

BASS LAKE BULLETIN

BASS LAKE ROAD-SERRANO PARKWAY LINK NEARS OPENING



Looking northward to where the existing BassLake Road intersects with the realigned Bass Lake Road. Note the entrance to the Bass Lake EID facility across the way.



Looking westward to where the realigned Bass Lake Road connects to the new intersection with Serrano Parkway



Looking eastward on the Serrano Parkway extension towards the new intersection with the realigned Bass Lake Road. Old Bass Lake Road is in the distance.

The long awaited linkup between Bass Lake Road and Serrano Parkway is finally becoming a reality, and is scheduled to open to traffic the first week in August. Completion of this connector means the savings of countless hours of driving for residents of the Bass Lake area who wish to frequent the shopping areas of Town Center, the Raley's shopping center, and other amenities such as the El Dorado Hills Post Office.

The connector is the first of several projects that will eventually transform Bass Lake Road from what has been essentially a wagon track established in the 1850s to a modern roadway.

Two other projects currently underway will modernize the road from Highway 50 to the Serrano intersection. In one project, the road will be widened along its present route from Highway 50 to a point near the Bass Lake Fire Station. Those who regularly drive Bass Lake Road will have noticed that the utility poles have been relocated to allow for a wider right-of-way, and grading is taking place, along that route.

In another larger project, the road is being realigned to the west starting at the fire station and ending at the new Serrano Parkway intersection. As a result, the new roadway will bypass several sharp turns and the existing small narrow bridge whose abutments are scarred by many scrapes and collisions. The realignment project is requiring the movement of large amounts of earth and rock and the installation of a large culvert to span where the new roadway will cross Carson Creek.

Other improvements still in the planning stage are the widening of the road around Bass Lake and the extension of the road from Bass Lake northward to Green Valley Road.

The cost of all of these road improvements are generally borne by local developers, except for the portion around Bass Lake that is expected to be paid for by the county. ~

BLAC TO HEAR CITYHOOD BACKERS HEWITT AND JONES ON AUGUST 20

On August 20 the Bass Lake Action Committee will hold a reception and hear a presentation on the advantages of cityhood for El Dorado Hills by Mike Hewitt, Chairman of the Ballot Measure Committee that is in favor of cityhood. Greg Jones, the Ballot Measure Committee's Communications Director, will also be on hand to answer questions about cityhood.

The event will start at 5:00 PM and will be held at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court, in Woodridge in El Dorado Hills. Persons planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the Thomsons at 530-677-3039 so that refreshments and seating may be arranged. ~

BLAC CELEBRATES ITS SECOND ANNIVERSARY IN GRAND STYLE

In July, BLAC members and their guests celebrated the second anniversary of the Bass Lake Action Committee. The festive event was held on July 16 at the lovely home of Tom and Andi Stuchell in Woodridge. Party-goers enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner, preceded by hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. One of the highlights of the evening was the awarding of the door prizes, which were collections of art work by renowned artist Joan Boutsalis. There was also a raffle of two gift baskets, one filled with chocolate delights and one packed with barbeque utensils and sauces. The pictures below illustrate the good time that was had by all ~



Hostess Andi Stuchell and President Kathy Prevost



The lovely and very delicious cake



VP John Thomson and Secretary Fran Thomson



John Thomson and host Tom Stuchell



David Glazier and Treasurer Peggy Glazier



Director-at-Large Tasha Boutselis and Louis Camacho



Canadian Goose

GEESE AT BASS LAKE

The Canada geese are back at Bass Lake. Canada geese are usually found near waterways in open, grassy habitats such as grasslands, chaparral, and arctic tundra. They also inhabit man-made habitats that are open and grassy, such as golf courses, agricultural land, airports, and parks.

Canada geese are highly social, being found in flocks at all times of the year except when they are nesting. They are active mainly during the day.

When on land, these geese eat a variety of grasses including Bermuda grass, salt grass and wild barley. Geese are able to grab a hold of each blade and pull it out with their bills by jerking their heads. They also eat wheat, beans, rice, and corn. In the water, the birds stick their head and upper part of their body into the water leaving their tail and back end extending in the air. They stretch their neck out, under the water, and slide their bills across the bottom silt. They also eat a number of aquatic plants such as eel grass, sea lettuce and sago. ~

MEETING REMINDERS

This month's BLAC Board Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on August 1 at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court, El Dorado Hills, and the guest will be Jim Ware with EDH County DOT.

The September meeting will be held on September 12 at Herb and Kathy Prevost's home and will feature county supervisor Charlie Paine. ~



Canadian Geese seen feeding at Bass Lake on a recent day

COUNTY PARKS COMMISSIONER SPEAKS TO BLAC

Mr. Dan Haverty, the newly-appointed El Dorado County Park Commissioner for District 1, which includes the Bass Lake area of El Dorado Hills, was the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee held on July 11.

