

The

Happy New Year!

BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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One of three play equipment options available for Oak Knoll Park

OAK KNOLL PARK TO GET NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

Oak Knoll Park in Hills of El Dorado is slated to get new playground equipment.

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District board is expected to approve a contract with the Miracle Equipment Company for \$31,285 for the purchase of Oak Knoll Park play equipment through the California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS) program. CMAS contracts are awarded and administered by the State of California, Department of General Services, Procurement Division. CMAS contracts are established using products, services and prices from already existing competitively assessed and cost-compared multiple award contracts.

The contract for the equipment will be accompanied by a companion contract with Blanchard Construction for an amount up to \$14,250 for the removal and disposal of the old play equipment, the installation of new concrete, an American Disability Act ramp, and installation of new play equipment.

The CSD staff report recommending approval of the expenditures notes that the Oak Knoll Park playground is fourteen years old and in need of replacement. The CSD Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan pro-

vides that playgrounds should be included in neighborhood, village and community parks. Village Parks should provide large-scale playgrounds. The replacement cost is included in the CSD's Deferred Maintenance Reserve for the current fiscal year.

As part of the replacement process, a public meeting will be held at the Oak Knoll Clubhouse in February to allow residents to express their preference for one of three options for play equipment.

The total improvements cost of \$45,535 is covered by \$45,374 budgeted in the CSD Deferred Maintenance Reserve.

Residents of Hills of El Dorado were not surprised to see the swimming pool at Oak Knoll Park filled in last year. BLAC was instrumental in keeping the pool open several years after the EDH CSD had declared the pool a money-loser. But now the pool itself is gone. ~



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
JANUARY 17



MORE CONCEALED WEAPON PERMITS APPEAR LIKELY

According to a recent article in the *Sacramento Bee*, the newly-elected sheriffs in Sacramento and El Dorado counties say they are preparing to fulfill their campaign pledges to make it easier for residents to obtain concealed weapons permits.

The *Bee* reports that El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini and Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones said the attack on U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, which left six dead and 14 others wounded in Arizona, hasn't dissuaded them from fulfilling their campaign promises. Arizona does not require concealed weapons permits.

Both Jones and D'Agostini won runoff elections in which concealed gun permits were a major issue.

Jones said the recent shooting in Tucson had reinforced his faith in California's concealed weapons law.

He said the public is better protected by California's procedures, which mandate gun training, require applicants to show good cause for needing a concealed firearm, and restrict permits to those of good moral standing.

People who have the power of carrying are also tempered with the responsibility that goes with it, according to Jones. "We've never had anybody get shot by somebody holding a (concealed weapons) permit," he said.

(continued on page 2)

WEAPON PERMITS *(cont.)*

Since he took office in December, Jones said “we’ve had a boom in the number of applications” for concealed weapons permits, but so far none has been issued under his leadership.

El Dorado County’s D’Agostini, who took office last week, said his staff is preparing new policies and procedures for issuing concealed weapons permits.

“I haven’t signed one yet, but they’re forthcoming,” he said.

Both D’Agostini and Jones say they intend to use their broad discretion to more freely issue permits to law-abiding citizens who can show cause.

“It’s their right,” D’Agostini said.

Jones’ policy is likely to be more liberal than his predecessor, John McGinness, who endorsed him.

McGinness, who began his new job as a talk radio host on KFBK on Monday, discussed the Tucson shootings.

In an interview before he went on air, McGinness said he couldn’t help wondering what might have been prevented if more citizens at the gathering had been armed. “It may cause the results of a massacre to be somewhat reduced by virtue of someone in the area being prepared and able to defend themselves with firepower,” he said. ~



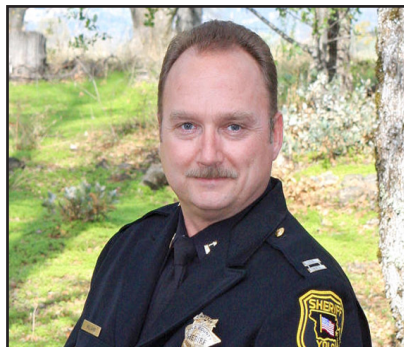
CCW CLASS FORMING

Individuals who are interested in taking a class to qualify for an El Dorado County License to Carry a Concealed Weapon (CCW) may contact John Thomson at 530-677-3039 to get on an interest list. Both men and women are welcome. You must live in El Dorado County, be 21 years of age and be able to pass a background check.

It is anticipated that the class would be given at a range in the Sacramento area. Details are yet to be finalized, depending on the availability of the instructor, who is highly qualified and recognized by the El Dorado Sheriff’s office. ~



PG&E tree trimming crew at work along Bass Lake Road in early January



Captain Rich Williams

photo courtesy Mountain Democrat

YOLO SHERIFF CAPTAIN TAPPED FOR EL DORADO UNDERSHERIFF POST

Sheriff John D’Agostini, following up on his promise to change the culture of the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Department, has hired Yolo County Sheriff’s Captain Rich Williams to be his undersheriff.

