

BASS LAKE TO GET NEW TRASH HAULER

It seems that El Dorado Hills, including Bass Lake, will be getting a new trash and recycling company sometime in the coming months.



OUT - Waste Management

Waste Management, the company that has held the trash pickup franchise for the El Dorado Hills Community Services District for many years, is in the process of selling their El Dorado County assets to Waste Connections, Inc., a large trash disposal company headquartered in Folsom. The deal is expected to close before September 30, 2006.

Sources close to the negotiations say that Waste Management is in the process of divesting itself of its rural operations in order to concentrate on its more urban franchises. The company disposes of nearly half the nation's refuse, and as of 2005 it owned 25,000 trucks and 289 landfills. It also does a healthy recycling business.

On the minus side, Waste Management faces heavy price competition from thousands of private operators, as well as competition for new customers from publicly traded rivals Allied Waste Industries and Republic Services. Price increases, once 5% to 7% a year, have stagnated at 2% since 1998. However, Waste Management's size is letting it gain customers at rivals' expense, and here and there permits it to bump up prices, especially on landfills it operates. Analysts note that the company has a superb sales force that, with one approach, first aims for a municipal account and then

goes after more lucrative commercial business within a town.

Locally, Waste Management has had several run-ins with El Dorado County over alleged civil violations and poor service. According to recent reports in the Placerville Mountain Democrat, in April a civil judgment found that the company had violated the law, citing infractions such as trash escaping onto roadways from moving garbage trucks, failing to perform recycling service, and failing to meet fire codes, after the county brought a court action. The judgment includes monetary penalties and an injunction against the company committing further violations.



IN - Waste Connection

Newcomer Waste Connections currently provides solid waste collection, transfer, disposal, and recycling services to more than 1 million commercial, industrial, and residential customers in more than 20 states. The integrated solid waste services company does business mainly in smaller or secondary markets, operating primarily in the western United States, but also in midwestern and southeastern states. Waste Connections owns or operates about 105 collection operations, 35 transfer stations, 35 landfills, and 25 recycling facilities. The company generally seeks to avoid operating in highly competitive, larger urban mar-

kets. They are a leading provider of solid waste services in most of their markets, and more than 50% of their revenues are derived from market areas where they have franchise or exclusive arrangements. Waste Connections is headquartered on Iron Point Road in Folsom, California.

Asked how the new arrangement will affect Bass Lake residents who currently have Waste Management trash pickup, El Dorado Hills Community Services District representative Diana Hillyer said she thought that the change would be transparent to most customers. According to Hillyer, Waste Connections will assume the current franchise agreement with the EDH CSD, and she does not expect any immediate rate increase because of the change to Waste Connections. She did say that the current franchise agreement does provide for a rate review in a year or so, but any talk of a rate increase happening then would be purely speculative at this time. ~



Memorial Day



Memorial Day

By Eula Gladys Lincoln

In distant field of sunny France
Where strangers come and go,
Amid the farms of Flanders, where
The fragrant breezes blow,
Our soldier-dead in quiet sleep
'Neath crosses row on row.

Here shrapnel shells once shrieked
and burst
And took their toll of death;
The very wind, itself a foe,
Bore poison on its breath.

Above their graves the birds now sing
As round that home of yore,
When, care-free boys, they romped
and played;
Those childhood days soon o'er,
The boys to brave and strong men grown,
They romped and played no more.

They put aside their childish toys,
A man's work each must do,
And when their country called for them,
To her they answered true.

"We must protect our native land:
She shall not suffer wrong.
For she has reared and nurtured us,
We're men and we are strong.
Well bid good-by to those we love;
It will not be for long."

With aching hearts and tear-dimmed eyes
We watched them go away.
Some have returned but many sleep
In foreign lands to-day.

Where English roses bloom and fade,
In France where lilies grow,
Among the fields of Flanders, where
The scarlet poppies blow,
Our soldier-dead are not forgot
Though strangers come and go.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

Well, it looks like Summer is finally here, though I did miss having a Spring. However, it's nice to have sunshine at last.

No doubt you have all seen the flurry of letters and articles lately in the Village Life newspaper about development along Bass Lake Road. Personally, I was glad to have the opportunity to try and correct some of the misperceptions about our position on the park and the shopping center in my letter to the newspaper. There's no need to repeat our position here, as it is set forth in my letter to the Village Life.

What is important is that the various issues surrounding the park, the school, and even the proposed shopping center, are getting the attention they deserve. Issues like the traffic, the lights, and the noise, and all the factors that go with them, are getting a fair hearing.

We all have to remember that the idea underlying many of the land use and environmental laws is the protection of the minority from what has been called "the tyranny of the majority." That is, a majority of citizens should not be able to force onerous conditions upon a minority of citizens. Back when we were a colony of England, that philosophy was the basis of the American Revolution, as we reacted against what was perceived as the tyranny of a big country, England, over our little colonies in America, by taxing us without representation. That philosophy persists today as development catches up with the growing communities here in the beautiful foothills of the Sierras.

