

The



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. XVIII No. 3 The Voice of the Bass Lake Community March 2020
www.basslakeaction.org

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*El Dorado Hills Boulevard & Brittany Place Intersection circa August 2019
(Photo Credit: El Dorado County Transportation Commission)*

By Kathy Prevost

Pedestrian mistakes account for nearly as many crashes as do drivers and with walking being promoted as a healthy alternative to driving, walking is becoming increasingly dangerous.

This month the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) released their 2019 preliminary data for pedestrian traffic fatalities by state which estimates that 6,590 pedestrians were killed on US roads in 2019. If their projections are correct, this would represent a 5% increase from 2018 and a continuation of an increasing trend in pedestrian deaths going back to 2009.

That total translates to 2.0 deaths per 100,000 which is the highest since 1997 and would be the highest yearly total fatalities in the US since 1988.

Pedestrian deaths are represented in an increasing percentage of total motor vehicle crash deaths from 12% in 2009 to

17% in 2018 according to the report.

The improvements in passenger vehicles which have become safer for the occupants due to design changes and safety equipment may have been partially responsible for decreasing the chance of fatal injuries.

The report also stated there are factors outside the control of state and local traffic safety officials that can “contribute to annual changes in the number of pedestrian fatalities, including economic conditions, population growth, demographic changes, weather conditions, fuel prices, vehicle miles traveled, the amount of time people spend walking and changing patterns of drug use, including decriminalization of marijuana”.

The Association did find a number of possible reasons for the continuing increase in pedestrian fatalities which includes the growing popularity of light trucks and SUVs, warmer weather with -

STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

County Getting Things Done, But Still Facing Challenges

California leaders can expect what will likely be a lengthy list from El Dorado County in the coming months.

As El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Chairman Brian Veerkamp put it, “This is a politically correct way to say, ‘We’ve got problems and you’re not helping.’”

Broken promises on road funding, a lack of action on the homeless and homeowners insurance crises and addressing PG&E’s “weird games” top the list. But the District 3 supervisor’s State of the County address wasn’t all dark clouds on what turned out to be a very sunny day at Rolling Hills Christian Church, where the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce hosted its monthly luncheon March 4.

Now in his last year as a supervisor, Veerkamp touted the county’s achievements over the last several years, including the development and implementation of a strategic plan that has moved the county forward with a more business-like structure. He also stressed the board’s efforts to build a great team from the top down.

“You cannot do anything without a team working together,” Veerkamp said, adding that the strategic plan includes a goal-oriented action plan and consistent reviews. “Guess what? We’re getting things done.”

Those “things” include the completion of the new county sheriff’s public safety facility off Missouri Flat Road in Diamond Springs and securing more water for El Dorado County from Folsom Lake — a process that took a head-shaking 29 years. At the state level, Veerkamp asserted, “We’ve got to work on more affordable (water) and more available water.”

(continued on page 2)

(continued on page 2)



BLAC PROPANE COMMITTEE FINALIZES RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT WITH PROPANE SUPPLIER JS WEST FOR FIVE YEAR TERM

The Bass Lake Action Committee's Propane Committee has completed a renewal agreement for a five year term with Propane supplier JS West. This agreement is a continuation of a pricing agreement that BLAC's Propane Committee negotiated in April 2010.

The new agreement term runs from April 1, 2020 to April 1, 2025

The agreement is open as a volume discount to propane users in the following subdivisions only:

Bridlewood Canyon, Woodridge, & Sierra Crossing

Pricing is at \$0.50 per gallon over JS West's laid-in cost per gallon. There will be no additional fees (delivery, Hazmat, Fuel Recover, etc) add to residential deliveries in these subdivisions.

There will be no charge to set up service. This includes the changing of tanks from the old provider to JS West, transferring remaining fuel into the new tank, full leak check of system, and re-lighting of any pilot lights. JS West will also return the old tank to the current supplier, free of charge, as long as the tank is able to be drawn down to 5% of capacity.

Full details can be found at <http://basslakeaction.net/jswest>

All new tank installations will receive two years of free tank rental. After this the rates for 250 & 325 gallon tanks at \$65 annually, while a pair of 120 gallon tanks manifolded together will be billed at \$78 annually. The initial set up includes a tank lease agreement, credit application, tax exemption form, along with a terms & conditions form.

JS West customers will receive the same residential pricing for BBQ Propane bottles. Due to California regulation changes, BBQ bottles must be brought to JS West's Placerville yard for refilling. Interested residents of these communities should contact Kari Veerkamp Norton at JS West. Kari's direct phone number is (530) 391-7076.

The main number for JS West is (530) 642-7001. ~

PEDSTRIAN & TRAFFIC DEATHS RISE (con't)

- more pedestrians out at night, alcohol impairment and an increase in cell phone use while driving. It also made note of the fact that the pedestrian who was struck by an SUV was twice as likely to die as those struck by a car.

About half of traffic crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities in 2018 were caused by driver and/or pedestrian alcohol impairment. The number of night time pedestrian fatalities increased by 67% compared to 16 % for daytime pedestrian fatalities from 2009 to 2018. Hit and run crashes accounted for 1 in 5 pedestrian fatalities.

While the largest category of vehicles involved in fatal pedestrian crashes were passenger cars, fatalities involving SUVs increased at a faster rate at 81% from 2009 to 2018 as compared to passenger cars which increased by 53% according to the GHSA report.

