

BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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Part of the new Bass Lake Road link

BASS LAKE ROAD-SERRANO PARKWAY LINK OPENED

Bass Lake residents were pleased to see the long-awaited road link between Bass Lake Road and Serrano Parkway opened last month.

The new link will enable residents to get to Town Center, Raley's Center, and the Post Office, without having to go all the way around on Green Valley Road or brave the freeway traffic on Highway 50.

BLAC Treasurer Fran Thomson, a Woodridge resident, is thrilled. "We used to drive a half-hour to get to our friends who live in Serrano," she said. "Now it takes just minutes."

Work crews continue to work on the realignment that will extend the new road from Serrano Parkway to the old road near the the firehouse. The culvert over the creek that took so long to construct has been completed, and the contractor expects to have the new road opened all the way by the end of October. ~



Construction on the realigned Road

BLAC MEMBERS AND NEIGHBORS HEAR EDH CITYHOOD BACKERS



Cityhood advovate Mike Hewitt

On August 20 the Bass Lake Action Committee held a reception and heard 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, was also on hand to answer questions about cityhood.

The home of John and Fran Thomson was the perfect setting for an evening reception for the Yes on Cityhood/Yes on Measure P leadership, Mike Hewitt and Greg Jones. Also in attendance from the committee were Hal and Barbara Erpenbeck, who happen to live in Woodridge as well. The food was great and the weather mild for the 30 or so members and neighborhood guests in attendance. Many folks stayed on beyond the scheduled time to enjoy the ambiance of the evening, another couple of glasses of wine, and the company.

The event started at 5 o'clock with a cocktail party, and the formal program was kicked off at 6 o'clock by BLAC President Kathy Prevost, who introduced Greg Jones.

Jones took a few minutes to explain how the Ballot measure Committee began, then gave the floor to Mike Hewitt.

In his formal presentation, Hewitt said he believes that a new city of El Dorado Hills would be more in control of their own

destiny and be better able to handle future land use decisions. He feels that the proposed new city could improve the quality of life for the area by recruiting new business to the Business Park, having its own police department, looking for traffic and speeding solutions, building and maintaining parks, bringing more jobs to the area, and having a voice in regional decisions through organizations such as the Sacramento Area Council of Governments.

Hewitt explained that if incorporation is approved by the voters in November, the CSD will become the Park and Recreation Department, and the employees will work for the new city for at least a year. He also stated that the new city would probably contract for the police department. The fire department is a separate entity, and will remain so, while still fulfilling all of its previous duties. The new city would have its own planning department and planning commission, he continued. However, Hewitt made it clear that responsibility for social services and health and welfare would stay with the county.

In answer to several questions, Hewitt said the cable TV and trash services are already contracted by the CSD, and that those services would continue under contract to the city. He also said that there are ongoing discussions about negotiating to buy electric power from SMUD so as to reduce utility costs, since the new city could do so. He felt that there would be more money available for road improvements and maintenance. The CC&R's will stay in place for one year, after which they might become city codes, but it would be up to the city council to decide how this function will be handled, Hewitt said.

Hewitt ended his presentation by saying that initially the city council will be elected at large, but that Ballot Measure Q will decide whether future council members will be chosen by district or at large. Hewitt suggested that voters carefully read the information on the 19 candidates for City Council and attend Candidate's nights, so they will be able to pick the five best possible

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HEWITT (continued)

city council members. He also predicted that the new city council will have to put in many long hours during the first few years to get the new city of El Dorado Hills off to a good start. ~



EDH Cityhood backer Geg Jones



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A Little Bit Of This n' That

Earlier this summer, I noticed what seemed to be a plant (as opposed to a weed) bravely sprouting in my garden box next to my tomato plant. I watched it grow into a very sturdy plant with a large blossom forming at the top. My neighbor Mike correctly identified it as a sunflower, and said that he had one, and that they were probably a gift from a passing bird.

