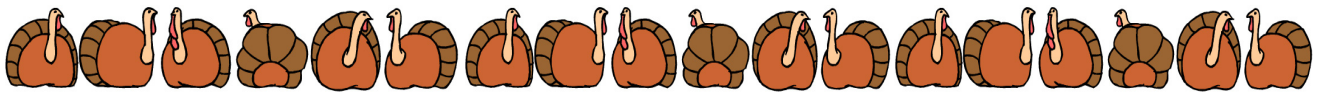


The



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One corner of the intersection showing the drainage improvements

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT BLR AND MADERA WAY

Acting on a request by Bass Lake Action Committee, the county Department of Transportation has made improvements to the drainage at the intersection of Bass Lake Road and Madera Way, at the entrance to Woodridge, to eliminate standing water and ditch silting.

The work included moving the stone cobbles lining the roadside ditches to one side of the ditches and grading the bottom of the ditches to allow for better drainage on both corners.

The improvement work was prompted by an amicable on-site meeting last month between BLAC President John Thomson, BLAC Vice President Kathy Prevost, DOT Deputy Director – Maintenance Tom Celio, and DOT Deputy Director - Roadway Design Matt Smeltzer.

At the meeting John and Kathy voiced BLAC's concern about the amount of standing water in the ditches on the corner caused by the water draining from the streets of Woodridge. After examining the topography, Tom explained that the cobbles lining the bottom of the ditches were part of the problem. He said that cobble-lined ditches are only effective when there is a steep downward pitch to keep the water moving fast so that the silt carried in the water is not deposited between the cobbles.

He pointed out that these particular drainage ditches have a shallow pitch, causing silt to build up between the cobbles and ultimately clog the ditch. Tom and Matt suggested that the cobbles be removed from the bottom of the ditches to allow free flow of draining water, the bottom of the ditches be cleaned, and the cobbles be stacked along the lawn side of the ditch to form an attractive border for the entry landscaping.

When asked if DOT could possibly do the suggested work before winter storms arrive, Tom and Matt cautioned that they couldn't promise that the work would be done in the near future, but they would see what they could do.

Woodridge residents were therefore very pleased to see a DOT crew working on the ditches early in November.

"We are really grateful that DOT could help us before the rains start this winter," said Kathy Prevost of the improvements. "It will make a big difference to the neighborhood." ~



DELAYS PUSH HIGHWAY 50 HOV LANE COMPLETION INTO NEXT YEAR

El Dorado County Department of Transportation officials have announced that the High Occupancy Vehicle project on Highway 50 in El Dorado Hills will be completed in July of 2011, rather than this fall as originally contemplated.

The county and the contractor had hoped to finish the project at the date originally promised, despite a two-month delay at the outset of the project due to uncertainty about the availability of state funds for the work.

However, a combination of construction delays compounded the delay. Extra rain days, a disagreement over how thick the road pavement should be, and the discovery of unsound soil under some freeway sections all contributed to a slowdown. The recent rainstorm that dumped 6 to 8 inches of rain on El Dorado Hills didn't help matters either.

In addition, the work is not progressing as fast as possible because the county is scheduling construction activity so as to least affect the traffic flow on Highway 50. While Caltrans may close entire highways or bridges for days to complete work in a hurry, Highway 50 is the county's main artery; close it or pinch it too hard, and drivers can't get up or down the hill.

In any case, the budget for the project has been pushed from \$29 million to \$34 million. The cost of the project is being borne by dedicated road funds that cannot be diverted to alleviate the current county budget squeeze. ~



Highway 50 at Bass Lake Grade



THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN

John D'Agostini is the new sheriff of El Dorado County, after a tight race that included controversial campaign mailers and involvement by motorcycle clubs.

D'Agostini ended up with over 51 percent of the votes, and had defeated his opponent, current Sheriff Captain Craig Therkildsen, by over 2,000 votes at press time.

The sheriff's race was marred by controversy when remarks by D'Agostini were secretly taped by El Dorado sheriff's deputies when he met with members of local motorcycle clubs at a local café, an event to which Therkildsen was invited but did not attend.

D'Agostini is a fourth generation resident of El Dorado County. He graduated from the Sacramento County Sheriff's academy and was recruited by the Amador County Sheriff

and became a full time Amador County Deputy Sheriff in 1994 where he served as Cities Deputy, Chief Deputy Coroner, Detective, SWAT Team Member, SWAT Sniper, Crime Specific Officer, Narcotics Investi-



D'Agostini

gator, Armorer, Rangemaster and Firearms Instructor. John was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the narcotics unit.

In 2003, he went to work for the District Attorney's Office where he investigated complex criminal cases and managed homicide investigations from beginning to end.

D'Agostini is an active member of the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, National Rifle Association, and California Narcotics Officers Association. He lives with his wife Janine in Mount Aukum in a home they designed and built. They have been happily married for 24 years and are the proud parents of four children. ~

EDH CSD BOARD HAS TWO NEW FACES AND ONE SEAT UNDECIDED

The recent election saw one new member elected to the El Dorado Hills Community Services Board, and returned one incumbent to office, according to the election returns.



