



# BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

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[www.basslakeaction.org](http://www.basslakeaction.org)



**Brushing Bass Lake Road:** Last month brushing crews from the county cleared the brush along the shoulders of Bass Lake Road from Green Valley Road to Serrano Parkway. Here we see a crew removing brush near Magnolia Hills Drive. The work required the road to be reduced to one lane with traffic controls in effect.



## COUNTY TO REPAVE PART OF BASS LAKE ROAD

The Board of Supervisors has voted to use its 2014 Federal Urban Regional Surface Transportation Program funds to apply an asphalt overlay to the two miles of Bass Lake Road between Sienna Ridge Road and Parkdale Lane. The county expects to be awarded between \$700,000 and \$800,000 in federal funding for the work. The estimated cost of the Bass Lake Road project is \$900,000.

Other county roads in contention for the funds were Patterson Drive, Country Club Drive, Palmer Drive, and Pleasant Valley Road.

County staff recommended the funds be used for Bass Lake Road because Bass Lake Road provides access to over 5,500 vehicles per day from Green Valley Road to U.S. Highway 50; it is the only arterial roadway that serves at least four major subdivisions, as well as traffic from the eastern end of Cameron Park; it will deteriorate more quickly than the other roadways considered, due to the number of failed sections; it includes areas with large, deep cracking, in which pieces of asphalt concrete are loose and moving; it includes areas of exposed asphalt base, leading to possible complete failure of its structural section; and it contains areas in which deterioration may make the road unsafe.

No date has been set for when the work will be done, since the project depends on the awarding of the federal grant, but it is expected that the work will be done in fiscal year 2014-2015. ~



## SALE OF BASS LAKE PROCEEDING

Bass Lake, once a source of water for the miners of the Gold Rush, is on track to be sold to the Rescue Union School District. Built by the Eureka Canal Company in 1858, the reservoir, then called the American Reservoir, was the western terminus of what was later known as the Crawford Ditch, which brought water from the North Fork of the Cosumnes River through mining

towns such as Logtown, Diamond Springs, and Skinners.

The gold miners used the water to wash the gold out of their pay dirt. When the gold ran out, the water was used to irrigate the orchards that once filled the area. Overflow from the reservoir fed into Carson Creek, which flows past Clarksville, and furnished that pioneer community with water.

The district proposes to purchase the 90-acre lake, plus 58 acres of surrounding  
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INDEPENDENCE DAY



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello All,

It is said that everyone talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it. However, we may have better weather ahead this winter.

A recent warming trend in the Pacific Ocean has long-range weather forecasters speculating that the coming winter may be a wet one, due to the presence of El Niño conditions in the Pacific Ocean. During El Niño, significantly wetter winters are likely to occur in central California.

National Weather Service forecasters say that the chance of the occurrence of an El Niño will reach 80% during this fall and winter because above-average sea surface temperatures expanded over the equatorial Pacific Ocean during May 2014, though other factors have remained neutral. That being said, the forecasters remain confident that El Niño is likely to emerge.

Longrangeweather.com says that the West Coast is expected to be drier and warmer than normal during this summer, but the late summer season will likely see an increase in moisture to above normal levels. Thus, in general, California will be drier than normal through the summer season and into the early fall, but later in the fall it looks to be wet and mild.

However, Northern California should see above normal moisture beginning as early as October, thanks to the warming waters in the Pacific Ocean.

It is obvious that long-range weather forecasting is a chancy business. However, this ray of hope is encouraging when we are currently in a drought. Let's hope the forecasters are right!

Best regards,

*John Thomson*

President

## BASS LAKE *(continued)*

land, from the El Dorado Irrigation District for \$300,000. The plan is to eventually develop approximately 20 acres as a K-8 school focusing on environmental science and technology, according to Sid Albaugh, the district's chief business and operations official. The remainder is envisioned as parkland that the district would share with the El Dorado Hills Community Services District.

The EID Board of Directors approved the pending sale at their June board meeting with a vote of 4 -1, with Director Prada casting the dissenting vote.

The property, off Bass Lake Road and south of Green Valley Road in El Dorado Hills, already includes the Sellwood Park baseball field. It is adjacent to the 41 acres of county-owned property long planned for a regional park.

In late 2009, El Dorado Irrigation District directors declared the 148-acre Bass Lake site surplus property. Under state law, the district was required to make a written offer to sell the property to other government entities in the area, said Mary Lynn Carlton, communications director for the irrigation district. The county of El Dorado and the school district expressed interest, and the Rescue district came through with an offer. Carlton said the \$300,000 offer, along with the purchase agreement, will be presented to the irrigation district board for approval June 9.

