



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

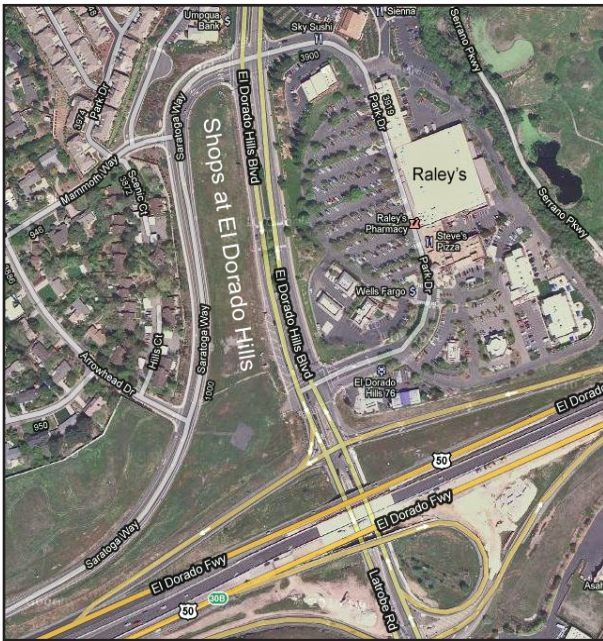
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NEW SHOPPING CENTER STARTED



A new shopping center anchored by a Walgreens drug store has broken ground across El Dorado Hills Boulevard from Raley's Center in El Dorado Hills. The retail center is to be called The Shops at El Dorado Hills, which will feature a Walgreen's drug store on the northern end of the parcel. Plans call for the store to open in August as the first retail tenant (see the picture above).

The project, the design of which was approved last year by El Dorado Hills Area Planning and Advisory Committee (APAC) and the county Planning Commission, was at first the subject of some controversy.

The original plans called for a typical nondescript boxy Walgreens store, a design which did not agree with the local residents on APAC. After considerable consultation which resulted in the submission of a new building design in what is called typical California Santa Barbara style, the project was approved. At final build-out the center will encompass about 31,000 square feet, including the Walgreens store which will cover just under 14,000 square feet.

No other leases have been signed, but developer Pete Navarra hopes to lure a

bank and tenants to the center. Navarra is owner of Central Pacific Development Company in Sacramento, which has built subdivisions in the San Joaquin Valley, and is owner of several small shopping centers in Folsom. The northern half of the hilly property, on which the Walgreen's will be built, is owned by Bencor, a construction company out of Denver.

Navarra hopes to commence construction next summer on some of the other retail spaces on the southern half of the property, down by the freeway. Entry to The Shops will be at the northern portion of Saratoga Way near El Dorado Hills Boulevard. Conditions set

by APAC to make the center friendly to its residential neighbors included a sheltered loading dock and a hidden trash pickup area. ~

EDH CSD BOARD RACE FINALLY DECIDED

Incumbent Bill ("Billy V") Vandegrift was announced the winner in a close election for the remaining open seat on the El Dorado Hills Community Services Board, according to the final El Dorado County election returns.

Vandegrift beat his opponent, Chuck Hammond, by the narrow margin of 20 votes. Vandegrift garnered 4,856 votes, while Hammond received 4,836 votes. ~



SACRAMENTO SEWER BILLS COULD TRIPLE

Sacramento sewage fees might triple under a plan that will allegedly protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta from pollution under the state Clean Water Act. The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District operates a treatment plant located near Elk Grove that treats the wastewater of 1.3 million residents from Folsom to West Sacramento and discharges it into the Sacramento River near Freepoint.

Discharge permits are required to be renewed every five years, and are issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Evidence developed in drafting the new permit alleges that Sacramento's effluent is degrading the Delta's food chain. The new permit comes with strict new discharge limits, which will require new filtration and disinfection steps to remove ammonia and infectious pathogens. Though very preliminary, the sanitation district estimates upgrades will cost \$2 billion, potentially requiring residential sewage bills to triple from the current twenty dollars a month to sixty dollars a month. The county sanitation district disagrees with many terms of the proposed permit, and is weighing whether to appeal the decision to the State Water Resources Control Board.