Haverty is a 23-year resident of El Dorado County and an 18-year resident of El Dorado Hills. He is an Assistant Fire Chief for the West Sacramento Fire District and is in charge of economic planning and development. His educational background includes two masters degrees and a Doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

Haverty was primarily interested in hearing about BLAC's issues with regard to the proposed park at Bass Lake. BLAC members voiced their concerns about light and noise pollution, increased traffic on Bass Lake Road, vandalism, potential for drinking at the proposed park, impact on wildlife, and asbestos mitigation.

Haverty told BLAC members that Supervisor Dupray told him that he was ambivalent about lighted ball fields in the park, indicating to Haverty that Dupray could go either way. Mr. Haverty agreed with BLAC members that lighted fields were intended primarily for adult play, not for Little League or junior players as has been put forth by the soccer and baseball coaches.

He also said that improvements to Bass Lake Road were delayed so the Department of Transportation could do an EIR for a bike path that would be put in at the same time as the other road repairs. The road north of the lake will be improved as part of the Silver Springs development. He said he would like to bring a Department of Transportation representative to a future meeting of BLAC with plans that show what DOT is planning with respect to Bass Lake road improvements.

With regard to rumors of a sale of part of the park property for an elementary school, Mr. Haverty said he had seen nothing in writing in that regard. He had heard that six acres at the south end of the park site might be taken for a grammar school, and that ball fields would be located so they could be shared by the school and the park.

Haverty said he would try to ensure that BLAC is informed in a timely way about meetings that deal with topics that affect the residents of Bass Lake Road. He also agreed that BLAC should receive notification if and when a decision is to be made about putting an elementary school on the proposed park property.

BLAC members were impressed with Haverty's sincerity, desire to listen, and interest in maintaining contact in the future. ~

Proposition 59
Government open to the people



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy summer!

Until last week, our most favorite “critter” story was from our three years of living in Tokyo and revolved around walking our Border Collier, Miss Pepper, down a beautifully tree lined street in our neighborhood, Nishi Azabu. I noticed she had stuck her head in an azalea bush and seemed to have found something of interest. The something of interest was a whole fish, which she was loath to part with!

Last week, our Australian Shepherd puppy Tobias, the newest member of the family, who also seems to have a keen sense of smell, ran up the driveway sniffing the air with his head held high. Turning on a dime (he is also very good at 360 degree turns in midair), he stuck his head in a Breath of Heaven bush and pulled out a lifeless dove which he was also loath to part with. After an exchange of treats for the dove, he gave up his prize.

We have rarely seen dead birds before this year, and Tobias’ find it is the third one we have found this year. West Nile Disease seems to be taking a large toll on our bird population. Should you come across a dead bird, the local phone number to report the find is 916-985-9680. The California state reporting number is 1-877 968-2473. The informational website is www.westnile.ca.gov.

In May the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Board approved a conceptual plan that provides for a connector road between US Highway 50 near El Dorado Hills and Highways 99 and 5 near Elk Grove. The only combination of roads that currently connects those locations is the White Rock Road-Grant Line Road route. SACOG ordered its staff to develop an interagency agreement to

cover the project, but it is still in development and has not yet been negotiated with local city and county governments. Almost three years ago SACOG allocated \$1.9 million for a crucial environmental impact review (EIR) for the project, and the EIR may take another three years to complete.

Five possible alternative routes have been proposed. It is expected that the final route will be a compromise which includes parts of all the proposals. The Joint Powers Association (JPA), is discussing forming a brand new joint powers authority to handle the connector project. The JPA would most likely include El Dorado and Sacramento Counties, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Elk Grove, and possibly the newly-incorporated city of El Dorado Hills. In the meantime, the existing JPA approved the concept of a series of future meetings with elected representatives from the various jurisdictions that would be affected by the connector road proposal. The project is being called “two by two by two” in government circles.

This November a library tax measure will be on our ballots requesting a \$15.00 assessment for our Library District 10. The tax would apply to improved parcels only except for vacant residential parcels up to 2.5 acres and vacant multi-family residential parcels. Being a special tax, the library assessment will require the approval of two thirds of the voters to pass and is expected to raise approximately \$525,000 for the library.

It was recently reported in the Sacramento Business Journal that Elk Grove was the nation’s second fastest growing city between July 2003 and July of 2004, with Sacramento right behind Elk Grove. Roseville ranked number ten. All this is according to a report released by the US

Census Bureau. Of the top 25 “large” cities (100,000+ population) ten were from California, and included nearby Stockton that ranked 25.

Kathy Prevost

President
Bass Lake Action Committee

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

— Margaret Mead



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