

BASS LAKE BULLETIN

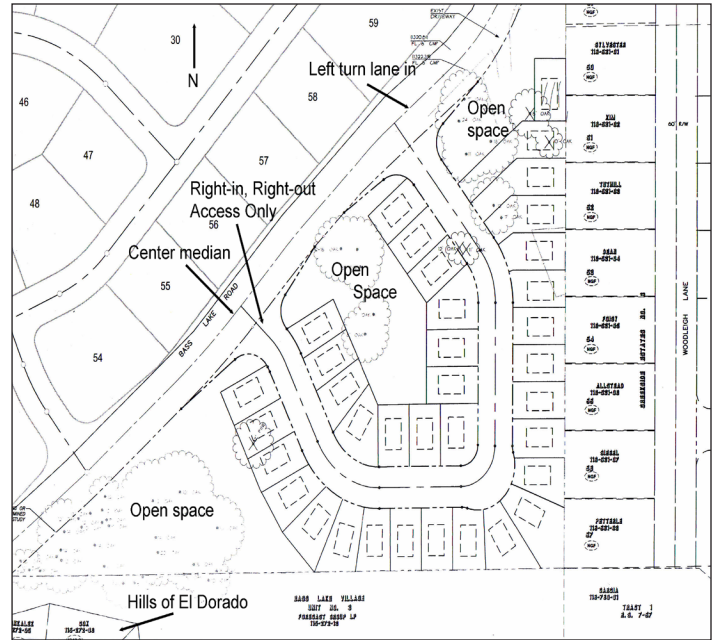
Vol. VI No. 1

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community
www.basslakeaction.org

January 2008



Overview showing location of Bass Lake Estates



Tentative map of proposed Bass Lake Estates

HIGH-DENSITY HOUSING PROJECT PLANNED ON BASS LAKE ROAD

A planned development of thirty-six new homes along the south side of Bass Lake Road has been approved by the El Dorado County Planning Commission. The development will generally be on the parcel between the Hills of El Dorado and Woodleigh Lane (see map), across Bass Lake Road from the proposed Silver Springs development.

The parcel was originally designed in 1997 to create twenty home sites, but a final map was never completed. The new tentative development map would divide the 7.35 acre parcel into thirty-six new high-density residential lots, plus 2.37 acres of open space.

In a planned development (PD), high-density residential is defined by the county general plan as a residential density of one to five dwellings per acre. However, the development map of a PD may provide for denser development within the acreage of the project. In this case, concentrating the actual lots into a higher density after applying the thirty percent open space requirement is permitted, because the overall density ratio is based on the number of lots per the total PD parcel acreage.

The thirty six residential lots will range in size from 3,020 to 5,655 square feet. An acre contains 43,560 square feet, and a tenth of an acre is 4,356 square feet. The remaining open spaces range in size from 0.56 acres to 1.13 acres.

The developer has requested several design waivers, the approval of which has been recommended by the county Planning Commission staff and the county Department of Transportation (DOT):

Reduction of Trout Lake Court (the interior residential road) from 60 feet to 50 feet; reduction of the Trout Lake Court sidewalk width from six feet to five feet; and limiting the interior sidewalk to just one side of Trout Lake Court.

As a mitigation measure for the narrower interior roadway, parking will be prohibited on one side of Trout Lake Court. In addition, County staff and DOT also insisted that the developer install a sidewalk on the south side of Bass Lake Road to link the sidewalk in front of Hills of El Dorado and Woodleigh Lane.

DOT has also mandated improvements to Bass Lake Road where the project fronts the road, improvements that are consistent with the road improvements that will be undertaken by the developer of Silver Springs on the north side of the road. A condition that the southern entrance to Bass Lake Estates be limited to a “right-in, right-out” configuration with a center median to prevent left turns was required because of the intersection’s proximity to one already planned for Silver Springs. Traffic at the northerly intersection will have full turn access and a left-turn lane will be provided for traffic turning left into the project from Bass Lake Road. Right-hand turn and acceleration lanes will be installed at both intersections.

The application for proposed planned development and tentative map was heard by the Planning Commission on January 10, 2008, in Placerville, and BLAC President John Thomson commented favorably on the project and the mitigation measures.

