

## BASS LAKE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS DELAYED AGAIN

The scheduled improvements to Bass Lake Road that were to be completed by developer D.R. Horton this summer have been postponed a year because of issues regarding rights-of-way along that southern section of the road from the fire house to Highway 50, according to county officials.

This action echoes that of the situation on the north end of the road, where the developers of Silver Springs have delayed building Silver Springs Parkway until the housing market improves, possibly delaying the housing development and the accompanying road project for a year or so.

The delay in road building has contributed to the worsening of the pavement on both the northern and southern portions of Bass Lake Road. Sections of the road on the northern end are rapidly breaking up, and will no doubt require some repair if the road is to remain passable this coming winter. Representatives from Bass Lake Action Committee hope to meet soon with county DOT Director Richard Shepard to discuss the condition of the road, and what might be done in the short run to keep the roadway viable. ~

## SERRANO PARKWAY REPAIRS STARTED

The improvement project to fix problems on Serrano Parkway got underway last month, as crews repaired broken pavement and constructed improved drainage on parts of the road. The project is a cooperative endeavor shared by Serrano Homeown-

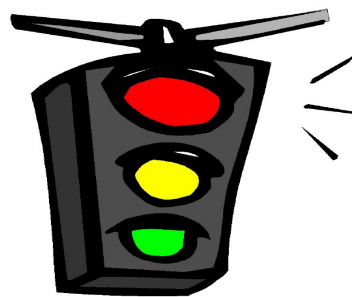
ers Association, Parker Development, El Dorado Irrigation District, and the county Department of Transportation. Once repairs have been made, the road will be slurry-sealed to preserve the pavement.

In addition to the road rehabilitation, all-



way stop signs are scheduled to be installed on Serrano Parkway at Terracina Drive, Collingtree Park Drive (including Torino Way), Villagio Drive, and Penniman Drive (including Greenview Drive). Pedestrian crosswalks will be added to those intersections.

The average daily traffic (ADT) volume on Serrano Parkway is reported to be 10,499 vehicles. ~



## NEW SIGNALS ON CAMERON PARK DRIVE

The county Department of Transportation (DOT) has put out for bid the signalization of Cameron Park Drive and Oxford Road. This intersection is just south of the three-way intersection of Cameron Park Drive and

Meder Road, where a new traffic light was recently installed. Cameron Park Drive will be widened to accommodate new turnpockets as part of the Oxford Road project.

DOT has also completed a study and initiated a mitigated negative environmental declaration for the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Cameron Park Drive and La Cañada Drive in Cameron Park.

The La Cañada Drive project will require the widening of Cameron Park Drive to allow for the addition of turn pockets on Cameron Park Drive. The project will extend 900 feet to the south and 500 feet to the north of the intersection along Cameron Park Drive. The limit of work on La Cañada Drive will extend 500 feet to the west and 100 feet to the east of the intersection.

These signalization projects will be the second and third recent projects for the busy Cameron Park Drive, which is a major north-south arterial between Green Valley Road and Highway 50. The average daily traffic (ADT) count for Cameron Park Drive is 10,903 vehicles. In comparison, Bass Lake Road's ADT is 8,607 vehicles, and El Dorado Hills Boulevard's ADT is 33,848 vehicles.

DOT is advising that weekday traffic on Cameron Park Drive may be delayed during the construction periods. ~



## EID CHALLENGES AUTHORITY OF COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

The El Dorado Irrigation District appears to be upset that the county civil Grand Jury is seeking to look into possible misconduct connected with the EID's handling of the case of an EID official that was discovered

*(continued on page 3)*



## COUNTY PENSION LIABILITIES SOARING OUT OF CONTROL?

Public employee retirement systems in California are in much less solid financial condition than was the case just a few years ago. Rapidly escalating pension benefits are putting an increasing strain on the actuarial status of these public employee retirement systems. State and local governments in California are having to devote ever larger dollar amounts to financing these public employee retirement systems.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the independent, not-for-profit organization formed in 1984 that establishes and improves financial accounting and reporting standards for state and local governments. Its seven members are drawn from the Board's diverse constituency, including preparers and auditors of government financial statements, users of those statements, and members of the academic community.

