



PARKER REVEALS BASS LAKE CONCEPT PLAN

PLANS REVEALED FOR BASS LAKE SHOPPING CENTER NEIGHBORHOOD

Representatives of the Bass Lake Action Committee met with Kirk Bone of Parker Development Company last month to review Parker's plans and design concepts for the parcels around the shopping center at the intersection of Serrano Parkway and Bass Lake Road.

With respect to housing, the only project going forward at this time is the cluster-home development in what is called Village J7, which is the parcel next to Bridlewood Canyon, which surrounds it on two sides. Village J7 is in the process of being formally submitted to the County. Village J6 and the balance of the overall properties are still up in the air depending on the school and

park situations, and the plans Parker has for Village J6 are just in the preliminary stage. Village J6 is shown on the map as possible senior apartments.

Village J7 is planned to have seven units per acre. The parcel is 10 acres, and plans call for 72 housing units. The units will be 1900 to 2900 square feet, grouped into what are called "six-pack" two-story cluster homes, with each cluster having a common main driveway. Some will have third story elements as options, with a maximum of three three-story units per cluster. The plans call for tile roofs and stucco exteriors in earth tones. Plans call for a gated entrance off of Bass Lake Road. The emergency access road now used by Bridlewood Canyon probably will remain.

The issue for Bridlewood residents will be the three-story houses that will abut

Bridlewood Canyon. The rear and side yard setbacks (the distance from the structure to the property line) are planned to be 15 feet. The existing fence between Bridlewood and the new development would probably be retained.

There will probably be issues with the Department of Transportation and the Planning Commission about the road access. The plans may take a year to get through County processes, so Parker is looking at Spring of 2009 as the start time for Village J7 construction. The commencement of construction will probably depend on the completion of road improvements on Bass Lake Road.

Village J6 may have condos that look a lot like apartments or may be senior apartments. The village is on the west side of the wetland and may have a gated entrance off Bass Lake Road.

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PARKER PLANS *(continued)*

Regarding the new elementary school, the property in Serrano that was originally proposed for the Bass Lake Elementary School turned out to be too rocky, too expensive, and contains many oak trees. Parker suggested that the Rescue School Board use land on the south side of Bass Lake Road (School site on the map) for the school. The parcel under consideration is fairly flat, with fewer trees, and may make a better school site. Access to the school would probably be off of Sienna Ridge Road, thereby avoiding the dangers of letting school out onto a busy road like Bass Lake Road.

An indication that the school district is seriously contemplating the new southern site is that they have advertised for bid proposals from qualified environmental firms for "environmental and geotechnical services" for "a new elementary school site in the Bass Lake Area." A call to the school district inquiring about the new site in early September was not returned.

If the new elementary school is built south of Bass Lake Road, Parker will build houses on the land previously designated for the school.

Parks remain in the picture. The El Dorado Hills Community Services District has a park site on the northeast corner of the intersection of Serrano Parkway and Bass Lake Road (Park 1 on the map). They may swap some of that park land for land on the south side of Bass Lake Road and build a second park (Park 2 on the map) adjacent to the proposed school site.

The shopping center is still moving forward, but so far no anchor grocery store has been selected for the complex.

Members of the public will have a chance to view the concept at the upcoming meeting of the El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Committee (APAC) that will be held on September 12 at 7:00 PM in the Pavilion at the El Dorado Hills Community Center on Harvard Way. ~



PLACERVILLE, CAMERON PARK SKATE PARK WOES, EDH SKATE PARK OK

Despite its history of fringe social acceptance, skateboarding has recently gained significant legitimacy. Still, there is no shortage of controversy surrounding skateboarding and skate board parks.

Joe's Skate Park in Placerville has been the source of much controversy as the city and the county debated who should be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the facility. Originally built in 2003 by the Rotary Club on the county fairgrounds, the skate park soon became entangled with charges of vandalism, graffiti, and illegal activities taking place on the relatively remote site.

Various schemes of self-governance came to naught, and the county supervisors reluctantly took over management of the facility last month by setting forth a new set of rules and agreeing to staff the facility with a county employee. The possibility of the imposition of a \$1 or \$2 fee for park use was part of the deal between the city and the county.

Closer to home, last month the Cameron Park Community Services District threatened to close down their CSD-owned skate park on Merrychase Drive after receiving complaints of graffiti, vandalism and reports of bullying and theft by older skaters, but parents of skateboarders successfully appealed to the CP CSD to keep the park open.