The flower head is now so heavy that the plant cannot carry the weight, but the birds will be able to enjoy this tasty treat this Fall, and perhaps spread it farther afield. Sunflowers are high-value crops in California, with most of the hybrid seed sold to Midwestern farmers. This year trail mixes, baked goods, and backyard birdseed crops were in greater demand, as well as sunflower seed oil. I was amazed to find out that nearby Yolo County growers cultivated 13,403 acres of sunflowers for seeds in 2004 and around 40,000 acres are dedicated to growing sunflowers in California.

Just a word to the wise. We recently learned just how toxic grapes and raisins can be to dogs when our new puppy, Tobias, ate some Thompson Seedless grapes off the vine that grows on our back fence. Luckily one of our veterinarians from Lake Forest Pet Hospital just happened to be on duty at the 24-Hour Emergency Veterinary Clinic in Sacramento, and they took excellent care of him. While at the vets we learned that not all dogs react to the toxins in the grapes, but it can be very serious for those that do because it affects their kidneys. I am happy to report that Tobias is doing well, though I suspect he didn't enjoy his trip to the veterinarian all that much.

MedClinic Medical Group, which is affiliated with both Catholic Healthcare West and Mercy Hospitals, has announced plans to expand into the Sacramento area. The medical group will move into their first medical building in Folsom by January 2006. Reflecting their long time relationship with Mercy Hospitals, they have changed their corporate name to Mercy Medical Group. The new facility is expected to be located in a 10,000 square foot building near Prairie City and Iron Point Roads, and is part of a complex being built by Panattoni Construction, Inc. With a staff of 25, the building will house six primary-care physicians, two OB/GYN's, and additional specialists on a rotation schedule. Imaging and laboratory services will be available on-site as well.

Additionally, Mercy Folsom is increasing their emergency room capacity to 25 beds, spending 18 million dollars to do so.

Kaiser Permanente is expected to open their 60,000 square foot outpatient surgery center in 2007. Kaiser serves its 48,702 members with 40 doctors and a staff of 210 from its 20 million-dollar medical office opened in 2002.



Don't be surprised to one day be able to hop an old-fashioned streetcar in downtown Sacramento. For many years, an advocacy group has been pushing for the return of some form of vintage streetcars there. It will take a combination of finding funding sources, sorting out the routes, mitigating the noise and figuring out how to meet operating costs, but with what appears to be real political support it is a real possibility. Approximately 75 communities across the nation are currently in various stages of establishing new streetcar routes. Of course, the new light rail station in Folsom is scheduled to open soon and will give us another way to get to Sacramento.

Closer to home, in July the El Dorado Hills Community Services District hired Dave Luckschieder to be the new Park Supervisor in charge of the twenty Lighting and Landscaping (L&L) Districts in the CSD. Dave brings a wealth of experience to his new job and will have the ability to focus on the needs of the L&L Districts, one of which is our own Bass Lake Village L&L. If you notice his EDH CSD truck in the area as I did, be sure to stop and say "Hello!"

Dave can be reached at 916 825-4805 if you wish to report a concern.

Kathy Prevost

President

Bass Lake Action Committee

BLAC INPUT ON CSD PARK MASTER PLAN

Kevin Stankiewicz will represent Bass Lake Action Committee on the Community Advisory Committee that will review the Park and Recreational Facilities Master Plan for the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD). The Committee will help to define the final Master Plan that will be presented to the community and the Board of Directions for adoption in February of 2006.

As part of his duties, Kevin will attend four to six Advisory Committee meetings, attend public meetings, and share the District's information.

The Master Plan development process will include community telephone surveys, sports user group surveys, youth outreach, and public meetings, and other means to solicit input and help identify the current needs, trends and opportunities to improve CSD park and recreation services. ~

BLAC DECRIES “PUSH POLLING TACTICS AS FALSE AND DECEPTIVE

We are getting reports of telephone “push polling” that is going on with respect to the impending cityhood vote in November. A push poll is a political campaign technique in which an individual or organization attempts to influence or alter the view of respondents under the guise of conducting a poll. Push polls are generally viewed as a form of negative campaigning. Push polling has been condemned by the American Association of Political Consultants.

The mildest forms of push polling are designed merely to remind voters of a particular issue. For instance, a push poll might ask respondents to rank candidates based on their support of abortion in order to get voters thinking about that issue.

