in the Northern States for many years. The American Legion took over this duty after World War I.

Memorial Day is a day of local parades, speeches and most of all a day to remember all those who have died so that we may be safe and free. ~

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is celebrated in many countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, Mexico, Canada, China, Japan and Belgium. The day is used by children and husbands to honor mothers and grandmothers for all that they do in raising children.

The modern Mother's Day began in the 1600s in England. Mothering Sunday was celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Small gifts were given, and a special dessert called a simnel cake was served.

In the United States, Mother's Day was first suggested in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe (famous for writing the words to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic"). But it was a woman who was never a mother herself who led the campaign for national recognition of Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis held a ceremony in 1907 in Grafton, West Virginia, to honor her mother, who had died two years earlier. Jarvis' mother had tried to establish Mother's Friendship Days as a way of dealing with the aftermath of the Civil War. Anna Jarvis began a campaign to create a national holiday honoring mothers. She and her supporters wrote to ministers, businessmen and politicians, and they were successful in their efforts.

In 1910, West Virginia became the first state to recognize the new holiday, and the nation followed in 1914 when President Wilson declared the second Sunday in May to be Mother's Day. Jarvis used white carnations as a symbol for mothers, because carnations represented sweetness, purity and the endurance of mother love.

Today, white carnations represent a mother who has died, while red carnations represent a living mother.

In the United States, flowers, candy and cards are typical gifts, and phone traffic is especially high on the second Sunday in May. ~

BASS LAKE HAUNTED BY LOCAL GHOST?

In his book, "Haunted Places in California" by Landon Howell, the author reports that a ghostly figure has been seen where the water of Bass Lake crosses Bass Lake Road. According to Howell, the figure is that of a girl in white gown. It would be interesting to know if anyone has seen the ghost recently. If you have seen her, let us know. ~

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