Critics of the two parks have blamed the relative isolation of the Placerville and Cameron skate parks for the problems.

El Dorado Hills seems to have avoided the woes that plague the other parks by locating their new skate park on the grounds of the Community Center, next to the teen center that is adjacent to the CSD's administration building, and supervising the skaters with park staff. ~

BASS LAKE AREA HOST TO RED FOXES

A number of Bass Lake residents have reported seeing what appears to be a fox in the neighborhood lately. However, many people do not know the difference between a red fox, a gray fox, or a coyote, which to many folks look much the same. Often a person will simply say, "It looked like a large dog."



Note the red fox's white tip on the long tail and the black behind the ear tips.

The red fox is most commonly a rusty red, with a white underbelly, black ear tips and legs, and a bushy tail with a distinctive white tip. The "red" tone can vary from crimson to golden, and in fact can be tawny brown or gray marked with darker streaks or patches, with bands of red, brown, black and white on each individual hair when seen close up. In North America, the red fox's pelt has long, soft hair, whereas the fur of European red foxes is flatter and less silky.

The red fox's eyes are gold to yellow and have distinctive vertically slit pupils, similar to those of a feline. Their eyesight is also as sharp as that of a feline, and combined with their extreme agility for a canid (a member of the dog family), the red fox has been referred to as "the cat-like canid." Its long bushy tail with distinctive white tip provides balance for large jumps and complex movement. Its strong legs allow it to reach speeds of 45 miles per hour, a great benefit to catching prey or avoiding predators.

The red fox may reach an adult weight of 6-15 pounds, but this varies from region to region.

During the autumn and winter, the red fox

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello Everyone,

It's September, and harvest time is here. Everyone we know has been harvesting their fruits and vegetables. What a treat to eat home-grown produce.

This year was our first big harvest from our Zinfandel vineyard, and I'm happy to say that we got a lot of grapes. We got about 25 gallons of crushed grapes (the "must") through the crusher and into the fermentors.

Then it was time to test the must for sugar and acid. If I had paid more attention in my high school chemistry class perhaps it would have been easier, but I seem to have the testing mastered now.

Next day was the ritual "tossing of the yeast" into the must, along with some pectic enzyme to help extract the juice from the pulp. Then followed daily readings with the hydrometer, as the must bubbled and seethed and the yeast converted the sugar in the grapes to alcohol.

A few days later, the sugar was down to zero, and it was time to press. Fran did her "Lucy Ricardo" act last year, so this year we used our basket press to squeeze the juice out of the must. Scoop the must into the press, then crank it down, and watch the young wine pour out. Watch out for the juice that squirts out the side of the press!

We finished up with sixteen gallons of wine, which after bulk aging for six months or so will give us about 75 bottles of wine. In the meantime we will have to rack (transfer) the wine to fresh carboys several times to hasten clarification; then into the bottles, which will have to rest for another six months or so. Of course, we will sample along the way, but a year of aging will do wonders for the wine.

I hope your autumn goes well. Fran and I will certainly enjoy the cool days and warm evenings. This time next year we will probably be sitting on our patio sipping our 2007 Zinfandel.

John E. Thomson

President



Road crew finishing up repairs to a dangerous pothole on Bass Lake Road

DOT RESPONDS TO BASS LAKE ROAD COMPLAINTS

The last week of September saw county Department of Transportation crews working on the worst sections of Bass Lake Road, preparing the road for the onslaught of winter rains and traffic. The crews repaved several sections of Bass Lake Road where potholes had developed and other stretches where the pavement was breaking up.

DOT was no doubt responding to concerns voiced last month by the Bulletin and calls to DOT by concerned homeowners. In addition, Bass Lake Action Committee president John Thomson last month wrote to DOT Director Richard Shepard expressing BLAC's concern over the condition of the road. The subject of needed road repairs had also been raised at the recent BLAC meeting which hosted DOT Deputy Director Russ Nygaard. The road repairs prompted a letter of thanks to DOT Director Shepard from BLAC President Thomson.

As previously reported in the Bulletin, the scheduled improvements to the southern end of Bass Lake Road that were to be completed by developer D.R. Horton this summer have been delayed. On the north end of the road, the developers of Silver Springs have delayed building Silver Springs Parkway because of right-of-way issues. However, if the housing market fails to improve there is a great possibility that the planned housing developments and the accompanying road projects will be delayed several years or so.