More negative are attacks on a ballot measure by using polls. These attacks often contain information with little or no basis in fact.

True push polls tend to be very short, with only a handful of questions, so as to make as many calls as possible. The data obtained is discarded rather than analyzed. Any poll that does not ask demographic information (such as age, income, or race) is generally not a legitimate opinion poll.

The main advantage of push polls is that they are an effective way of maligning a ballot measure (“pushing” voters away) while avoiding responsibility for the distorted or false information used in the push poll. They are risky for the same reason: if credible evidence emerges that the polls were ordered by a campaign, it would do serious damage to that campaign. Push polls are also relatively expensive, having a far higher cost per voter than radio or television commercials. Thus push polls are most effective in elections with fewer voters, such as party primaries, or in close elections where a relatively small change in votes can mean victory or loss.

BLAC believes that push polling is a disreputable and unethical campaign ploy. Our policy is to provide unbiased information to the community and to point out obvious falsehoods, half-truths, and outrageous tactics. We believe that when dealing with corruption, “Sunshine is the best disinfectant.”

To that end, we have had reports of people in Bass Lake getting telephone calls

from purported “pollsters” that are asking “push poll” questions like the following:

Push Question: “The fiscal analysis report said that El Dorado Hills will be running an annual deficit of \$936,000. Would that fact make you more likely to support incorporation or more likely to oppose it?”

This is a false statement. Under the worst scenario, this is only a one-year deficit that is covered by annual surpluses in both the preceding and following years.

Push Question: “Further, the fiscal analysis states that the new city will grow about 800 additional housing units per year over the next 5 years, and a total of 8,400 new housing units in the next 10 in order to balance its budget. Does this make you more likely to support or oppose cityhood?”

The assertion is false or a half-truth at best. The housing growth is already set by the county under legally-binding development agreements, and new housing always has to pay its fair share for the additional services it demands from the city. Hence the budget goes up, but revenue does, too.

Push Question: “The fiscal analysis report also states that if the new city falls under 900 additional housing units per year the city deficit will increase. For example, if the number of housing units falls 25% short of the estimate, that is 675 housing units per year, the city will operate at a deficit of 1.4 million dollars. Does this make you more likely to support or oppose cityhood?”

This statement is false and misleading. This statement refers to what BLAC terms the “good” scenario in the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis. The misleading deficit amount of \$1.4 million number is arrived at by adding together the only two deficit years, and ignoring the \$4 million-plus surplus in the prior year.

Push Question: “The fiscal analysis report says that in order to reach a balanced budget the population would have to grow up between 8 and 10 percent a year. That is, if the City of El Dorado Hills would start at a population of about 30,000 it would grow to a population of about 50,000 in 10

years. Does this make you more likely to support or oppose cityhood?”

False. Substantially all of the growth that will occur over the next ten years was put in place by the county under legally-binding contracts with developers. This growth will occur whether or not El Dorado Hills becomes a city. New housing always has to pay its fair share for the additional services it demands from a city, and the city’s budget has to go up accordingly.

Push Question: “Among many factors at the city, the plan for the per capita level of police staffing is one-half what the City of Folsom has. In other words, the City of El Dorado Hills would have half as many police officers for its population as Folsom has for its population. Does this make you more likely to support or oppose cityhood?”

This is false on its face. Folsom has 1.1 officers per thousand residents. It is anticipated that El Dorado Hills will have 1.0 officers per thousand residents.

Push Question: “Another factor is that the level of city services that is planned for El Dorado Hills includes maintenance for parks, recreation, and street repairs that is one-half that for the City of Folsom on a per capita basis. Does this make you more likely to support or oppose cityhood?”

An example of half-truths. This is like comparing apples and oranges, but here’s a shot. Folsom spends about \$230 per capita for parks and recreation plus street maintenance. El Dorado Hills currently gets about \$80 per capita as part of the unincorporated county for both. The incorporated City of El Dorado Hills is anticipated to spend about \$100 per capita for these two budget items. As a comparison, the City of Sacramento spends about \$96 per capita for parks and recreation and street maintenance combined.

