



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. IX No. 3

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

March 2011

www.basslakeaction.org

GENEROUS WINTER RAINS REFILL BASS LAKE



Recent rains have filled Bass Lake to a point not seen in a long time. The lake, which up to last year was an active part of the El Dorado Irrigation District water system, is currently being fed only by runoff.



EL DORADO DISPOSAL STARTS RECYCLE BANK

Customers of El Dorado Disposal in El Dorado Hills will find an extra \$2.98 (\$2.00 for seniors) fee on their bimonthly bills for the privilege of enrolling in the new recycling program called RecycleBank. Everyone is automatically billed for the program unless they call and opt out, and the additional amount is not broken out as a separate item on your bill.

The program enables you to recycle as you have always done, and get rewarded for it. RecycleBank lets you earn points every time you bring your recycle cart to the curb. Your points can be redeemed for rewards such as groceries, apparel, and gift cards at local businesses and national retailers.

The more you recycle, the more points you earn. The average active RecycleBank household recycles approximately 66 pounds a month or about 1,980 points per year, which amounts to approximately \$200 in rewards savings, according to El Dorado Disposal. You can visit RecycleBank.com to learn about the program and the types of rewards you can receive.

The opt-in method for El Dorado Hills customers was requested by the disposal company in an effort to increase participation in the program. Earlier roll-outs of the RecycleBank program in Placerville and Cameron Park on a voluntary opt-in basis resulted in a low percentage of homeowner participation.

Anyone not wishing to participate in the program may opt out by calling El Dorado Waste Disposal at 916-985-1162 to have the program fee removed from their bill. ~

SOUTH OF



FOLSOM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS TO HEAR SPECIFIC PLAN AND EIR STUDIES

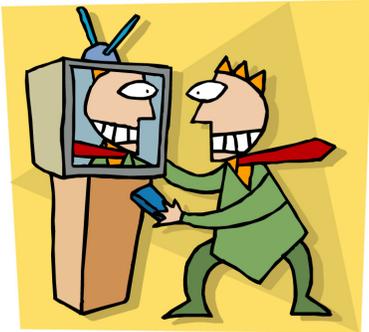
In July 2010, the City of Folsom released a draft of the "Folsom Planning Area Specific Plan" (SP) and a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to annex a 3,600-acre area south of Highway 50 to Folsom. The Planning Commission has slated a meeting on March 16 to hear information about the SP for the proposed project, and another meeting will be held April 6, 2011 to hear about the DEIR. Public input will be invited at each meeting, according to information the Bulletin has received.

The meeting was originally slated for March 2, 2011, but it was discovered that the notice had not gone out to sufficient interested persons, so that meeting was cancelled. Anyone wishing to be on the interest list and thereby be notified of future meetings, may contact Scott Johnson, Principal Planner, at (916) 355-722 or sjohnson@folsom.ca.us to be included.

The SP calls for building 10,200 residential homes with a projected population of 24,335 at build out. Large- and small-lot homes and high-density condominiums and apartments are contemplated by the SP. In addition, the SP land use will include 1.1 million square feet of industrial and office park floor space, and a 110-acre regional shopping mall parcel adjacent to Highway 50 and Scott Road.

The draft SP and DEIR may be viewed at the city's web site, www.folsom.ca.us.





YOUR TELEVISION MAY BE WATCHING YOU

The Wall Street Journal reported recently that data-gathering firms and technology companies are aggressively matching people's TV-viewing behavior with other personal data—in some cases, prescription-drug records obtained from insurers—and using it to help advertisers buy ads targeted to shows watched by certain kinds of people, according to *Wall Street Journal* reporter Jessica Vascellaro.

According to the article, cable and satellite companies are testing and deploying new systems designed to show households highly targeted ads. Their goal is to emulate the sophisticated tracking widely used on people's personal computers with new technology that reaches the living room.

Some companies are taking data on TV-viewing behavior harvested from set-top boxes and matching it with a broad array of household data. Then they, and other tech firms including Google Inc., help advertisers buy ads targeted to shows watched by certain types of people.

