

# BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. IX No. 4

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

April 2011

[www.basslakeaction.org](http://www.basslakeaction.org)


## MEETING TO COMBAT LOCAL CRIME SET FOR BASS LAKE

It is apparent that the incidence of crime in El Dorado Hills is growing. Whether influenced by bad economic times, or whatever, property crimes are on the increase in our area. Faced with such a threat, what can a homeowner do?

Many people react with disbelief when they find that it is not the job of the Sheriff to protect their home. Indeed, protecting your home and its contents is primarily your job. While the presence of a sheriff's patrol car may deter the opportunistic criminal, the sheriff's main job is to catch criminals who have already committed crimes. However, the sheriff is always glad to help you learn how to better protect your home against thieves and burglars.

For instance, the Sheriff's office sponsors the Neighborhood Watch Program, a crime prevention program that stresses education and common sense. It teaches citizens how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. In addition, it provides citizens with the opportunity to make their neighborhoods safer and improve the quality of life. Neighborhood Watch groups typically focus on observation and awareness as a means of preventing crime and employ strategies that range from simply promoting social interaction and "watching out for each other" to active patrols by groups of citizens.

A meeting that will introduce us to Neighborhood Watch and how to protect our homes and belongings will be held at the Bridlewood Canyon Homeowners Club House, 3560 Devon Way, in Bridlewood, on April 18 at 6:30PM. Representatives of the Sheriff's Department will show you how to form a network with your neighbors and help to deter crime. Persons wishing to attend may contact Kathy Prevost at [blacinfo@aol.com](mailto:blacinfo@aol.com) or 530-672-6836.

Most neighborhood crime prevention groups are organized around a block or a neighborhood and are started with assistance from a law enforcement agency, in our case, the Sheriff's Office. Volunteers who donate their time and resources are typically at the center of such programs, since many do not have a formal budget or source of funding. One study found that most Neighborhood Watches were located in areas that contained high percentages of single-family homes, little or no commercial establishments, and residents who had lived at their current address for more than five years. This study also found that most of the programs used street signs to show the presence of the program to potentially deter any would-be criminals.

All Neighborhood Watches share one foundational idea: that bringing community members together to reestablish control of their neighborhoods promotes an increased quality of life and reduces the crime rate in that area.

The reason for this effectiveness is rather simple: Involving community members in watch programs decreases opportunities for criminals to commit crime rather than attempting to change their behavior or motivation.

Today's Neighborhood Watch Program is an effective means of crime control and neighborhood cohesiveness. While not all of the programs in place today go by the same name, they all accomplish the same goal: to bring community members together to fight crime: "Neighborhood is the key to maintaining successful relationships." ~

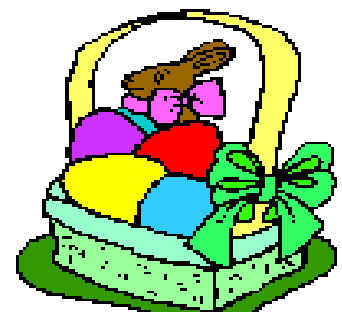


## EID: REDISTRICTING WITHOUT FAIR REPRESENTATION?

El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), is a special district in California, and has a five-man Board of Directors whose board districts together contain 74,430 voters, and from which those board members are elected. However, approximately 35,000 of those voters who are able to vote for EID board members get no water or sewer services from EID. The balance of the voters in the EID's districts, about 38,600 of them, are EID water and sewer customers. That means that a great many people who are not affected by EID policies are voting for the policy-makers who run EID and come up with policies like the rate hike in 2010 and the latest rate increase last month or so.

Sixty percent of EID's water and sewer customers are drawn from El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park, and eighty-eight percent of the sewer customers are in the same area. You wouldn't know that from the makeup of the board seats.

*(continued on page 3)*



Happy Easter



## FIFTH ANNUAL CLARKSVILLE DAY COMING ON MAY 7

Saturday, May 7, the Saturday before Mother's Day, has been selected by the Clarksville Region Historical Society for this year's Clarksville Day, to be held in the old ghost town of Clarksville in El Dorado Hills. The event is free to the public.

Last year Clarksville Day attracted a large crowd, and Betty January, past president of the Society and 2011 Clarksville Day organizer, predicts as many or more visitors this year. "Planning has already begun," said Betty, "and this year will be better than ever." Starting at 10:00 AM, participants from civic and historical organizations in the Sacramento area will provide exhibits. Rides, food, music and entertainment will add to the festivities.

The old town site has a long history. The area around what is now known as Clarksville was long inhabited by the Maidu and Miwok groups of Native American Indians. These indigenous people lived off the land, and resided in villages scattered over an area that extended from the Sacramento Valley up into the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

In January of 1848, James W. Marshall discovered gold in the millrace of Sutter's Mill at Coloma on the American River and touched off the California Gold Rush.

The Indians, though weakened by the malaria epidemic of the 1830s, were still residing in the Sierra Foothills when the early gold-seekers and others began to arrive

in the late 1840s. The immigration caused by the Gold Rush destroyed the Indian's arcadian way of life as gold seekers overran the foothills.