Carlton said the lake is fed by natural springs—the irrigation district hasn't supplemented water in Bass Lake for five years—and is relatively shallow, with a maximum depth of 10 feet and little fluctuation in water level.

The district had stored water in the lake to supplement recycled water supplies used for landscape irrigation in much of El Dorado Hills. But Carlton said the Bass Lake water, with its high mineral content, stained sidewalks and driveways.

The lake is home to largemouth bass and attracts large numbers of Canada geese, she said, and the surrounding land is prime for nature studies.

Not included in the sale are about 30 acres that the irrigation district will retain for an equipment storage and maintenance yard.

The Rescue district doesn't plan to develop the school site for several years. Although district enrollment is expected to increase with new housing construction, Albaugh said growth-related initiatives that may go before El Dorado County voters in November could affect enrollment projec-

tions. The district is waiting to see what type of development occurs in the area, according to Albaugh.

The district also has several hurdles to cross as it pursues purchase of the property. It must complete environmental studies to make sure nothing on the property would render it unsuitable for a school. In addition, the site must be approved by the state Department of Education, Albaugh said. Some of the environmental studies and state approvals are required before the close of escrow.

All proposed school sites that will receive State funding for acquisition or construction are required to go through a rigorous environmental review and cleanup process under the oversight of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. The DTSC's School Property Evaluation and Cleanup Division is responsible for assessing, investigating and cleaning up proposed school sites. The Division ensures that selected properties are free of contamination or, if the properties were previously contaminated, that they have been cleaned up to a level that protects the students and staff who will occupy the new school.

In addition, the school district must adhere to the requirements of the California Department of Education's School Site Selection and Approval Guidelines. The Guidelines require an environmental impact report (EIR) or an adopted negative declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

The possible presence of asbestos on the site may hinder the school district's ability to develop the property as a school site. The state has identified the property as being a probable site of a type of naturally-occurring asbestos similar to that found at several local schools over the last few years. Asbestos is classified as a known human carcinogen by state, federal and international agencies. State and federal health officials consider all types of asbestos to be hazardous. ~

*Credit: Cathy Locke, Sacramento Bee*



*The Spirit of 1776*



A view of Old Clarksville Cemetery, showing the new wrought iron fencing and one of the original masonry entry gate columns that the fundraising will refurbish.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY RAISING FUNDS TO PRESERVE CEMETERY

Not just a young community born in the last 50 years, El Dorado Hills is steeped in history. During the Gold Rush era a portion of southern El Dorado Hills visible from Highway 50 was known as Clarksville and one local group makes sure it's not forgotten.

Once Clarksville's schoolhouse, today a dilapidated barn is one of the last remaining structures and it's on the Clarksville Region Historical Society's watch list to protect.

Founded in 2006 to identify and preserve objects of historical interest, the Clarksville Region Historical Society "enlists public support for the historical preservation and display of documents, artifacts, records and other objects of historical interest related to historic Clarksville and the surrounding region."

As El Dorado Hills teems with modern growth, another remnant of Clarksville remains. High on a hill above the Mercedes-Benz dealership the Clarksville Cemetery (once called the Mormon Tavern Cemetery) houses the remains of at least 90 individuals who were part of a dozen families, including the Joerger family that owned a sprawling ranch where El Dorado Hills Boulevard is today.

Corporal Samuel E. Kyburz, a veteran of the Civil War and prominent figure in California's history, was buried in the Clarksville Cemetery in 1917.

If not settlers, many people buried in the cemetery were passing through the then transient town of Clarksville on the way east. The earliest grave is marked 1853.

"The cemetery is the most pressing preservation because once it becomes known it's subject to vandalism and we want to protect it," said Clarksville Region Historical Society vice president Betty January. "There's a lot of history there. We might even discover more."

Over the years headstones have been damaged and outright stolen.

There are also stories of extraordinary volunteer efforts to preserve the cemetery, like when youth Jeff Carlson used a cadaver dog to locate unmarked graves as part of his Eagle Scout project in 2008. "People died of cholera and nobody wanted to touch them so they were just buried," January explained during a site tour.

Only a barbed wire fence protected the cemetery until earlier this spring when a 610-foot wrought iron perimeter fence was installed.

Donors' contributions and two local grants added up to the \$13,000 needed. The new fence was installed by Linmoore Fencing.

Approximately \$4,000 still needs to be raised to complete the renovation. January said the cemetery still needs a new front gate, the original pillars built at the turn of the 20th century need to be repaired and a new Clarksville Cemetery archway is planned. January said benches will also be installed in the future and she'd like to see

prominent donors' names sandblasted onto the benches or placed on a plaque.