Within a sheriff’s department, the undersheriff is a law enforcement officer and the sheriff’s right-hand-man, responsible for providing support to the sheriff and potentially running the department in the event of the sheriff’s absence. The undersheriff will lend the sheriff a helping hand in a range of activities, from organizing other staff members within the department to representing the sheriff at meetings and events.

An Army veteran, Williams joined the Yolo County Sheriff’s Department in 1985 as a reserve deputy. The next year, he earned a full-time role with the Orange County Sheriff’s Department.

After serving two years in Southern California, Williams returned to Yolo County in 1988 and worked a wide range of assignments including courthouse security, bailiff, detective, patrol and field training officer.

In 1997 Williams was promoted to sergeant where he supervised units such as patrol, administration, training and detectives. Williams also served as the department’s public information officer.

He was promoted to lieutenant in 2005 and then to captain in 2007.

Williams holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and is a graduate of the 210th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Williams and his wife live in El Dorado County. They have two sons, a daughter, a son-in-law and granddaughter. ~



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After you have registered, you can access your account and use a number of interactive graphs to track your electricity usage. ~

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

"All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players," so says Jacques in *As You Like It*. Now it's 2011, and we have some new players on the stage, others whose roles have changed, and some returning players.

New players: El Dorado Hills CSD General Manager John Skeel, Sheriff John D'Agostini, and Undersheriff Rich Williams.

New roles: El Dorado Hills CSD Director Wayne Lowery, State Senator Ted Gaines, and Governor Jerry Brown.

Returning players: El Dorado Hills CSD Directors Tony Rogozinski and Billy Vandegrift, and Assemblymember Alyson Huber.

Other returning players, I am pleased to announce, are your Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors. I want to take some time and ink to say how much I appreciate the work and efforts of those who serve on our board and without whom my job would be much more difficult. See the election article in this issue of the Bulletin.

An act that has been waiting in the wings for a long time is the Silver Springs Parkway project, a new road that will link Bass Lake Road at the infamous curve at Woodridge to a point on Green Valley Road.

There are indications that this project, which we understand is fully funded with developer bonds, has cleared some right-of-way hurdles and construction could possibly begin sometime this year.

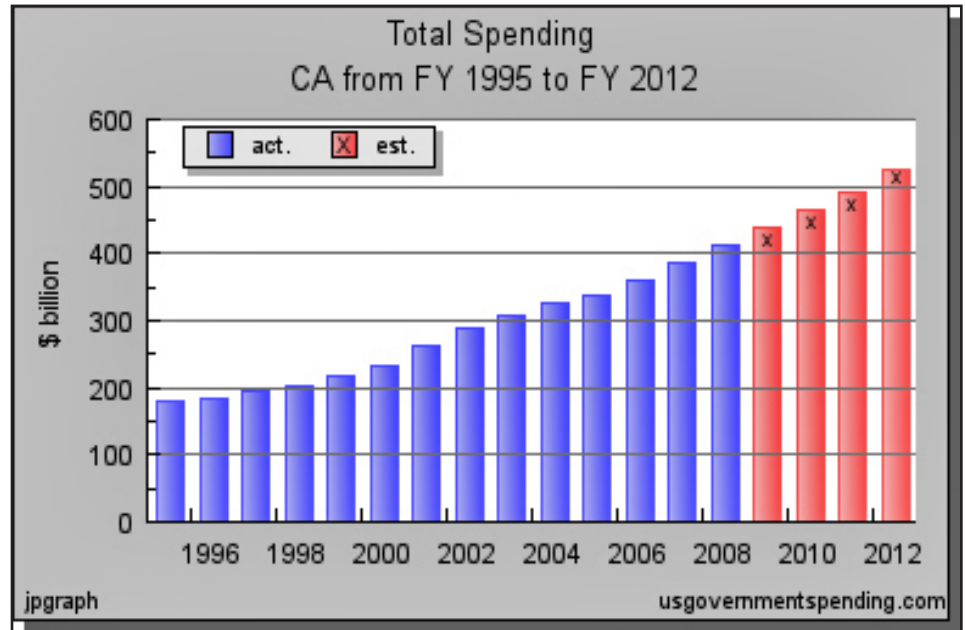
So as we look hopefully into the coming year, let us be grateful for what we have, and let us wish all the players on the stage the old theatrical encouragement, "Break a leg!"

Sincerely,

John Thomson

President

CALIFORNIA BUDGET CRISIS LOOMS



This chart of California spending tells the whole story.

VEERKAMP RETIRES, O'CAMB TO BE INTERIM EDH FIRE CHIEF

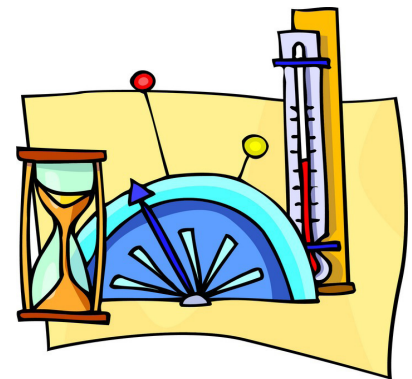
The El Dorado Hills Fire Department announced the retirement of Chief Brian K. Veerkamp effective January 19, 2011, and the Board of Directors appointed Deputy Chief Jim O'Camb as the interim chief until a permanent successor is hired.