Regionalism has emerged as a part of the permitting process. The delta supplies drinking water for 25 million people in the southern part of the state. Whether or not Sacramento is contributing to what is claimed to be degradation of the delta water

(continued on page 3)



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BLAC CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Bass lake Action Committee Annual Christmas Party was held at the home of John and Fran Thomson in El Dorado Hills. More than two dozen BLAC members and their guests celebrated the joyous season that evening. Guests of honor were District 1 County Supervisor John Knight and Elizabeth Kim, Field Repre-

sentative for Assemblymember Alyson Huber.

The festivities were enlivened by the election of officers for 2011, which resulted in all officers being returned to office. BLAC President John Thomson called members' attention to the fact that BLAC has been in operation for eight years, and spoke of some of the group's accomplishments. ~



John and Fran Thomson



Elizabeth Kim, Barbara Erpenbeck, Sue Colvin and John Knight



Heidi and Walter Oberloher



Helene and Frank Sulzberger



Lesley and Steve Slattery



Bob and Grace Shauger



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

Last month I talked about the pending demise of the senior nutrition program in El Dorado Hills and other communities due to budget constraints.

Though I was glad to see that the board of supervisors has given the program a reprieve through June of 2011, at which time it is expected that the county will cease funding the program, I knew that the community needed to do something to preserve the program.

Therefore I am happy to report that a local initiative, under the leadership of the Four Seasons Civic League, with the assistance of BLAC, has proposed forming a nonprofit organization with the goal of continuing the senior nutrition program at the El Dorado Hills senior center, including the meals on wheels program for house-bound seniors.

Though operations would be centered on El Dorado Hills, the group is in consultation with representatives from Cameron Park, who are exploring the possibility of setting up a senior nutrition program there in conjunction with a local church. The group also set a goal of reaching out to other communities in the county to share the knowledge gained by El Dorado Hills.

A formation meeting was held in mid-December, with another meeting set for January to discuss the findings of several committees that are researching topics such as funding sources and food suppliers.

The group plans to become operational before the county program ceases at the end of June so that the senior nutrition program will not be interrupted.

I am pleased to say that our own BLAC director Hal Erpenbeck, who is on the county Commission on Aging, and I are involved with the group. Kudos also to John Raslear, Chairman of the Four Seasons Civic League, who organized the December meeting at Four Seasons.

Stay tuned.

John Thomson

President

SEWER BILLS *(continued)*

has prompted competing dramatic claims by Sacramentans who fear economic harm and Southern Californians worried about their water supply.

Readers may recall that the city of Placerville and the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) raised water and sewer rates early in 2010 for the same reasons. After the initial rate increase of eighteen percent, EID customers face incremental rate increases in the coming years: a fifteen percent increase in 2011 and another five percent in 2012. ~



INTERNET GIANTS SPAR OVER FEES

Comcast's Web limits: Saving bandwidth or stifling innovation?

Netflix Inc.'s broadband partner is in dispute with Comcast Corp. over who should pay to handle an expected surge in online videos piped over the cable company's network.

Level 3 Communications Inc., which this month unveiled a deal to help Netflix store and stream its movies, accused Comcast of imposing new fees for delivering videos and other content to Comcast's customers. Comcast quickly fired back that Level 3 was seeking to burden it with extra Internet traffic without compensation.

The issue gets to the heart of a longstanding argument: Who should pay for the Internet? That debate is getting more pointed as a flood of video drives up the volume of traffic that companies such as Comcast must carry.

Level 3 Communications Inc.—an Internet network operator that recently announced a deal to help Netflix Inc. stream and store its online movies and TV shows—complained that Comcast has slapped it with a new charge to deliver that video to customers.

The dispute plays out in a cyber area that regulators have generally left alone. Few consumers, meanwhile, are aware of just how many companies are involved in the Internet's continuous, multidirectional relay race.

Clicking on the "Watch Instantly" button on Netflix sets off a chain of events that ultimately involves several Internet

middlemen. They include "content delivery networks" that handle the technology and relationships needed to distribute video online and backbone companies that own the fiber-optic highways used to move traffic among networks.

Companies that handle Internet traffic have long entered into "peering" arrangements, in which they agree to carry each other's traffic, typically at no cost.

If one carrier transmits more traffic than the two sides agreed upon, that carrier sometimes pays another to offset the imbalance. Such payments rarely happen because the traffic rarely stays out of whack for a long time. But as video has become a significant source of traffic, those peering deals are coming under increasing stress. A video stream takes up vastly more space on the Internet than sending email or surfing the Web.