Rogozinski

Tony Rogozinski is returning for another term and newly-elected Wayne Lowery will also be on the board.

However, at press time, no one was yet named for the remaining seat, as incumbent Bill Vandergrift and candidate Chuck Hammond were still locked in a race with only 20 votes separating them, as the vote count continued.

Tony Rogozinski will be serving his second term on the board, having been first elected in 2006. His priorities are fiscal responsibility, bureaucracy, operating efficiencies and expanding private partnerships to increase revenue and services.

Newly-elected Wayne Lowery is probably best known for his former role as General Manager of El Dorado Hills CSD, where he served for 20 years. His policy priorities include long term fiscal stability, park and recreational services for the community, open space preservation with biking and hiking trails, and balanced park and facility development.

That leaves the remaining contenders.

Bill ("Billy V") Vandergrift was elected to the board in 2006. He has been in the title insurance business for 22 years, is active in real estate, and still retains rentals in Cameron Park.

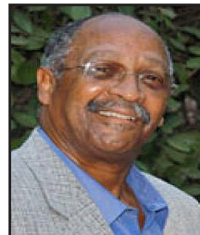
Chuck Hammond is in the insurance business. He has been coaching youth sports for over 33 years. He places great emphasis upon the importance of youth mentors, to help the young realize their full potential in life. ~



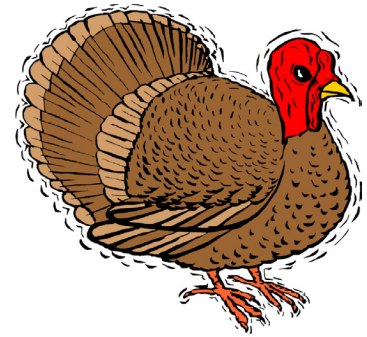
Lowery



Vandergrift



Hammond



THANKSGIVING TURKEY ORIGINS

The celebration of Thanksgiving would be incomplete without the legendary Thanksgiving turkey. The way in which the turkey came to symbolize Thanksgiving is unclear, but several stories are proposed as to why that particular bird figures so largely at Thanksgiving.

It is generally accepted that the wild turkey whose scientific name is *Meleagris gallopavo* is native to North America, and is probably the "Turkie" that is described by the Pilgrims at the first Thanksgiving in 1621.

It is reported that the first turkeys were imported from the New World to Spain in 1498. The 16th century English navigator William Strickland is credited with introducing the turkey into England. Strickland's family coat of arms showing a turkey cock on the family crest is among the earliest known pictures of a turkey.

The turkey was well established in England by 1540. By 1570 they were being raised throughout the country and were already part of the Christmas feast. An authority quotes a writer of the time praising the joys of a "well drest turkey" for Christmas dinner almost 50 years before the Pilgrims set sail.

English cookbooks published in the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries reveal that turkey was eaten for much of the year. Birds were available of a size suitable for everyday dinner.

The turkey tradition was continued by Benjamin Franklin, who wanted to make the turkey the United States national symbol. Wild turkeys were introduced into California around 1877, and their range currently covers about twenty percent of the state.

In any case, the traditional Thanksgiving feast is replete with symbolism which provides the perfect occasion for sharing an American tale about determination, freedom, survival, and celebration. Telling the story of Thanksgiving is a great way to teach children American history and the custom of giving thanks. ~

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

Up to now, the county has operated seven Senior Nutrition Centers in the county for individuals 60 years of age or older and their spouses to enjoy a hot, well-balanced lunch meal with old friends and new in a warm and friendly atmosphere. In addition to delicious meals, the dining centers offer nutrition and health promotion education and opportunities for socialization and recreation. I am distressed to report what appears to be the apparent demise of the Senior Nutrition Lunch Program in El Dorado Hills currently housed in the El Dorado Hills Senior Center on El Dorado Hills Boulevard

The finances of the county, in disarray as a result of the recession and plunging property tax revenues, is poised to pull funding for our local senior lunch program. I understand that four other senior nutrition centers around the county are also slated to be closed. The senior nutrition centers in Placerville and South Lake Tahoe would continue to serve the elderly of their community.

Hal Erpenbeck, one of our BLAC board members, is on the county Commission on Aging and has been working on keeping the El Dorado Hills nutrition program open. Hal explained to me that the value of the program is more than the meals, since coming to lunch provides seniors with social interaction and stimulation, and the chance to get involved in the community.

The best course would be to keep the program going. But if the money is not there, we are going to have to find other ways of providing a nutrition program for our seniors. Our community has shown in the past that we can get together and do great things. Perhaps it is time for us to step up to the plate and start our own community-based senior nutrition program. I am sure we could do it.

While we all hope that the El Dorado senior nutrition program will be spared, let us start to think about what we can do if the worst happens and our local program is axed by the county.

Sincerely,

John E. Thomson

President



EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

This article we will look at several news items about the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID).