Therefore it appears that recent decisions by GASB to require government entities to more fully disclose their pension liabilities, including other postretirement employee benefits such as retiree health insurance, came not too soon.

That may be why last month El Dorado County taxpayers were startled to learn that they are on the hook for the over \$110 million (that's \$110,000,000.00) shortfall in unfunded county employee pension plan and retiree health insurance liabilities. The \$110 million is made up of \$69.3 million owed to California Public Employee Retirement System (CALPERS) and \$40.9 for future retiree health insurance. The good news is that the county has \$5.8 million set aside to fix the shortfall.

On May 31, 2007, GASB issued Statement No. 50, *Pension Disclosures*, which more closely aligns current pension disclosure requirements for governments with

those that governments are beginning to implement for retiree health insurance and other post-employment benefits. Specifically, Statement 50 amends GASB Statements No. 25, *Financial Reporting for Defined Benefit Pension Plans and Note Disclosures for Defined Contribution Plans*, and No. 27, *Accounting for Pensions by State and Local Governmental Employers*, by requiring:

(1) Disclosure in the notes to the financial statements of pension plans and certain employer governments of the current funded status of the plan—in other words, the degree to which the actuarial accrued liabilities for benefits are covered by assets that have been set aside to pay the benefits—as of the most recent actuarial valuation date;

(2) Governments that use the aggregate actuarial cost method to disclose the funded status and present a multi-year schedule of funding progress using the entry age actuarial cost method as a surrogate; these governments previously were not required to provide this information;

(3) Disclosure by governments participating in multi-employer cost-sharing pension plans of how the contractually required contribution rate is determined.

The GASB's standards for retiree health insurance and other non-pension retirement benefits make disclosures more informative and understandable. This new Statement extends those advancements to the reporting of pension benefits. The provisions of Statement 50 generally are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2007, with early implementation encouraged. The requirements relating to governments using the aggregate actuarial cost method are effective for financial statements and required supplementary information that contains information from actuarial valuations as of June 15, 2007, or later.

Statement 50 (Product Code GS50) can be ordered through the GASB's order department at 800-748-0659 or via its website at [www.gasb.org](http://www.gasb.org). ~

## EL DORADO COUNTY BUDGET WOES CONTINUE

It wasn't that long ago that the county was awash in red ink. In 2003, the county projected that it would have a \$6.3 million shortfall for fiscal year 2004-05 and a projected \$11.1 million shortfall for 2005-06. Talk of layoffs and closing the libraries abounded. Then things seemed to get better, and everyone

sighed in relief. Now the county is crying "Wolf!" again, projecting a \$1.6 million deficit. There's talk of laying off nineteen employees in the Planning Department. But there's no talk of closing libraries yet.

One of the stated goals of the Board of Supervisors is to "Maintain an emphasis on sound fiscal management that provides for sustainable County operations." Sound fiscal management goes hand-in-hand with good planning. Good planning requires a plan, usually a strategic plan that covers a period of several years and is updated annually. Such a plan would set forth strategies to deal with, say, an economic downturn. The county grand jury has been berating the county for years over the county's lack of a strategic plan. The county has replied in effect that their annual budget process is a strategic plan. But a year-to-year budget only tells you how much is being spent, not how to spend the money. Even multi-year budgets do not tell you how to allocate resources. Planning from budgets puts one in a reactive mode, rather than a proactive mode. ~

## HOME DEPOT CAMERON PARK SITE WORK QUESTIONED

Officials from the county and the state water quality board were called in recently to investigate activity on the site of the proposed Home Depot super store in Cameron Park.

The parcel, located between Country Club Drive and Highway 50 east of Cambridge Road, was the scene of brush clearing and mowing by crews and machinery, the presence of which was reported by nearby residents..

County officials said that the work exceeded what could be done without a development permit, and ordered the work stopped. There is some dispute as to whether the parcel, once used as a sewage treatment site and now containing several ponds, is currently classified as a wetland or not.