In 1848 or 1849, the Mormon Tavern, offering rough hospitality for gold seekers, was built by a Mormon named Morgan in the area just south of the present community of El Dorado Hills. The tavern later acted as a remount station during the short life of the Pony Express,

from April 1860 through October 1861.

About the same time the Mormon Tavern was built, a man named Clarkson had a stopping place near Mormon Tavern known as Clarkson's Village. Clarkson's Village was near the junction of the stagecoach road from Sacramento and the freight road east to the Sierra mines which brought people, news, supplies, and mail to the gold fields. The town soon became the commercial and social center for the area, and boasted of four hotels in its heyday. By 1855 a post office was established there, and in the process the postal authorities renamed the town Clarksville.

By 1860 the Gold Rush boom was fading. In the process, the area around Clarksville moved to a more agricultural economy, and ranching become the major industry. The town's commerce suffered greatly when in 1864 the railroad coming east from Sacramento was routed to the south instead of passing through Clarksville. Though it continued to be a service center for the local ranch-

ers, the town of Clarksville began a slow decline.

The advent of the Lincoln Highway (America's first transcontinental Highway) that was built through Clarksville in the early 1900s restored some life to Clarksville. The Lincoln Highway later became U.S. Highway 50, but when in the 1960s Highway 50 was rerouted to bypass Clarksville, the little community just faded away.

At the present time all that is generally left of Clarksville are the ruins of some frame building and few stone walls. The one standing building is the old school house, which has been added onto and maintained as a barn.

While much attention has been paid to other historical legacies such as the Gold Rush or the Spanish Missions, the area around Clarksville is rich with local history that cries out to be recorded and remembered.

The Clarksville Region Historical Society was founded in 2006 to identify and preserve documents, artifacts, records, and other objects of historical interest, educate the public and increase public awareness, and to enlist public support for the historical preservation and display of documents, artifacts, records, and other objects of historical interest related to historic Clarksville and the surrounding region.

For more information regarding the Clarksville Region Historical Society, or about Clarksville Day, contact Betty January at 916-933-3173. ~



Scenes from Clarksville Day 2010: Upper left, one of the free wagon rides; above, historical exhibits in front of the Old Clarksville Schoolhouse, now converted into a horse barn, along the Lincoln Highway.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

Well, it seems we have turned the corner, and have passed from Winter into Spring. At Least, that's what I see from all of the plants and trees.

A wet winter has brought out all of the growth that we have come to expect from warmer weather, and more. The "more" in my case is the vast number of weeds that have heeded the advent of warmer weather to sprout all over the yard, including some kinds of weeds I have not seen for years!

Our grapevines, which have looked like dead sticks all winter, have suddenly burst out in that amazing phenomenon known as budbreak. The buds on each cordon have sprouted green leaves, and will soon be shoots that will grow into long grape-bearing canes. This year I am going to spray early and often to prevent the onset of powdery mildew, which wreaked havoc on the vines last year.

With the generous snow pack, it looks like we will have plenty of water this year. So let's all hope for a warm and sunny spring without a lot of rain. Let's just hope that the snow melts slowly so we can have its beneficial water melt for a long time over the Spring and Summer months.

I hope everyone's garden will look swell this Spring. All you will need is a few gallons of Roundup for the prolific weeds.

And don't forget to take a few hours out of your gardening chores to visit Old Clarksville on Clarksville Day, May 7, the day before Mother's Day. It will be a lot of fun, and it's free.

Sincerely,  
John Thomson  
President

EID REDISTRICTING *(continued)*

The secret redistricting process now going on at EID will count all of the non-EID customers along with the EID ratepayers in arriving at the decision about who will be represented by which board member. Since practically all of El Dorado Hills is served by EID, the inclusion of more non-EID voters up the hill will diminish the share of voting power that would otherwise be enjoyed by ratepayers in El Dorado Hills.

Many are asking why Placerville voters are going to be counted as EID voters in the redistricting process, when Placerville residents could not vote against the EID rate increases last year. John Jakowatz of El Dorado Hills-based Four Seasons Civic League said recently, "Those of us that watchdog EID don't do it because we don't have anything else to do. We do it because EID's last ten years have been filled with spiraling rates, spiraling debt, spiraling salaries and benefits, and power hungry managers, all under the current board's watch. We yearn for an EID that we don't have to watchdog."

If you would like to learn more about the redistricting process, or ask questions about why people are voters at some times but not others, Harris Norris, the EID Director representing District 5 – El Dorado Hills – will be a guest speaker at the El Dorado Hills Community Council/APAC meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at the El Dorado Hills Community Services District Pavilion, 1021 Harvard Way, El Dorado Hills, beginning at 7:00 PM. ~



**CALIFORNIA LAW NOW REQUIRES CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS**

Legislation in May of 2010 requires the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all California dwelling units. The bill also requires that the presence or absence of these devices must be disclosed upon the transfer of residential real estate.