No date has been specified as to the start of the project. ~



Examples of fence damage from recent wind and rain storms

LOCAL FENCES VICTIMS OF STORM'S WRATH

The violent storms that ravaged most of California in the first week of January swept on high winds through the foothills, but Bass Lake appeared to have been spared from extensive damage. The winds, which gusted to sixty-nine miles per hour Friday at Sacramento Executive Airport, the stiffest winds since the 1950s, sent trees in Sacramento plunging into living rooms and sent backyard trampolines sailing through neighborhoods.

No reports of power outages along Bass Lake Road were heard, probably owing to the fact that most neighborhood power lines are underground and are unaffected by wind and falling trees. Almost three inches of rain fell on Friday, January 4th, at Bass Lake, according to one Bass Lake neighbor with a rain gauge.

The most evident casualties around Bass Lake were fences that were blown down by the high winds. Most homeowners with any experience with wooden fences know that the weakest part of a fence is where the fencepost meets the ground. That's usually the place where water from lawn sprinklers or winter rain collects and rots the post. The rails that connect the posts and the fence boards that are nailed to the rails may look perfect, but if the post is rotten, a strong wind could knock down your fence.

There's not much you can do but replace

the fence posts, or perhaps the whole fence, when fence posts rot out. Fence experts advise to mound the concrete up around the fencepost when setting a fencepost on concrete, so that rain water or irrigation water runs away from the post, rather than leaving the post in a depression that collects water. Another recommendation is to thoroughly mix the concrete before it goes in the post hole; pouring dry ready-mix into the hole and adding water is asking for trouble. Poorly mixed concrete can end up being crumbly and so shorten a fence post's life. ~



ORIGIN OF NEW YEAR'S FIGURE OF FATHER TIME

Two symbols of New Year are that of a baby as the new year and Father Time as the old year. Where did the symbol of Father Time come from?

In Greek mythology, Chronos (also known as Chronus) is the personification of time. Indeed, the word means "time" in Greek, and is the root of "chronology" and other modern words. It was, however, originally employed in a purely poetic sense.

In Roman mythology, Chronos was known as Saturn, the Roman deity of time. Ruler of the Roman gods prior to his defeat by Jupiter, Saturn's weapon was a scythe or sickle. The Romans honored Saturn at a midwinter festival called Saturnalia, which lasted several days and at which there was much feasting and making merry. All business was suspended, and schools were closed. Parents gave toys to their children, and there was a public banquet.

In art, Saturn has always been depicted as an old man holding an implement, which has often been interpreted as a curved sword, known as a harpe or a khopesh (khopesh is the Egyptian name of the Canaanite "sickle-sword"), but which appears likely to have actually represented a scythe or a sickle.

In mythology, Saturn symbolizes the in-

exorable flow of time in both its destructive and constructive effects. His decrepit body is a reminder that time is the devourer of all things and that, like the substance in the hourglass he often carries, his physical vitality will run out until it is totally exhausted. Nonetheless, time is not wholly destructive, for the gift of time is the serenity and wisdom that are attainable only through the experiences of a long life. In addition, the white beard with which Saturn is frequently depicted indicates that age has given him a new purity and innocence.

Symbolically, the downward flow of the contents in the hourglass is balanced by an upward flow of spirit. The loss of vitality in the body is balanced by the increasing spiritualization of the mind, which gradually becomes filled less with earthly matters than those of the spirit. Saturn's flint sickle represents the harvest, a cutting down necessary to make room for the new. However, just as the hourglass is inverted, a new generation may restore the font of physical vitality. In a similar fashion does the old crescent moon bring to finality the old cycle while being harbinger of a new one.

Modern associations of the relationship of time and Saturn with death may have originated due to the association of Saturn with the harvest. The image of the Grim Reaper (a harvester of men) bearing a scythe is believed to have derived directly from the myth of Saturn.

As with most mythological lore, these concepts tend to reach so far back into history that the origins cannot be reliably traced to any definitive conclusion.

Both of those modern figures, Father Time and the Grim Reaper, are sometimes depicted as accompanied by a crow. By the Middle Ages there were many engravings of the Grim Reaper which depict a skeletal figure holding a scythe and hourglass with a crow nearby. ~



Happy New Year!