Nearby residents are opposed to the siting of the Home Depot store, citing traffic, noise, and pollution concerns. Though the area is designated for commercial use in the county's general plan, opposition by the neighbors may prompt the county to place conditions on the design and operation of any commercial facility built there. ~



## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello Everyone,

June is one of my favorite months. Spring is warming up, and Summer will be formally ushered in this month. In 2007, June 21 is the official start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and at the same time is the start of winter in the Southern Hemisphere. This day is called the summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. It's also the longest day of sunlight for places in the Northern Hemisphere and the shortest day for the area south of the equator.

On June 21st, the rays of the sun will be perpendicular to the Tropic of Cancer in the Northern latitudes, and it will be the longest day of the year. On this day, the sun will illuminate an area from the Arctic Circle on the far side of the earth (in relation to the sun) to the Antarctic Circle on the near side of the earth. The equator will receive twelve hours of daylight, there will be 24 hours of daylight at the North Pole, and there will be 24 hours of darkness at the South Pole. The date of earliest sunrise or latest sunset varies from location to location in the hemisphere. For example, on June 21st Sacramento's sunrise will be at 5:42 and sunset will be at 8:34, according to the Sacramento Bee's online tide tables.

The long days also favor our Zinfandel vineyard, which is now three years old. It looks like we will have a bumper crop of grapes for our wine press this fall. For the best wine grapes, there should be only two grape clusters per cane (shoot), so we had to thin the clusters somewhat last month. But there are still plenty left, hanging in big bunches. The grapes are still quite green, and when they start to ripen it will be time to get out the bird netting to keep the birds from eating the grapes. I will keep you posted.

*John E. Thomson*  
President

## FOLSOM NAMES DAN HAVERTY NEW FIRE CHIEF

Folsom City Manager Kerry Miller has named Dan M. Haverty, as Fire Chief after a comprehensive, nationwide search. Haverty will replace Eric Dutton, who will retire from the City of Folsom in November after more than 30 years of service to the community.

Bass Lake residents will recall that Haverty is our current District One Park Commissioner for El Dorado County, appointed by Rusty Dupray.

Haverty will oversee a staff of 76, providing complete fire suppression, rescue, prevention, public education, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical services to the Folsom community. The Folsom Fire Department operates four fire stations and is responsible for providing service to a population of over 62,000 in an area covering 24 square miles.

Haverty currently serves as Assistant Fire Chief for the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (SMFD). The SMFD provides services through 42 stations and 750 uniformed and support personnel to nearly 600,000 people in a 417 square mile area. The City of Folsom and SMFD frequently work together in providing emergency response thanks to mutual aid partnerships. Haverty has served the SMFD since 1987, when he joined as firefighter. He was then progressively promoted through the ranks of Engineer/Paramedic (1990-1993), Captain/Paramedic (1993-2001), Battalion Chief/Paramedic (2001-2002), and Assistant Fire Chief (2002-present).

Haverty holds both a Doctorate and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. He also holds a Masters in Public Agency Communications as well as a Bachelors of Science in Fire Service Management from California State University, Sacramento. He serves as an Instructor for both California State University and the University of Southern California (Capital Campus).

"I am excited to join the City of Folsom," said Haverty. "I am very eager to get started and work with the outstanding men and women of the Folsom Fire Department and the community to chart Folsom's service delivery future, particularly as Folsom looks ahead to the development of its sphere of influence south of Highway 50. Folsom is

a growing, dynamic community, and I am proud and honored to have this opportunity to serve its residents."

Haverty will assume the Fire Chief position in mid-July. Current Chief Dutton previously announced that he will retire in November. This strategic overlap will allow for a smooth transition. In addition to his transition duties, Dutton will take on a senior advisory role to the City Manager on public safety issues until his retirement in November. ~

**GRAND JURY** *(from page 1)*  
to be an former felon. The official was subsequently sacked, but the question remains as to how the person was hired in the first place.

The county civil Grand Jury is an investigatory body created for the protection of society and the enforcement of the law. It is an arm of the Court and a representative of the public. Although it is an arm of the Court, it operates independently of direct Court supervision. It is a check against governmental authority. It is not a branch of the County, nor is it answerable to the District Attorney. The Jury has oversight responsibility over local government, such as county government, city government, and special districts (such as the El Dorado Irrigation District), and prepares public reports about its findings and recommendations.