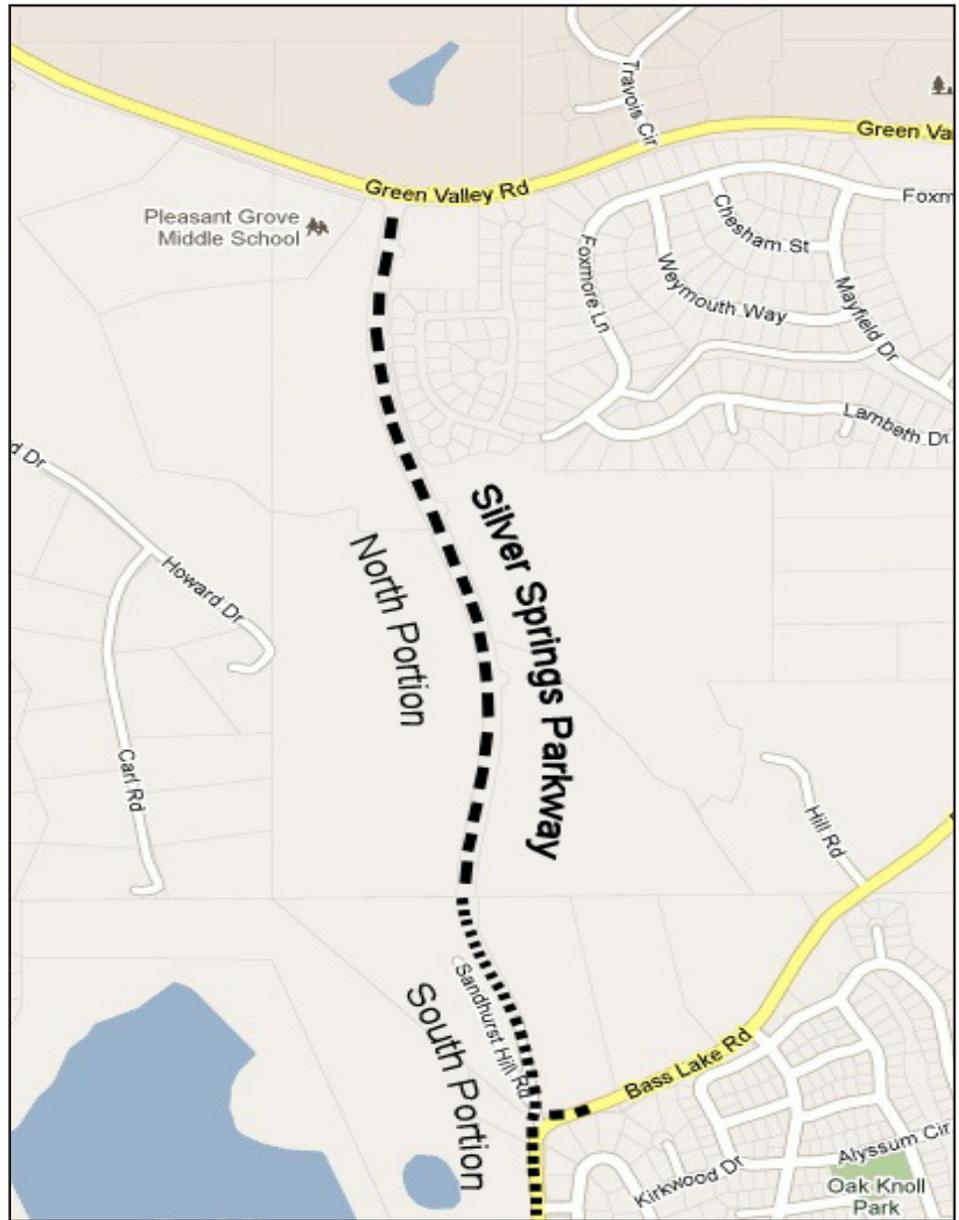
Some industry executives urge caution, saying they are reluctant to make the investment when the benefits are unknown. Others warn advertisers should proceed cautiously in light of the intensifying regulatory scrutiny of Internet tracking.

People might see a greater volume of ads they find "personally intrusive," according to industry analyst, citing political campaigns as examples.

Many—but not all—companies let people opt out of having their anonymous TV-viewership information used for ad purposes.

DirecTV subscribers can opt out by contacting the company at (800) 531-5000, www.directv.com/email. TiVo Inc. says users can opt out by contacting customer support. Details at support.tivo.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1279.

Comcast Corp. is gearing up for a test of ad-targeting this year. A spokesman said the firm has yet to determine whether there will be an opt-out option, but that "privacy and notification will be key considerations." ~



Map showing the route of the Silver Springs Parkway. The heavy dotted line is the northern portion, the light dots indicate the southern portion.