January does have one concern with better security. "We will have a lock on the gate, but we want to be sure the descendants' families aren't locked out of their own cemetery," she said. "Just over Memorial Day a whole slew of Wilsons came up to put flowers on headstones as they do every year."

The pioneering Wilson family has one plot dating back to 1882.

Jim and Erlinda Vindler of Vindler Real Estate & Acquisitions hosted a fundraiser on Saturday, June 7, from noon to 4 p.m. to benefit the Clarksville Region Historical Society. The money raised will first be used for the entry gate, arch and repaired pillars, but the next priority will be the barn.

"Preserving Clarksville is an ongoing effort," said January. "The barn is next. We've already used \$1,500 (from the Historic Society's) general fund to put up panels to protect the roof, which is missing right now. We want to get that taken care of before winter."

The public took shuttle rides from the Vindler Real Estate office in El Dorado Hills to the cemetery, where guided tours by costumed docents were offered. There was live music, raffle prizes and food and drink in front of the office (across from Starbucks).

The Vindlers, who have lived in El Dorado County since 1988, have been in real estate for more than 20 years. "Jim is going all out for the fundraiser," said January. "Once he learned about Clarksville and the cemetery he got all excited."

The Vindlers gave 100 percent of the fundraiser's proceeds to the Clarksville Region Historical Society. "I wanted to be Indiana Jones before there was an Indiana Jones," Jim said about his love of history and archaeology. "Our kids are grown and it's the right time for us to help preserve local history."

In Placerville the Vindlers are concurrently working on another restoration project. They're renovating Old City Hall, where they moved their offices into the nicknamed "catsup" side of the "catsup and mustard" building Jan. 1.

January said they put a lot of work into readying the cemetery for the tour. "We been cleaned, removed branches and debris," she said. "It was in pretty good shape for the tour."

As for the future, January said, "We will be having Clarksville Day again." The annual spring event the Historical Society hosted until 2012 to bring alive the spirit of Clarksville has been on hiatus since the

*(continued on page 4)*

## HISTORICAL *(continued)*

Silva Valley interchange construction cut into event parking.

January emphasized the new interchange will not impact Clarksville in the long run. "The only thing we lost was parking," she said. "The Silva Valley interchange doesn't even go into Clarksville. Nothing will be impacted unless they develop it and right now there are no plans to do anything to the historic site of Clarksville. When the interchange is finished we think we will get a new lot leveled for us; that is the plan. Then we're back in business to host Clarksville Day again."

Donations to the cemetery project may be mailed to Clarksville Region Historical Society, 9045 Orchid Shade Drive, El Dorado Hills 95762.

Clarksville Region Historical Society general meetings are open to the public and are held at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the El Dorado Hills Library, except July and December. Guest speakers with knowledge in local history are usually secured for monthly meetings.

For more information call (916) 933-8525 or visit [edhhistory.org](http://edhhistory.org). ~

*Credit: Julie Samrick, Village Life*



Summer Sun

Great is the sun, and wide he goes  
Through empty heaven with repose;  
And in the blue and glowing days  
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Though closer still the blinds we pull  
To keep the shady parlour cool,  
Yet he will find a chink or two  
To slip his golden fingers through.

The dusty attic spider-clad  
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;  
And through the broken edge of tiles  
Into the laddered hay-loft smiles.

Meantime his golden face around  
He bares to all the garden ground,  
And sheds a warm and glittering look  
Among the ivy's inmost nook.

Above the hills, along the blue,  
Round the bright air with footing true,  
To please the child, to paint the rose,  
The gardener of the World, he goes.

—Robert Louis Stevenson



**Thomas (Tom) David Stuchell**  
January 28, 1941 - May 29, 2014

We are sad to report the passing of Tom Stuchell on May 29, 2014. Tom was a founding member and loyal supporter of the Bass Lake Action Committee and a good friend to the Woodridge community.

Tom was a husband, father, and grandfather, a veteran of the United States Air Force, and a retiree from a career with United Air Lines. He was an avid flier and cherished his private pilot's license.

A memorial service was held on June 4, 2014, at the Green Valley Mortuary Chapel in Cameron Park. The service was attended by the Stuchell family, many neighbors, and aviation industry friends from the Bay Area.

Tom will be greatly missed.



**4TH OF JULY**

Bass Lake Action Committee  
501 Kirkwood Court  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762



## BLAC BOARD TO MEET IN AUGUST, HEAR ABOUT VOTER INITIATIVES

The Board of Directors of Bass Lake Action Committee will meet on August 4, 2014, at 7:00 PM at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court, Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-3039.

In addition to the business meeting, the board will hear a presentation describing the growth initiative measures that will be on the ballot in November. As always, all BLAC members are cordially invited to attend the meeting and hear the presentation.

For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact BLAC Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

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