Generally special districts such as the EID are created by state law, and as such are subject only to the law and to the residents of the particular district. That is, the district is responsible to its public. The California state water code (Sec. 21196, "Misconduct") generally provides that any assessment payer of a special district may institute court proceedings for misconduct.

A Grand Jury is generally impaneled for purposes which include the investigation of, or inquiry into, county matters of civil concern. A grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any special-purpose assessing or taxing district located wholly or partly in the county or the local agency formation commission in the county, and, in addition to any other investigatory powers granted by the law, may investigate and report upon the method or system of performing the duties of such district or commission.

So in essence, the Grand Jury is doing the work that citizens would otherwise have to do to make sure that government and special districts are free from misconduct. ~

## EL DORADO HILLS GOLF COURSE FEASIBILITY STUDY PAINTS GRIM PICTURE

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) recently engaged NGF Consulting (NGF) to study the golf market in the El Dorado Hills and East Sacramento area, with special focus on utilization and pricing of the existing golf courses. The goal of the study was to determine whether the El Dorado Hills Golf Course, a public course located at El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Serrano Parkway, could be made into a financially viable operation.

The NGF research study found that many golf operators in the Sacramento area continue to struggle with flat or even declining activity levels, particularly in the public golf course segment of the market. Most market operators reported a significant drop-off in rounds played between over the last ten years or so. The drop-off in per-course activity levels in the Sacramento market is consistent with a nationwide trend caused primarily by an oversupply of public golf courses all fighting for a share of a stagnant or declining market.

NGF's review of the El Dorado Golf Course market found that the population around the golf course appears to be sufficiently large so as to provide a high level of activity to the golf course, but it is unlikely that the anticipated level of activity will provide enough income to cover all the facility's expenses, and reduce any capital investment made to improve the golf course (plus interest), and provide a lease (or other) payment to the property owner. This was found to be the case even with the addition of a new clubhouse and significantly enhanced banquet revenues.

An alternative scenario that NGF considered for the continued operation of El Dorado Hills Golf Course assumed that the CSD would make the lowest possible capital investments necessary to reopen the facility (fix safety issues, make kitchen upgrades, and do simple repairs and required maintenance items). Under this alternate scenario, the annual debt service would be greatly reduced and, in the short run, the cost to run the facility would be much more manageable.

However, patronage levels would almost certainly be less than under NGF's first scenario, because of the poor quality of the facility absent improvements to the cart

paths, irrigation system, and clubhouse. Additionally, the lease payment would still have to be paid, and the cost of the facility would still have to be subsidized. Finally, the improvements would ultimately have to be funded, and would likely be much more costly in the future.

The financial projections prepared for the golf course assuming CSD operation shows a need for an annual level of patronage that is nearly 20,000 rounds higher than the club realized in its last full year of operation in order to break even. But given the low-fee nature of the course, and a customer base that is very price sensitive, revenues would be effectively constrained.

The financial analysis prepared by NGF shows that even if the El Dorado Hills Golf Course were to add these additional 20,000 rounds of golf by 2012, the facility is still not likely to make a profit high enough to cover debt service and a property lease payments. ~

## NEW EID BASS LAKE PUMPING FACILITY ALMOST COMPLETED

The El Dorado Irrigation District has announced that construction of their new pumping facility at the Bass Lake EID plant, work on which has been visible to travelers along Bass Lake Road for several months, will be completed in June.

The facility will increase pressure for the delivery of recycled water to Serrano during periods of high demand. The new pumphouse encloses two new 500-horsepower pumps and ancillary pumping and pressure systems.

The unique removable roof sections on the pump house will facilitate maintenance and repair activities on the equipment. ~

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## SUPERVISOR RON BRIGGS TO ADDRESS BLAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN JULY

County Supervisor Ron Briggs and Park Commissioner Todd White are coming to the July 9 Bass Lake Action Committee board of directors meeting to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Briggs, representing District 4, which includes the Rescue area at the north end of Bass Lake Road, was scheduled to speak to the May general meeting, but was unable to meet due to the pressing county budget discussions. Todd White was recently appointed to the Park Commission by Supervisor Briggs.

BLAC members are welcome to attend the Board meeting, which will be held on July 9 at 7:00 at the home of Fran and John Thomson. ~

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