SILVER SPRINGS PARKWAY WORK MAY BEGIN

Persons familiar with the status of Silver Springs Parkway (see map) have told the Bulletin that work on the northern portion of the new road will probably go out for bid soon, and work on the project could start this coming summer. Construction on the southern portion is dependent upon negotiations over the right-of-way, but could start in 2012 if everything goes as planned.

Readers will remember that Silver Springs Parkway is the new road that will generally serve the Silver Springs housing development slated to be built east of the new parkway and south of Sierra Crossing.

The northern portion is financed by construction bonds issued by the developer, so funds are on hand to complete that section.

Improvements include installing signals at Green Valley Road. People familiar with the situation say that the road bonds for the northern portion have a time limit and the funds must be soon used.

The southern portion of the new road will be paid for by the county using TIM fees and general road funds. It was initially hoped that both sections could be built at the same time so as to take advantage of economies of scale. However, construction prices have declined to the point where doing the projects separately makes sense. Improvements on the southern end include creating a new three-way intersection at Bass Lake Road and installing right- and left-hand turn lanes at Madera Way. ~

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

Regular readers of the Bulletin will recall that, in August of 2009, I was invited along on a delightful scenic train ride put on by the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad, a project of the Folsom El Dorado & Sacramento Historical Railroad Association (FEDS). I reported my trip in the September 2009 Bulletin.

FEDS wants to eventually offer excursion rail trips into El Dorado County over the tracks of the old Southern Pacific Railroad line on weekends and holidays. The right-of-way is now managed by the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The JPA purchased the right-of-way from SPRR under the Rails-to-Trails Act, which provides for the "rail banking" of old abandoned railroad rights-of-way for possible future use.

The transportation corridor master plan calls for integrating limited excursion rail with all non-motorized trail use along the corridor. Excursion rail trips along the corridor would be limited to two a day on weekends and holidays. However, there appears to be a vocal group calling for tearing up the tracks and using the corridor for only non-motorized use, effectively banning any excursion rail activity.

Philip Rose of the FEDS assures me that they contemplate that their excursion train activities would be limited to open observation cars pulled slowly by a small engine at a slow rate of speed.

I am concerned that banning excursion rail activity would deny the beauty of the corridor to the elderly, the infirm and the disabled. The great outdoors should not be enjoyed only by the physically able. The corridor is public land, and should be available for enjoyment by everyone, no matter what their physical condition.

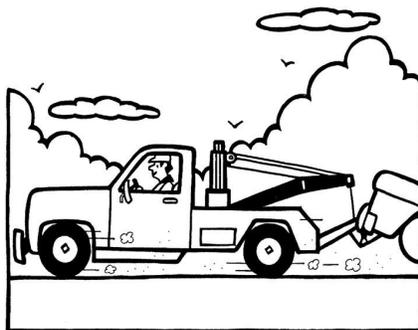
Therefore, I would be pleased to see that a broad range of recreational opportunities is afforded to anyone who wishes to experience the scenic beauty of the corridor, particularly by preserving the existing rails for excursion trips, so as to accommodate those who have special needs.

If you have an opinion in this matter, you can contact your El Dorado County supervisor at www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/BOS/.

Sincerely,

John E. Thomson

President



SACRAMENTO CRASH TAX A TOTAL WRECK?

Sacramento's so-called "crash tax" initiative appears to have crashed and burned, and it may soon be headed to the junkyard behind a tow truck.

The Sacramento City Council recently voted to place an item on a future agenda that would repeal the city's controversial program, which would slap charges on out-of-town drivers who cause auto wrecks that require a response from the city's fire department.

That vote all but ensures the controversial program will be repealed, and a vote to repeal the program will probably occur by mid-month.

However, the repeal may face stiff opposition by city officials who see the tax as a painless way to charge out-of-towners to support city services.

Last month Roseville's city council unanimously rescinded its version of a crash tax, bowing to citizens' complaints. ~



EID AND EDH: TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION?

The just-released 2010 Census shows a significant increase in the population of El Dorado Hills (EDH). The 2010 census shows that EDH population has exploded to 42,108 residents, up 77% from the 23,754 residents here in 2000. EDH also accounted for a majority of the population growth in El Dorado County during that time. EDH's 13,500 customers are 35% of all El Dorado

Irrigation's customers for water, and EDH's 12,500 sewer customers are 60% of EID's sewer connections. All of EID's 4,000 recycled water customers are in EDH.