Progress is inevitable. We see it all around us. While we may have moved here to escape the crowded city scenes, development is sure to follow us. What is important is that such development is positive, well-planned, and responsible.

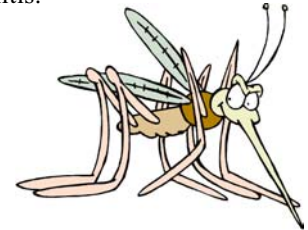
The ultimate goal of Bass Lake Action Committee is responsible growth. That means we all must do our best to make sure that, as the old song goes, we "Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, and don't mess with mister in-between."

John E. Thomson
President

MOSQUITO SEASON THREAT THIS YEAR

Abundant spring rains coupled with warm weather means a lot of hungry mosquitoes will be out soon. Adding to the discomfort of itchy bites is the threat that a mosquito that bites you might be a carrier of the West Nile virus, an unpredictable disease for humans in that it can cause death, disability, mild illness, or no sickness at all.

The majority of people infected with West Nile virus don't know it. About one in five infected persons develops symptoms similar to the flu: fever, aches, fatigue. One in 150 develops potentially deadly neurological problems, including meningitis and encephalitis.



For the past two years, about one out of five of the 935 cases in the state occurred in Sacramento County. The Sacramento-Yolo Vector Control (Mosquito Abatement) District spends about \$5 million a year and has over fifty full-time employees that fight the mosquitoes through a program that includes public education and physical, biological, and chemical controls.

While Sacramento county is fighting the virus-bearing mosquitoes with their vector control district, El Dorado County supervisors have declined to institute any sort of mosquito control district on the West Slope. El Dorado County health officials can only advise residents to protect themselves by using insect repellent, staying indoors during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active, and wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants outdoors when possible.

Bass Lake residents are advised to take that advice, and also make sure you have no standing water on your property that might harbor these pesky insects. ~



ASBESTOS CITIZEN'S ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting on a monthly basis with various local and federal government officials, including the USEPA, the Asbestos Citizens Advisory Group is a forum for residents with differing ideas on naturally occurring asbestos concerns in EDH to come to a meeting of the minds. While not a federal advisory group, they have made some positive inroads by commenting on dust control rules within the county and maintaining open communications with El Dorado County. Currently, they have written a letter to federal legislators, Congressman Jerry Lewis, Chair of the Committee on Appropriations and Congressman Charles H. Taylor, Chair, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agendas, requesting funding for much needed health related studies on naturally occurring asbestos.

One criticism of the EPA by some residents is that the EPA has not pursued asbestos testing in other geographical areas. However, the EPA is currently working in the Coalinga area on use of the Clear Creek Recreation area by off-highway vehicles in a serpentine rock area. Also, the California Geological Survey is actively mapping suspect areas in Sacramento and Placer Counties. The Placer county map and report may be found at www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/hazardous_minerals/asbestos/placer.htm. The U.S. Geological Service is also coming to El Dorado County to sample rocks and perform some additional testing at the request of the EPA.

The cost of mitigation for dust abatement has been a concern for the County, and the numbers quoted have been anywhere from 5% to 25% for development. El Dorado County has told the EPA that the costs are actually about 5-10%. However, public schools, which are held to higher standards and must mitigate by covering asbestos containing soil with hard surfaces, fabric, or clean soil, have incurred substantially higher costs to build new schools.

Dr. Vicki Barber, Superintendent of the El Dorado County Office of Education, recently sent a letter to Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, questioning the EPA's Integrated Risk Assessment for El Dorado Hills, claiming questionable science inconsistent with the Information Quality Act and with sound environmental and economic policies and alleging that the methodology used by the EPA could not distinguish between asbestos and nonasbestos particles, which would therefore overestimate the potential exposure and related health risks. The R. J. Lee Group report, which has been widely reported, claims that the methodology used identifies many nonasbestos particles as asbestos fibers. The EPA says it is not possible to distinguish between the two with current technology (see story on page 4).

The naturally occurring asbestos issue while complicated, costly, and in its infancy could open up avenues of discussion in El Dorado County about how much risk is actually involved and how to deal with the information currently available, whether definitive or not. Further risk assessment studies will assist residents and El Dorado County in making these decisions as well as further the scientific research needed on non-occupational exposures to naturally occurring asbestos. In the meantime, the debate will continue! ~

GREEN VALLEY ROAD WIDENING AWARDED

At the April 18 Board of Supervisors meeting, the County Transportation Department recommended that the County Board of Supervisors reject the single bid of \$6,874,329.98 from Lorang Brothers Construction, Inc. for the Green Valley Road widening project. The project contemplates widening Green Valley Road from the Sacramento County Line to Francisco Drive and incorporates a utility under-grounding project.

Department of Transportation staff asked that DOT be authorized to re-advertise a smaller contract for the first stages of the work (the earthwork component) that would better align costs with available revenue.

On April 21, the Board voted unanimously to disregard the DOT recommendation, and awarded the contract to Lorang.

