

The

BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

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www.basslakeaction.org

UNPRODUCTIVE MEETING WITH RUSTY DUPRAY

Representatives of BLAC came away from their latest meeting with county supervisor Rusty Dupray with the feeling that the county continues to be unwilling to compromise at all on plans for the proposed Bass Lake Park.

Kathy Prevost and John Thomson of BLAC and Jim Pickett of the Bridlewood Canyon HOA met with Supervisor Dupray, Interim Planning Director Craven R. Alcott, and DOT representative Randy Pesses at Dupray's office in Placerville on October 30th.

Randy Pesses began the meeting by reviewing with us the preliminary traffic study concerned with Bass Lake Road as it passes the proposed Bass Lake Park park. The report recommends that the entrance to the park be opposite to the entrance to Woodridge. It provides for a single stop sign to control cars exiting the park, and new left- and right-turn lanes into the park from Bass Lake Road. We were taken aback to see that there is no provision for stop signs to control traffic on Bass Lake Road at the crossing.

Jim Pickett was dismayed to see no provision for left and right turn lanes into Bridlewood Canyon, despite the anticipation of increased traffic on Bass Lake Road. When Jim complained, Pesses said that if Bridlewood



wanted turn lanes, Bridlewood would have to pay for them. Pickett was also upset that there are no provisions for pedestrians to get from Bridlewood to the park.

During the meeting John Thomson noted that BLAC had originally taken the position that the park should be a passive park. He stated that though BLAC had compromised by accepting the concept of athletic fields at the park, the county had not changed their position on the field lighting. In defense of the lights, Craven Allcott replied with anecdotes about the shortage of playing fields for the children.

When the discussion turned to why the park had not been built on the original land parcel in Cameron Park, it came out that one reason the park was not built there was because of the opposition of businesses surrounding the Cameron park site.

One of the last things to be discussed was BLAC's concern about park visitors parking their cars on Woodridge streets and on the Bridlewood entry road, creating congestion. We asked that the county consider limiting parking to residents' cars on some of those streets, as provided for by the vehicle code. It seemed a reasonable

thing to ask for, since the road was not going to be improved in any significant manner. However, our suggestion was rejected. In essence, we were told to wait and see because it's too soon to tell if there is going to be a problem.

When the question of the potential for crime and mischief in the park was raised, we were told that the county does not have any crime or mischief problems in other county parks. This ignores the fact that the parks are not in populated areas like ours. However, we were told to wait and see, because it's too soon to tell if there is going to be a problem.

As we left, we were struck with the thought that the county's attitude seems to be "We'll just go ahead and do whatever we want to do, and then afterwards we'll see if there is a problem." That may be all right for them, but the citizens and the taxpayers are the ones saddled with any problems that result from poor planning and lack of foresight. That kind of an attitude got the county into trouble with the last General Plan. Will Bass Lake Park become another example? ❧





REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND MEETINGS

As part of its purpose, representatives from BLAC continue to attend meetings of local governmental, administrative, or advisory agencies on behalf of the Bass Lake community. If any issues affecting Bass Lake residents are discussed, or if any actions are proposed or taken which would impact the Bass Lake community, summaries of those meetings are posted on the BLAC website, or published here in the *Bass Lake Bulletin*.

On November 5, Joe D'Amico, Tom Stuchell and John Thomson attended the EDC Parks Commission meeting in Placerville. The progress of the draft EIR for Bass Lake Park was discussed, and the completion of the draft EIR was said to be around the first of January. The census of athletic playing fields in the county is progressing well. The report on Serrano's compliance with its promised park and trail development was postponed until the December commission meeting.

On November 13, Kathy Prevost, Herb Prevost and John Thomson attended the El Dorado Hills CSD meeting. A presentation outlining progress on the pending cable television franchise renewal with Comcast yielded the news that cable TV bills will probably rise about ten percent in 2004. A local community access channel will

probably be added to the cable lineup as a result of the franchise renewal.

On November 18, Ted Greenman attended the EDH CSD's Parks and Planning Committee meeting in El Dorado Hills. It was confirmed that construction on the improvement and realignment of the southern part of Bass Lake Road will begin in the spring of 2004. In the event Bass Lake Regional Park is built, EDC will maintain the park grounds, while the EDH CSD will organize the park's recreational programs. The opinion was expressed that EDH cityhood would not affect that proposed arrangement. ☺



SHERIFF AND CHP RESPOND TO BLAC TRAFFIC CONCERNS

We would like to thank The California Highway Patrol and the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office for increasing their patrols in the Bass Lake Road area, in response to requests by BLAC. You may have noted the presence of more patrol cars lately on Bass Lake Road and Summer Drive in Woodridge. Speed indicator signs were placed on Bass Lake Road for several days.

There have been almost a dozen automobile accidents on Bass Lake Road so far this year, a

circumstance that prompted BLAC to call on our law enforcement agencies for help in moderating traffic speed and unsafe driving in the Bass Lake neighborhoods. The posted speed limit on Bass Lake Road is 45 miles per hour.

We appreciate the efforts of the Sheriff and the CHP, and we have urged them to continue patrolling Bass Lake Road until the road is improved. The road improvements are scheduled to be completed sometime in 2005. BLAC urges everyone to be extra careful when driving this holiday season, especially on Bass Lake Road. ☺



BLAC IS NOW A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

Our nation has a long and rich tradition of people coming together and forming organizations to solve problems and enrich their communities. The concept of non-profit organizations and associations is an important part of our history and culture. They provide a means for people to contribute time, resources and expertise for a greater good. In short, non-profit corporations are for people, to help them achieve some common purpose.