No employee raises in 2011

EID General Manager Jim Abercrombie will not get a salary raise for 2011 in line with the moratorium on raises currently in effect at EID. This action conforms to the actions of the general counsel and the district's senior managers, who voluntarily decided not to accept cost-of-living or merit increases in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

On the other hand, Abercrombie's employment contract was extended by one year, to September 2013. The EID board also voted to change severance provisions in his contract to match those for General Counsel Tom Cumpston, the board's other direct employee.

The rest of the EID employees are under a similar freeze, since the Memorandum of Understanding with the employees association states there will be no merit or cost-of-living increases for employees in 2011.

Rate increase in January

Readers will recall that the EID earlier this year authorized an eighteen percent increase in water, wastewater, and recycled water rates for 2010, a fifteen percent increase in 2011, and increases of five percent in each of the years 2012, 2013, and 2014. At that time, the board also agreed that any of these rate increases would be reduced commensurate with additional expense reductions in any given year. Moreover, only the first three years of rate increases will be automatically implemented. The 2013 and 2014 increases require separate board action to implement the increases and then only after a public hearing and a showing of need.

Cost of service study

The uproar generated by the increases prompted EID to undertake a cost of services (COS) study to determine if their rates are

being fairly applied to their customers.

A COS study is a methodical process by which revenue requirements are used to generate a system of fair and equitable costs in proportion to the service received for each user class. The cost of service allocations used in the EID study are based on the commodity-demand method, which is suitable for agencies with a number of large wholesale customers. This method considers the commodity costs (water, chemicals, power, amount of water use), demand costs (treatment, storage, distribution), customer costs (meter maintenance and reading, billing, collection, accounting), and fire protection to determine water rates for the various water user groups. The COS study is not expected to be completed until after the 2011 rate increase of 15 percent takes effect in January.

Capital projects cut

In another development, the EID capital improvement plan recently presented to the EID board reflected a decrease from the \$300 million initially budgeted down to \$152.5 million for the 2009-2013 program. Looking forward, EID is contemplating a capital improvement program of about \$141.9 million for the years 2011 to 2015.

The new capital budget projections are designed to help conserve cash and delay the need to borrow, while completing high-priority replacement and safety projects, according to EID.

Residential sewer rates

One factor determining next year's residential sewer rates is your water usage for this November through February. Cutting down on water is one way you can lower your rate, even though 2011 rates will go up by fifteen percent. Cut back on water

(continued on page 4)

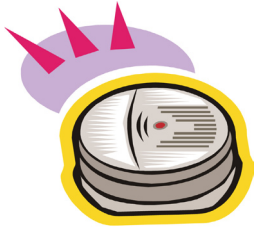


EID *(continued)*

use by using your clothes and dish washers only for full loads, and minimize outside irrigation.

EID Board terms

The terms of three EID board members end in 2011: Harry Norris, George Osborne, and Bill George. They face a re-election campaign if they want to run for another term. The terms of board members John Fraser and George Wheeldon end in 2013. ~



DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE THE BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE ALARMS THIS WEEK



November Morning

A tingling, misty marvel
Blew hither in the night,
And now the little peach-trees
Are clasped in frozen light.

Upon the apple-branches
An icy film is caught,
With trailing threads of gossamer
In pearly patterns wrought.

The autumn sun, in wonder,
Is gayly peering through
This silver-tissued network
Across the frosty blue.

The weather-vane is fire-tipped,
The honeysuckle shows
A dazzling icy splendor,
And crystal is the rose.

- Evaleen Stein

BLAC HEARS FROM EL DORADO DISPOSAL, SETS DECEMBER MEETING

Sue Farris, Divisional Vice President and District Manager for Waste Connections, which operates El Dorado Disposal in El Dorado Hills, was the guest speaker at the November BLAC meeting.

Farris discussed the role of Waste Management as the franchisee for the trash pickup in El Dorado Hills, touching on the upcoming contract renewals and the proposed Recycle Bank.

BLAC learned that the ongoing negotiations between Waste Connections and the Community Services District are currently being discussed with the CSD. The new contract is tentatively scheduled for a hearing before the board in November. Farris said that she hoped that the discussions would result in a fair contract for everyone concerned.

Farris also discussed the proposed Recycle Bank incentive arrangement, and expressed a desire to see El Dorado Hills adopt the program.

BLAC President John Thomson thanked Ms. Farris for her presentation, and she received a round of applause.

The December BLAC meeting will be a Christmas celebration combined with the annual election of officers. It will be held on Monday evening, December 6, 2010, at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court, El Dorado Hills. The festivities will start at 6:30PM and at 7:30 a short business meeting will be held to elect the officers for 2011.

All Bass Lake Action Committee members are invited to the event. For further information, please contact Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

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



PROPANE UPDATE

On November 6, 2010, the Targa San Ramon wholesale price of propane was \$1.51 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 \$1.57 per gallon.

With more than 300 homes now signed up, the markup is 50 cents, making the per-gallon contract delivered price \$2.07 per gallon. For new contract customers the first fill is currently \$1.96 per gallon.

The benchmark Mont Belvieu, Texas, wholesale cash price for propane on November 4, 2010, was \$1.2979 per gallon per ICE. One year ago the wholesale price was \$1.0800 per gallon. ~

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