Chief Veerkamp began his Fire Service career as a Volunteer/Paid Call Firefighter with the City of Placerville in 1981 and became a paid Professional Firefighter in 1983. In 1993, he was hired on as Deputy Chief for the El Dorado Hills Fire Department and in 2007 he was promoted to Fire Chief.

The board set a target of 120 days to name a new chief. Board President Greg Durante, along with Director John Hidahl, will sit on the subcommittee responsible for selecting a new chief.

Recently retired Folsom Fire Chief Dan Haverty, an El Dorado Hills resident, was named as a consultant to the board in an undefined capacity, but persons familiar with the situation say he will help with the selection process for a new chief.

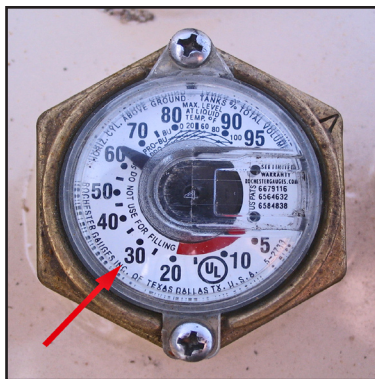
O'Camb, 49, and Battalion Chief Dave Roberts, 52, are both vying to replace Veerkamp long term. According to Haverty, a veteran of several chief replacements, it's normal for a board to interview outside candidates even if seemingly qualified inside candidates exist. ~



BASS LAKE'S OWN WEATHER STATION

Hal Erpenbeck has called our attention to the fact that we have our own weather station in Bass Lake. Jay Harmor, amateur radio operator and weather expert, supplies local weather information via his website ke6gla.com and also feeds data to weather service Weather Underground. Check out Jay's website if you have a chance, and get the scoop on our local weather.

Weather Underground has developed the world's largest network of personal weather stations (almost 10,000 stations in the US and over 3,000 across the rest of the world) that provides their users with the most localized weather conditions available. The service may be found on the Net at wunderground.com or as a channel on Roku players. ~



Typical propane tank gauge with red arrow showing the 30 percent full mark

PROPANE UPDATE

When winter comes, the thoughts of those of us whose primary source of home heating is propane turn to how much we have in our tank, and how much our propane costs.

Tank Level Reminder

Remember that in the cold weather we use more propane. While your supplier uses a computer model to estimate when you will need a tank refill, that's no substitute for watching your propane level yourself. You don't want to run out.

Your tank gauge goes into the red when it gets down to 20 percent full, but most authorities agree that you should call your propane supplier when your tank gets down to 30 percent. That gives you a cushion if your propane supplier cannot get out to you right away or your scheduled delivery is a couple of days away.

JS West Pricing

The latest Targa San Ramon wholesale price of propane was \$1.73 a gallon starting



January Thaw

The sun came out,
And the snowman cried.
His tears ran down on every side.
His tears ran down
Till the spot was cleared.
He cried so hard
That he disappeared.

— Margaret Hillert

December 23, 2010. The JS West contract delivery charge remains 6 cents per gallon for Woodridge-Bridlewood-Sierra Crossing contract customers, making the current laid-in price \$1.79 per gallon.

With well over 300 homes now signed up, the markup over laid-in is 50 cents a gallon, making the JS West per-gallon contract delivered price \$2.29 per gallon. Last year at this time the delivered price from Amerigas was \$2.88 per gallon.

The US Energy Information Agency reports that as of January 10, 2011, the average retail price of propane East of the Rockies was \$2.75 per gallon (they have no data for West of the Rockies). ~



JANUARY BLAC MEETING, ELECTION RESULTS, FEBRUARY MEETING SET

The regular monthly meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee was held on January 10, 2011, and featured Dan Bolster, Senior Transportation Planner, El Dorado County Transportation Commission. Dan explained that the Commission is not a part of the county or Placerville city governments, but an independent regional transportation planning agency mandated by the State. The Commission plans regional transportation for the west slope of El Dorado County.

The Commission does short range planning (up to 10 years) and long-range plan-

ning (up to 20 years) for the west slope of El Dorado County and the city of Placerville. It prepares a Regional Transportation Plan ("RTP") for those areas. The Commission has major planning documents, which they are required to update every five years and which get incorporated into a Regional Transportation Plan ("RTP").

Dan got a hearty round of applause from the group.

Election Results

The 2010 officers are: John Thomson, President; Kathy Prevost, Vice President; Tasha Boutselis-Camacho, Treasurer; Fran Thomson, Secretary; and Hal Erpenbeck, Director-at-Large.

Next Meeting

The next BLAC meeting will be held on February 7, 2011, at 7:00 PM at the home of Tasha and Louis Camacho, 2076 Summer Drive, Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-676-5608. There will be no guest speaker. For further information contact Kathy Prevost, 530-672-6836. ~

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