Consumers are caught in the middle. Comcast argued that Level 3 wants to pass the costs to Comcast and its customers. If Level 3 bears the costs, they will eventually fall to users of services like Netflix, according to a person familiar with Level 3's thinking. Netflix declined to comment.



Level 3, which operates a nationwide Internet network for companies, said the dispute began after it told Comcast that it expected to send significantly more traffic across the cable operator's network. Comcast replied by demanding fees. Level 3 ultimately agreed to pay, but says it plans to ask federal regulators to intervene.

Consumer advocates say that the fight is just the tip of the iceberg. What is at stake here is the future configuration of the internet: whether consumers can choose to watch streaming movies and TV series on Netflix for \$9.99 a month via the internet via Comcast's broadband internet connection, or pay Comcast more than \$50.00 a month to watch commercial TV via their cable TV network. For Comcast customers, it all comes down the same coaxial cable connection. ~





PROPANE UPDATE

One of the puzzling aspects of propane has been the unnatural spikes in prices over the last two years.

The issue of pricing was addressed in the November issue of *Butane Propane News*. Commenting on the price fluctuations, the authors stated that "A significant change is that propane and crude oil don't trade on the fundamentals of supply and demand like they used to. Crude oil has become an actively traded asset class and has brought propane along for the ride."

That means propane has become a target for the speculators who trade futures for profit. Too much money chasing an asset will always drive up the price. The consumer always suffers.

On the bright side, lately the December 4, 2010 Targa San Ramon wholesale price of propane was \$1.60 a gallon. The JS West contract delivery charge remains 6 cents per gallon for Woodridge-Bridlewood-Sierra Crossing contract customers, making the current laid-in price \$1.66 per gallon.



Christmas Long Ago

Frosty days and ice-still nights,
Fir trees trimmed with tiny lights,
Sound of sleigh bells in the snow,
That was Christmas long ago.

Tykes on sleds and shouts of glee,
Icy-window filigree,
Sugarplums and candle glow,
Part of Christmas long ago.

Footsteps stealthy on the stair,
Sweet-voiced carols in the air,
Stocking hanging in a row,
Tell of Christmas long ago.

Starry nights so still and blue,
Good friends calling out to you,
Life, so fast, will always slow...
For dreams of Christmas long ago.

— Jo Geis

With well over 300 homes now signed up, the markup is 50 cents a gallon, making the JS West per-gallon contract delivered price \$2.16 per gallon.

The US Energy Information Agency reports that as of December 1, the average nationwide retail price of propane was \$2.58 per gallon.

The benchmark Mont Belvieu, Texas, wholesale cash price for propane on December 8, 2010, was \$1.2594 per gallon. ~



BLAC 2011 ELECTIONS, JANUARY MEETING SET

The election of officers for 2011 was held during the December Bass Lake Action Committee (BLAC) Christmas Party, which served as the December general meeting. The 2011 officers are: John Thomson, President; Kathy Prevost, Vice President; Tasha Boutselis-Camacho, Treasurer; Fran Thomson, Secretary; and Hal Erpenbeck, Director-at-Large.

President John Thomson took the opportunity to remind members of the committee's accomplishments over the years. In 2003, BLAC organized park meeting at Faith Episcopal Church and 350 residents attended to complain about planned Bass Lake Regional Park configuration. In 2004, the speed limit on Bass Lake Road was lowered to 40 MPH and radar use was approved. In 2006 through 2007, BLAC successfully lobbied to keep the Oak Knoll Park pool open for those summers. In 2008, BLAC questioned the

assessments for Oak Knoll Park. In 2009, BLAC was successful in getting refunds of erroneous annual assessments for Oak Knoll Park and EDH CSD refunded \$360,000 to Woodridge homeowners. BLAC also supported the efforts of STOP EID to protest EID rate increases and won a 50% reduction in the initial increase. This year BLAC negotiated a 5-year propane contract with JS West for Woodridge, Bridlewood Canyon and Sierra Crossing, and persuaded county DOT to fix the drainage at the Woodridge entry on Madera Way.

The next BLAC meeting be held on January 10, 2011, at 7:00 PM at the home of Hal and Barbara Erpenbeck, 9045 Orchid Shade Drive, El Dorado Hills, telephone 530-677-5533. For information contact Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-6772-6836. ~



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John E. Thomson, Ph.D.
President and Editor
doctorjet@basslakeaction.org
530-677-3039

For additional information
see our website, basslakeaction.org
or contact

Vice President Kathy Prevost
kathyp@basslakeaction.org
530-672-6836

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