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello Everyone,

I am sorry to report that the crime rate in El Dorado Hills is going up, especially the crime of what is described as "petty theft." Petty theft is generally classified as a crime involving less than four hundred dollars, but I certainly wouldn't consider the loss of a wallet or a purse with credit cards, identification and cash as something I could call petty.

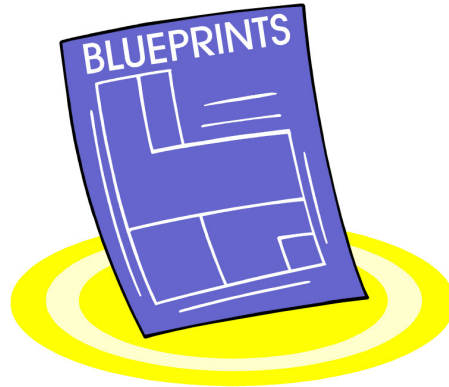
In perusing the crime reports in the local newspaper, I see that most petty theft against vehicles or homeowners are what are called "crimes of opportunity" that could be avoided. A crime of opportunity occurs when valuables are left unattended and the thief thinks there is a minimal chance of being caught. Four examples of such thefts in El Dorado Hills appeared in a recent edition of the Sacramento Bee: a woman left a laptop computer, a box of checks and an ATM card in her car; a man left a briefcase on the back seat of his car with a digital camera and a laptop computer in it; a woman left her purse in her car; and another woman left her purse with a checkbook, credit cards and identification in her car. All returned to find their cars broken into and their valuables gone.

Both our Sheriff Jeff Neves and CHP Commander Bill Donovan will tell you that most of their calls come from thefts of valuables left in plain sight in an unlocked car. Locking your car is futile if you leave things in plain sight. It's but a matter of seconds for a thief to smash your car window, grab valuables off your car seat, and flee.

The lessons are clear: Lock valuables in your car's trunk and lock your car. Don't leave your garage door opener in an unlocked car in your driveway. Lock your garage side door. Always report suspicious persons to the Sheriff's Office. *Don't be a victim!*

John E. Thomson

President



CAMERON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER REDESIGN APPROVED

Residents of Cameron Park Community Services District will get a scaled-back community center after escalating construction costs exceeded the \$8.5 million bond measure that voters approved for a community center project in 2005. The District has approximately \$10.1 million available to build a complex the costs of which have ballooned to an estimated \$19 million.

The original plan called for three buildings totaling 22,687 square feet, housing an assembly hall, a youth activity center, classrooms and a commercial kitchen. Also included were competition and recreation swimming pools and a gymnasium.

The District directors voted unanimously to pursue construction of a single building with an assembly hall, stage, kitchen, offices, classrooms, senior center and teen room, after directors determined that limited funds and rising construction costs make it impossible to build a larger complex at this time. District officials say the revised design has the best chance of generating revenue.

Disappointed parents and representatives of area water polo and swim teams had contended that the community's greatest need is a swimming pool. In a conciliatory move, the CSD board agreed to solicit bids for a competition swimming pool and support facilities, in the hope that a downturn in residential and commercial construction will result in more favorable prices from contractors looking for work.

The meeting was delayed after people in the audience accused the board of trying to stifle public comment by holding the meeting in a conference room with a capacity for only thirty-seven people at the district fire station on Country Club Drive. An overflow crowd stood outside in the cold night air trying to listen to the proceedings

through an open window. After some debate over whether to reschedule the session and try to find a larger venue, the board agreed to move the meeting into the nearby fire engine bays. ~



BLAC HEARS LOCAL CHP COMMANDER

The Board of Bass Lake Action Committee and a number of BLAC members were present at the January board meeting to discuss traffic and crime issues with Captain Bill Donovan, Commander of the Placerville District California Highway Patrol office.

Captain Donovan opened his remarks by noting that the Placerville CHP office covers the area from Lake Tahoe west to the Sacramento County line, and from the American River south to the Cosumnes River. Donovan said that most of the calls for service that the Placerville CHP receives are from the El Dorado Hills area.