Push Question: “To summarize all that I’ve read, police staffing will be about half on a per capita basis, other city services such as parks and streets will be about half the level of other cities on a per capita basis, the city will grow from approximately 30,000 to 50,000 in 10 years, approximately 900 houses will be built per year for a total of approximately 8,400 in 10 years, and the city will operate at a deficit of \$1 million dollars per year for the first 5 years. I’ll ask you again, Does this make you more likely to support or oppose cityhood?”

Five falsehoods do not add up to the truth. See the rebuttals above.

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Push Question: "Proponents have stated that the two voter-approved amendments to the constitution, Prop 13 and 218 will protect local taxpayers against tax increases when El Dorado Hills incorporates. Opponents say that cities impose a tax rate that's higher than unincorporated areas of counties. For example, the UUT (Utility User Tax) rate in the City of Sacramento is 7.5%, compared to 2.5% in unincorporated areas of Sacramento County. Just in general, do you think your taxes will be lower when El Dorado Hills incorporates?"

False again. Cities do not impose taxes, and cities do not raise taxes. Voters choose to impose taxes on themselves, and voters raise their taxes. Taxes go up only when enough people go to the polls to vote them in, or enough people stay home and don't vote against them.

We understand that the callers who are practicing this "push polling" have their call-ID blocked, so when you answer the phone, you don't know where they are calling from.

BLAC urges all voters to do all they can to get the facts. The Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis is long and complex, but it has all the answers to financial questions. The LAFCO statements give a fairly unbiased summary of what is to be expected when El Dorado Hills becomes a city. ~



Common meadow mouse or vole

GOT VOLES?

Lately we have noticed that many of our neighbors are having a serious problem with voles (meadow mice), even after trying various extermination methods. Many of the Bass Lake residents have cats and dogs and we wondered what could be done about getting rid of these destructive little critters without harming our pets.

Voles are mouse-like rodents somewhat similar in appearance to pocket gophers.

Voles cause damage by feeding on a wide range of garden plants. Voiles will

gnaw the bark of fruit trees including almond, apple, avocado, cherry, citrus, and olive. Vole damage to tree trunks normally occurs from a few inches above ground to a few inches below ground. If voles gnaw completely around the trunk or roots, the tree's flow of nutrients and water will be disrupted; this is called girdling. Girdling damage on trunks and roots can kill trees.

Preventative measures include (1) removing or reducing the vegetative cover, thus making the area unsuitable to voles. Removing cover also makes detecting voles and other rodents easier, (2) installing wire fences at least 12 inches above the ground and 6 to 10 inches below ground with a mesh size of 1/4 inch or less to help exclude voles from entire gardens, (3) and girdling young trees, vines, and ornamentals with cylinders made from hardware cloth, sheet metal, or heavy plastic that surround the trunk and extend below ground

Eradication measures include trapping and the use of toxic baits. Baiting may be the quickest and most practical means of control, but take necessary measures to ensure the safety of children, pets, and non-target animals and follow all product label instructions carefully. Anticoagulants are probably the safest type of rodent bait for use around homes and gardens because they are slow acting, must be consumed over a period of 5 or more days to be effective, and there is an effective antidote, vitamin K1. Anticoagulant baits are available at many county agriculture commissioners' offices as well as at retail stores. Some anticoagulants such as brodifacoum and bromadiolone cannot be used for voles because of the potential risk they pose to predators such as cats and dogs. Check the label carefully to ensure that the bait has voles or meadow mice listed.

Commercial repellents are available for protecting plants from voles but their effectiveness is questionable and their use is often not practical. Burrow fumigants are not effective for the control of voles because the vole's burrow system is shallow and has numerous open holes. Electromagnetic or ultrasonic devices and flooding are also ineffective against voles.

For further information, contact Robin Cleveland, Senior Office Assistant at the U.C. Cooperative Extension in Placerville, telephone 530-621-5528, or email rkleveland@ucdavis.edu, or go to www.ipm.ucdavis.edu, click on Landscapes, Gardens, and Turf, then click on "Pests of Plants in Landscapes and Gardens" for an alphabetized list. ~

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