Accordingly, Bass Lake Action Committee is now incorporated as a California Nonprofit Corporation.

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This nonprofit corporate status confers certain benefits on BLAC members, officers and directors.

First, incorporation offers protection from personal liability for the group's activities.

Second, nonprofit status facilitates applying for public or private grant money. Without tax-exempt status, BLAC is unlikely to qualify for many public and private grants.

BLAC chose to be what is known as an Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(4) corporation. This classification covers organizations that lobby legislative bodies on behalf of specific causes and that work primarily in social welfare activities. For example, the well-known environmental organization Greenpeace Inc. is a 501(c)(4) corporation. Because they are allowed to engage in lobbying and similar political activities, contributions to 501(c)(4) groups are usually not tax-deductible. ❧



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

— Margaret Mead



Note to Readers: The next Bulletin will be the February 2004 edition. Best wishes to you and yours for this holiday season and the new year.

-- John Thomson, Editor



THE PRESIDENTS' CORNER

The golden, red, and burgundy shades of leaves dapple the Sierra foothills as fall melts into winter. As the seasons change we are reminded we have much to be thankful for living in this beautiful area of Northern California. Trips to Apple Hill and into nearby Amador County to the many wineries provide a welcome change from our everyday lives.

We are anticipating the release of the Draft EIR for the proposed Bass Lake Regional Park to take place in later December or early January. The document should appear on the county website at www.co.el-dorado.ca.us for ease of downloading when it is first released. We will also have it available through our BLAC website as soon as it is issued. It is very important that you read through the document and make comments on the contents within the 45-day comment period.

As a follow up to our conversations with the CHP in Placerville, the officers who patrol Bass Lake Road were very thorough and contacted me several times letting me know they were placing extra patrols on the road. We have also sent emails to DOT

letting them know of our concerns. If you notice any particular pattern to incidents or time of day when they happen, please let me know.

When there were several accidents the first week it rained, there was renewed interest in when the proposed roadwork will begin. You have probably noticed the fact that surveying has been started, and we understand work should begin in the spring. A work schedule for the road project has not been made available to us at this time. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Since Green Springs Ranch development will be most affected by the proposed park because they are on the immediate boundaries of the park, we have written a letter to District I supervisor Rusty Dupray, supporting and endorsing their request for a boundary fence. The issues of crime, mischief, trespassing and vandalism are something the county has not encountered at their other parks because they are not located in residential areas. In particular, the geography of the proposed Bass Lake Regional Park will invite such untoward behavior.

The County unrealistically does not feel this will be an issue at this site. They feel these are problems that can be dealt with after the park is built. If you do not concur with this philosophy, then please make your concerns known to the each of the County Supervisors. The addresses of each of the supervisors is available on our website at www.basslakeaction.org.

May you enjoy a wonderful holiday embracing the enduring traditions your family celebrates.

-- Kathy Prevost





RANCHO CORDOVA FACES HOMELESS, CRIME IN PARKS

A recent article in the Sacramento Bee (November 23, 2003) pointed out problems that Rancho Cordova is having in its parks. According to the Bee, an increasing number of homeless people are camping in Rancho Cordova parks. The article quotes Sgt. Pete James of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department as saying, "They just got ran out of downtown Sacramento and are looking for a place where the cops don't bother them." Homeless camps have been found at several parks in Rancho Cordova, but Hagan and White Rock parks and the Mills Little League Field are attracting the most homeless people, city officials said. Parks employees also report a dramatic rise in homeless camps in the past two to three months, said Jerry Steinke, administrator of the Cordova Recreation and Parks Department.

One resident living near White Rock Park complained that the park had become a beacon for drugs and homeless people. Steinke said some of the homeless campers litter, damage restrooms, defecate in the open and bring aggressive dogs with them. There have been reports of homeless campers breaking

sprinklers and burning a portable bathroom.

Mayor Dave Roberts is quoted as saying that the biggest problem is not the homeless campers. He said the campsites attract more dangerous people, such as drug dealers and gang members. He said that Rancho Cordova may have to resort to hiring an off-duty police officer to patrol the parks at night.

Some Bass Lake residents have expressed the fear that the proposed Bass Lake Park could also become a magnet for homeless people camping in the park, attracting drug addicts and other undesirables, mostly because the park's design lends itself to illegal activities occurring in the back reaches of the park. ❧



Bass Lake Action Committee
1080 Jasmine Circle
El Dorado Hills CA 95762

BLAC SOLICITS DONATIONS

Bass Lake Action Committee has opened a checking account at Western Sierra National Bank in El Dorado Hills and we are now gratefully accepting donations to offset the ongoing operating expenses of the organization. Checks made out to Bass Lake Action Committee may be sent to BLAC at 1080 Jasmine Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. Donations to BLAC are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. ❧

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Editor: John E. Thomson, Ph.D.

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The Bass Lake Action Committee is a group of concerned homeowners from the communities immediately adjoining the proposed Bass Lake Regional Park. Our purpose is to provide a voice for Bass Lake community homeowners in dealing with the county and other community agencies.

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For information, see our website
www.basslakeaction.org

or call
Kathy Prevost - 530-672-6836
or
David Glazier - 530-677-5371