Funding for the project will come from the Interim 2004 General Plan Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Program. ~



PIPELINE WORK SLATED FOR THIS SUMMER

A couple of pipeline projects promise to disrupt traffic this summer along parts of Green Valley Road and Silva Parkway in El Dorado Hills. Residents and travelers can expect to encounter lane closures and delays for (hopefully) brief periods of time during construction.

El Dorado Irrigation District is scheduled to begin work to build a major 42-inch diameter waterline along a 2.3 mile portion of the Silva Valley Parkway as soon as weather permits. The construction route will begin at the intersection of Green Valley Road and Silva Valley Parkway and proceed south along the east side of the parkway to Harvard Way.

EID expects that the project will be completed by late 2006. Additional information and updates will be available on EID's Web site at www.eid.org.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. has already begun work to install six miles of a 12-inch diameter natural gas transmission pipeline from Folsom to El Dorado Hills. The work will begin at Natoma Street and Bridge Street in Folsom and continue northeast along Natoma to Green Valley Road, continuing on Green Valley all the way to El Dorado Hills Boulevard.

PG&E crews will work along the road Monday through Saturday, and some of the work will be performed at night. The company expects to add as many as 6,000 new natural gas customers to its distribution system in El Dorado Hills over the next five years, according to the company. The pipeline will cost about \$10 million and is expected to be in operation by September. ~


Proposition 59
Government open to the people

EPA REFUTES DISMISSIVE R.J. LEE REPORT

Last Month the Bulletin related the saga of the little town of Libby, Montana, where several years ago the Environmental Protection Agency found dangerous amounts of lethal microscopic fibers generated by a vermiculite mine that had the same effect as deadly asbestos fibers, and linked the fibers with numerous deaths that had occurred in Libby. The story recounted the role of the firm of R.J. Lee, who ran a large analytical laboratory. In summary, R.J. Lee claimed that what the EPA's analysis called asbestos fibers were not really dangerous asbestos at all. But the EPA and the other federal agencies stuck to their guns, and in the end the mine owner was indicted on charges that it had conspired to release asbestos and to hide health problems at its mine.

In the ongoing dispute about the presence of naturally occurring asbestos found in El Dorado Hills by the EPA, county education officials, led by County School Superintendent Vicki Barber, brought in the now-familiar R.J. Lee consulting firm. R.J. Lee promptly issued a report (the Lee report) that claimed that what the EPA's analysis called asbestos fibers were not really dangerous asbestos at all.

An official EPA response to the Lee report has been released, and in it the EPA describes the Lee report as "seriously flawed" and deceptive. The EPA found none of the report's criticisms valid. Overall, the industry's evaluation runs afoul of "widely accepted scientific standards" for sampling and measuring asbestos in the environment, the EPA response said. The point-by-point rebuttal also spotlights 10 instances where the industry consultant, R.J. Lee Group, omitted or mischaracterized key details when it said that its air tests "showed no significant exposure" to asbestos.

A copy of this latest EPA report is available on the Bass Lake Action Committee website, www.basslakeaction.org. ~

DINING OUT WITH BLAC



By Le Count de Cuisine

Tucked away at the other end of the strip mall from Applebee's, the Redbud Cafe in Cameron Park offers upscale dining in a modern setting. The decor is bright and cheerful, and works of art from local artists adorn the walls. A unique "wine cellar on the wall" arrangement gives the dining room a festive air.

Food is what one could call Californian, and the seasonal menu offers a rather broad a la carte selection from which to choose, with offerings of appetizers, pizza, salads, sandwiches, and entrees.

When le Count and his friends dined at the Redbud Cafe last week, we had about a 10-minute wait for a table at 7:30 on a Wednesday evening. Service was slow at first, which was attributed to an initial shortage of wine glasses, but our waitress was personable, and during the rest of the meal the service was fine.

Our starters were either a small Julius, a Caesar salad made with quartered romaine hearts with shaved parmesan (\$7), which was quite good, or a small Apple Hill salad, with romaine hearts, crispy apples, pecan, and grilled chicken (\$6) that was pronounced delicious. It is nice to be able to order either a large or small salad. A large Apple Hill salad could easily serve as an entree, depending on one's appetite.

King Salmon on soba noodles (\$17) was the entree choice of le Count, with others at the table choosing either the Seared Prawns with fettuccine and spring peas (\$14), or the Hangar Steak with caramelized shallots and crispy potato sticks (\$19).

The King Salmon was very good, not overdone, with a tasty glaze, and the soba noodles were a spicy accompaniment. The Seared Prawns were a big hit, and the Hanger Steak was pronounced quite tasty.

The wine cellar tends to local wineries, and le Count's table enjoyed a Windwalker Chardonnay with dinner.

They don't take reservations, so one may have to wait for a table. An inquiry as to when one could easily get a table brought the response of "usually before 6:30." Outside dining is available in the front patio. Open for lunch and dinner. Hours vary, so call ahead. Redbud Cafe, 3275A Coach Lane, Cameron Park (530-672-1299).

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