BLAC members and members of the public that notice specific problems on Bass Lake Road are encouraged to contact DOT Maintenance Division with a complaint and a request for maintenance. Direct specific requests for road maintenance to county DOT at (530) 642-4909. ~

PROPOSED CAMERON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER HITS A SNAG

Delays going forward have resulted in a \$4 to \$6 million funding shortfall for the proposed Cameron Park Community Center, according to officials of the Cameron Park Community Services District.

Cameron Park voters approved an \$8.5 million bond to build the center on a site on Country Club Drive in 2005. The county has pledged an additional \$1 million, but escalating construction costs have pushed the cost to build the center to around \$15 million or so.

The Cameron Park CSD has engaged a construction management company to get the project going, and has hired a consultant to help them find the additional funds to complete the center. ~



FOXES *(continued)*

will grow more fur. This so-called 'winter fur' keeps the animal warm in the colder environment. The fox sheds this fur at the onset of spring, reverting back to the short fur for the duration of the summer.



Note the black tip on the gray fox's long tail and the orange behind its ear tips.

The gray fox is small and has a pepper-brown back and a white smudge around its nose; tawny sides, neck, and legs; a white belly; and a black stripe along its back and tail. Another black stripe crosses its face from the nose to the eye and continuing to the side of the head. Standing about 12-16 inches at the shoulders, the gray fox is an agile canid able to scurry up and down trees with relative ease.

The gray fox is the only member of the dog family that can climb trees, usually to seek refuge or in search of roosting birds. It can reach a speed of 28 mph for short distances. Although primarily nocturnal, The gray fox may sometimes be seen foraging during the day, seeking food.



The coyote's much shorter tail with a black tip distinguishes it from foxes

The coyote is a member of the dog family. In size and shape the coyote is like a medium-sized Collie dog, but its tail is round and bushy and is carried straight out below the level of its back. The color of the coyote's pelt varies from grayish brown to a yellowish gray on the upper parts, while the throat and belly are white. The forelegs, sides of head, muzzle and feet are reddish brown. The back has orange-brown colored under fur and long, black-tipped guard hairs that form a black stripe on its back and a dark

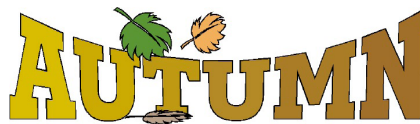
cross on the shoulder area. Coyotes shed fur once a year, starting in May with light hair loss and ending in July after heavy shedding. The ears are proportionately large in relation to the head, while the feet are relatively small in relation to the rest of the body. Mountain dwelling coyotes tend to be dark furred while desert coyotes tend to be more yellowish in color.

Coyotes typically grow from 30 to 40 inches in length and on average, weigh from 15 to 40 pounds. During pursuit, a coyote may reach speeds up to 43 miles per hour, and can jump over 4 yards.

The foxes of the Sacramento Valley are currently the subject to a University of California at Davis study.

Little is known about the Sacramento Valley red fox, which was first recorded in the valley around 1880. UC Davis is launching a study to determine the current distribution and status of this species in the Sacramento Valley. The study entails three parts: (1) seeking sightings of red foxes or dens from residents of the Sacramento Valley, (2) collecting road-killed specimens for genetic, reproductive, age, and health indexes, and (3) collection of feces and hair from around dens for genetic material.

You can help with the studies by reporting information at foxsurvey.ucdavis.edu if you think you have sighted one. The site has identification information that shows the markings distinguishing red foxes, gray foxes, and coyotes. Thanks to tips received so far, the study has thus far located six confirmed active dens this year and researchers are currently looking into several others. ~



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UPCOMING BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The September monthly BLAC meeting will be held on September 10 at the D'Amico residence in Woodridge, where the guest speakers will be EDH Fire Chief Brian Veerkamp and Fire Board Chairman John Hidahl.

The October monthly meeting will be hosted by the Olberdings on October 1, when the guest speaker will be El Dorado County Sheriff Jeff Neves.

Future monthly meetings will be held on November 3 and December 5, 2007.

All meetings start at 7:00 PM unless otherwise indicated. All BLAC members are cordially invited to all meetings. For further details, or for membership information, please call Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

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