However, EDH has only one representative on the five-member EID Board of Directors, based on the board member districts as currently drawn. EID has a policy of evaluating district boundaries every 5 years to ensure equitable representation on the EID, but the most recent redistricting took place back in 2002.

EID has announced it will begin the process of redrawing the board districts, which EID projects may be complete by late August. However, that August completion date will be past the time to use the new districts in the November 2011 board election. This means that El Dorado Hills will not have proper representation for at least another four years. ~



PLACERVILLE REJECTS LED GAS STATION SIGN

The Placerville City Council recently upheld a Placerville Planning Commission decision at to deny the use of light-emitting diode (LED) lights for a gasoline station sign at the corner of Spring and Main streets. The LED sign was to have displayed the changing prices of gasoline without the need for an attendant to physically change the numbers, according to the application.

The Planning Commission approved the gas station's overall sign package with the condition that the operator use manually changed price numerals, not LED lights. One of the reasons for the condition was concern expressed by the public about the inappropriateness of an LED sign on the Highway 50 Scenic Corridor through Placerville. The decision was appealed to the City Council by the gas station operator on the basis that an LED sign is not specifically prohibited under the city's sign ordinance.

Council members Hagen and Acuna and Mayor Machado voted to affirm the Planning Commission's decision to deny the LED sign, while member Borelli voted against it. ~



THE IRISH SHAMROCK

Why is the shamrock one of the central symbols of St. Patrick's Day? There are many explanations, but all have a mythical theme—the teachings of St. Patrick. According to legend, long ago when Ireland was the land of the Druids, there was a great Bishop, Patrick by name, who came to teach the word of God throughout the country. This St. Patrick was well loved everywhere he went. One day, however, a group of his followers came to him and admitted that it was difficult for them to believe in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. St. Patrick reflected a moment and then, stooping down, he plucked a leaf from the shamrock and held it before them, bidding them to behold the living example of the “Three-in-One.” St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The simple beauty of this explanation convinced these skeptics, and from that day the shamrock has been revered throughout Ireland.

That is a great story, and it explains why the shamrock is important to the Irish. Many believe the shamrock is a clover, since the



March Wind

March wind is a jolly fellow;
He likes to joke and play.
He turns umbrellas inside out
And blows men's hats away.
He calls the pussy willows
And whispers in each ear,
“Wake up you lazy little seeds;
Don't you know that spring is here?”

— Anonymous

Gaelic word “seamrog” means “little clover,” but the botanical world is not so sure. There is much debate about which species is the real thing, and some of the likely candidates are not even classified as clover. This confusion is partly due to the mythology of the shamrock and the different representations that have appeared in Celtic artwork through the centuries.

But myths are powerful folklore. In the 19th century the shamrock became a symbol of rebellion against the English, and it began to be strongly associated with Irish identity. Apparently anyone wearing it at the time risked death by hanging.

So whether the legend of St. Patrick and the shamrock is truth or myth, it's certainly a fine story to tell on St. Patrick's Day. ~



PROPANE UPDATE

Propane prices on the West Coast continued to rise recently, no doubt as a reflection of higher gasoline prices, though the slowing of demand for propane in anticipation of warmer weather continues to depress what the price would otherwise be.

The Targa San Ramon wholesale price of propane was \$1.73 a gallon on or about February 24, 2011, making the JS West per-gallon contract delivered price \$2.29 per gallon to Bridlewood Canyon, Woodridge and Sierra Crossing.

The US Energy Information Agency reports that as of March 7, 2011, the average retail price of propane East of the Rockies was \$2.88 per gallon (they have no data for West of the Rockies). ~

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MARCH BLAC MEETING HELD, APRIL MEETING DATE SET

The regular monthly meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee was held on March 7, 2011. The guest speaker was El Dorado Hills Community Services District's new Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R) Compliance Officer, Jeff Routson.

The next BLAC meeting will be held on April 4, 2011, at 7:00 PM at the home of Jeanette and Joe D'Amico, 400 Basil Court, Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-676-7368. All BLAC members are cordially encouraged to attend. For further information contact Kathy Prevost, 530-672-6836. ~

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