Donovan discussed the CHP's announced resource reallocation project, which means that there will be increased enforcement in the rapidly growing areas of our county. This reallocation of resources involves bringing in CHP officers from outside the county to help target areas within the county that have been identified as chronic traffic hot spots, starting with El Dorado Hills. Donovan said that priority will be given to high-traffic, high-visibility roads such as El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Serrano Parkway.

Donovan said that El Dorado Hills residents can expect to see more patrol cars around schools during pick-up and drop-off times, as well as several county roads that are primary commute routes. He said that whereas school buses drop children off inside the school grounds, parents will drop the child off in front of the school, subjecting the child to traffic hazards. Also, parents dropping off students will often park illegally and block traffic near their children's school, causing gridlock. He

(continued on page 4)

DUPRAY, SUPERVISORS OVERRULE PLANNING COMMISSION IN C.P. SPORTS FIELD FIGHT

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors overruled the Planning Commission and unanimously approved the Light of the Hills Lutheran Church's request to build a multipurpose ball field on a 5-acre parcel south of Highway 50 at Rodeo Drive and Coach Lane, at the entrance to the Cameron Estates subdivision.

The Planning Commission, responding to the vehement objections of local residents and neighbors, had earlier recommended restricting the use of the proposed ball field. Planning Commission members said they believed Cameron Estates residents had valid concerns about use of the field by community sports leagues. The commission recommended limiting the use to church activities, prohibiting its use by nonchurch sports leagues for either practice or games, and limiting use to between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Residents of Cameron Estates, who turned out in force to protest the project, argued that the location was not appropriate for what some termed a sports complex. Objecting neighbors said the ball field would draw additional traffic to an already congested area near a commercial center that includes a grocery store and restaurants, and contended that the ball field would lower property values in the area, one neighbor adding that she would not have purchased a home next to a sports field.

Supervisor Rusty Dupray was among the supervisors that lauded the Cameron Park church for its willingness to develop ball fields for community use, noting that neither the county nor the Cameron Park Community Services District has the funds to meet demands for recreational facilities. Supervisor Dupray, who acknowledged that his family attends the Light of the Hills church, said he believed the ball field would be an asset to the neighborhood.

The board authorized the church to proceed without the restrictions recommended by the county Planning Commission that use of the field be limited to church athletic activities. Church representatives said their intent is to make the fields available to organized sports groups in the community for practices and games.

Church members said the fields are intended as part of their community outreach,

explaining that their facilities currently are used by numerous non-church groups for meetings and other activities.

The board did stipulate that the fields are not to be lighted and use will be limited to daylight hours. Play is not to begin before 9 a.m. on Saturdays or noon on Sundays. People using the ball field also are to park in the church lot, not on adjoining streets, and public use is to be scheduled through the church. The supervisors stressed that if the conditions are violated, the church could lose its use permit for the ball fields and adjoining facilities. ~



CHP COMMANDER *(continued)*

said that the officers will at first give verbal warnings, then follow up with citations if the hazardous practices do not stop.

Asked about the impact of the new Foothill Oaks casino, Donovan said that one of the challenges posed by the casino is that it is one of the few casinos to have direct access to a major freeway, in our case Highway 50. The CHP is working with the casino management on a program to hire off-duty law-enforcement officers to provide additional traffic control for large events and during times of high traffic activity. Such arrangements are a common practice at other casinos and large sports venues in California.

Donovan's initial remarks were followed by a lengthy discussion on traffic problems faced by Bass Lake residents, with BLAC members relating many stories and anecdotes about traffic on Bass Lake Road. The presentation ended with a hearty round of applause for Captain Donovan, followed by refreshments. ~

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BLAC TO HEAR COUNTY ROADS UPDATE

The Bass Lake Action Committee will host Russ Nygaard, Deputy Director - Foothills Division, El Dorado County Department of Transportation, at the regular BLAC meeting that will be held on February 4, 2008, at 7:00 PM..

Mr. Nygaard is expected to talk about the status of, and progress on, the various road projects affecting Bass Lake Road, and other nearby West Slope projects such as the Highway 50 HOV lane project.

The location of the meeting will be announced later in January. For further information, contact BLAC Vice President Kathy Prevost at (530) 672-6836. ~

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