Unlike many changes to the laws concerning newly-constructed homes, this legislation affects all existing housing. It covers

every occupied dwelling unit that has a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance or fireplace, which means every single-family house, mobile homes, condominiums, motels, hotels, dormitories, and units in apartment houses. Fossil fuel means coal, kerosene, oil, wood, fuel gases, and other petroleum or hydrocarbon products, which emit carbon monoxide as a byproduct of combustion. In other words, practically all homes and apartments are covered except all-electric dwellings.

The law requires that units will have to install a device that is designed to detect carbon monoxide and produce a distinct, audible alarm. The device may be battery-powered, plugged in, or hard-wired in with a battery backup. It may be combined with a smoke detector, but, if it is, it must emit an alarm or voice warning in a manner that clearly differentiates between a carbon monoxide alarm warning and a smoke detector warning.

The devices must be certified by the State Fire Marshal and must be properly installed in all existing single-family homes no later than July 1, 2011. All other dwelling units, such as apartments, must have proper carbon monoxide detectors installed no later than January 1, 2013.

Currently, sellers of residential properties in California must provide the buyer with a state-mandated form known as the Real Estate Transfer Disclosure Statement. The statement requires the seller to answer a variety of inquiries as to features of the property. Effective January 1, 2011, the seller will have to disclose whether or not the property contains one or more carbon monoxide detectors. ~



**Happy Easter**



## PROPANE UPDATE

Propane prices on the West Coast fell somewhat recently, no doubt as a reflection of decreased demand from the Midwest and the East due to warmer weather, though higher gasoline prices prevailed throughout most of the nation.

The Targa San Ramon wholesale price of propane on April 1 was \$1.66 a gallon, making the JS West per-gallon contract delivered price \$2.22 per gallon to Bridlewood Canyon, Woodridge and Sierra Crossing.

The benchmark Mont Belvieu, Texas, wholesale price of propane on April 1 was \$1.87. Data from the US Energy Information Agency is not available outside the winter heating season, which ends in March. ~



### Spring Song

Hark, I hear a robin calling!  
List, the wind is from the south!  
And the orchard-bloom is falling  
Sweet as kisses on the mouth.

In the dreamy vale of beeches  
Fair and faint is woven mist,  
And the river's orient reaches  
Are the palest amethyst.

Every limpid brook is singing  
Of the lure of April days;  
Every piney glen is ringing  
With the maddest roundelays.

Come and let us seek together  
Springtime lore of daffodils,  
Giving to the golden weather  
Greeting on the sun-warm hills.

— Lucy Maud Montgomery

## EDH FIRE DEPARTMENT FACES BUDGET CUTS

El Dorado Hills resident and former Folsom Fire Chief Dan Haverty, hired as a budget consultant to the El Dorado Hills Fire Board, has recommended a number of steps to balance the budget of the El Dorado Hills Fire Department.

Haverty was brought in to guide the district through the replacement of recently retired Chief Brian Veerkamp and to make budget and staffing recommendations.

The fire department relies heavily on property tax revenues, which dropped 8.4 percent last year, to fund its operations. El Dorado County Auditor-Controller Joe Harn has warned the fire district to prepare for at least another 5 percent revenue reduction in the 2011-12 budget year.

Haverty warned that any upbeat national economic stories must be tempered by the fact that California, especially the Sacramento region, is lagging behind the national recovery. The good news, if any, is that the region hopefully appears to be at or near the bottom market value for home sales.

Haverty suggested the board review the district policy that mandates retaining a full year's operating revenue in reserve. The policy sequesters \$13.6 million of the \$14.3 million undesignated reserve balance for fiscal year 2010-11.

The administration has proposed \$260,000 in cuts to office supplies, housekeeping, tools, professional services, facility maintenance and travel expenses.

Even with cuts, attrition and reorganization, Haverty said the department's reserve must be tapped for between \$300,000 and \$1.1 million per year over the next few years, depending on future tax revenues and the results of the ongoing firefighters' contract negotiations. ~

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



## APRIL BLAC MEETING HELD, MAY MEETING DATE, SPEAKERS SET

The regular monthly meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee was held April 7, 2011, and was well-attended.

The next BLAC meeting will be held on May 2, 2011, at 7:00 PM at the home of Tom and Andi Stuchell, 2206 Summer Drive, Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-672-8366. Guest speakers will be Division Chief/Fire Marshal Brad Ballanger and Fire Prevention Specialist Wally Jukes from the El Dorado Hills Fire Department. All BLAC members are cordially encouraged to attend. For further information contact Kathy Prevost, 530-672-6836. ~

The Bass Lake Bulletin is published monthly seven to ten days after the regular monthly BLAC meeting, by the Bass Lake Action Committee, El Dorado Hills, California Copyright © 2011. Permission to reproduce unabridged articles is granted if appropriate attribution is given to the Bass Lake Bulletin

John E. Thomson, Ph.D.  
President and Editor  
doctorjet@basslakeaction.org  
530-677-3039

For additional information  
see our website, [basslakeaction.org](http://basslakeaction.org)  
or contact

Vice President Kathy Prevost  
[kathyp@basslakeaction.org](mailto:kathyp@basslakeaction.org)  
530-672-6836