During the first six months of 2019, five states (Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia and Texas) represented 33% of the US population and were accountable for 47% of all pedestrian deaths. The number of pedestrian fatalities increased by 53% during the 10 years from 2009 - 2018 with 4,109 deaths in 2009 compared to 6,283 deaths in 2018.

For the same period of time, the combined number of other traffic deaths increased by 2%.

The California Office of Traffic Safety reported in 2019 that the pedestrian fatality rate was almost 25% higher than the national average and no other state had more pedestrian deaths on its roadways than California.

In California, persons from the age of 45 to 54 accounted for the largest number of fatally injured pedestrians followed by the 55 to 64 year old age group. The recent increases in pedestrian fatalities have largely happened at night and more than 1/2 in 2018 occurred on non freeway arterials.

In an October 28, 2019, article written by David Lightman and Michael Finch II, the Sacramento Bee reported that 57 pedestrians had died in the Sacramento four county regions in 2018 and that fatal crashes were on an upward trend. The article also stated that fatal crashes in California increased from 653 in 2012 to 940 in 2017 before dipping to 893 in 2018.

On a state level, the California transportation department safety programs addressed the issue by monitoring 129 locations with a history of pedestrian - (continued on page 3)

STATE OF THE COUNTY (con't)

The board chairman praised county staff's efforts on the county's Vegetation Management Ordinance adopted last year.

Implementation of the ordinance, which was in part modeled after a long-standing weed abatement/fire safety program in El Dorado Hills, will benefit those buying and selling a home and those who need or want to retain their homeowners insurance, Veerkamp said. "It's called being a responsible land owner."

Veerkamp outlined ongoing challenges including funding much-needed road maintenance, capturing more sales tax revenue and retaining quality county employees.

"We're a training ground," he said, pointing to the counties to the west and north, "and we're very concerned about that."

On the sales tax issue, the fifth-generation El Dorado County resident said tourism drives the local economy and staff is looking at how to further capitalize on that. With a wink he noted that tourism might see a boost when a certain film is released later this year — one with "a plane that flies fast and a good-looking actor."

Another hint led to excited chatter among the audience. Veerkamp assured the business professionals in attendance that county leaders continue to work on the Costco deal. It has been more than a year since it was announced that Costco was interested in building a warehouse store on Silva Valley Parkway in El Dorado Hills.

credit: Noel Stack ~ The Village Life March 11, 2020





From The BLAC Board President's Letter March 2020

- A Little bit of This and That -

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Little did I realize when I began my message for the February Bass Lake Bulletin with, "nothing is so certain as change", how prophetic that would be. One month later we are in the middle of a pandemic and wondering what each day will bring. And yet, at the same time, the beauty of spring is unfolding around us.

Last month I mentioned the propane contract with JS West to continue volume pricing for the three developments of Bridlewood Canyon, Woodridge and Sierra Crossing was renewing on April 1st and that barbecue propane tanks would need to be taken to the JS West facility in Placerville for refill.

They suggest that customers call them in advance at 530 642-7001 because there's not necessarily someone available on the dock to service the tanks all the time. In periods of high demand the docks may be closed but they did suggest Idle Wheels RV at 4625 Missouri Flat who offers good pricing as an alternative.

My interest was piqued when I first read a short article in the Sacramento Bee regarding the release of the Governors Highway Safety Association pedestrian fatality data for 2019. For many years we loved walking our dogs daily in our neighborhood. You definitely had to be on your toes though and Summer Drive could be particularly challenging sometimes because of vehicles driving too fast or distracted driving. -

(continued on page 5)

PEDSTRIAN & TRAFFIC DEATHS RISE

(con't)

- danger throughout California.

The recommended improvements for 89 of the sites were "pedestrian warning signs, high visibility crosswalk markings, imposing parking restrictions to improve visibility and adjusting traffic signals at certain intersections to give pedestrian a head start before vehicle turns". Work was completed at 54 of the sites and is continuing at other sites according to the Sacramento Bee October article.

California is conducting best practice strategies to reduce pedestrian fatalities and injuries through classroom education, community events, presentations and workshops. These presentations are conducted in communities with high numbers of pedestrian-related collisions including underserved communities, older adults and school-aged children.

They also coordinate their efforts with community-based organizations for Safe Routes to School initiatives, Vision Zero campaigns and work to prevent fatalities and injuries among vulnerable non motorized road users.

In addition, Caltrans developed a Pedestrian Safety Countermeasure Toolbox in 2019. The US government, which has a wide range of programs aimed at making roads safer, has spent 42 million of the 70 million dollars authorized for a special pedestrian and bicycle safety promotion. This five-year program ends in this coming fiscal year. In 2018, a pedestrian safety investigation was conducted involving 15 crashes by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). They found "a widespread belief by many drivers they can multitask and still operate a vehicle safely. But multitasking is a myth; humans can only focus cognitive attention on one task at a time. That's why executing any tasks other than driving is dangerous and risks a crash".

Suggested solutions to reduce pedestrian fatalities included increased enforcement for violations such as speeding and distracted driving and improvements in pedestrian infrastructure. Also, the NTSB recommended automotive safety technology improvements such as pedestrian collision avoidance systems and vehicle designs with more bumper insulation and space under the hood which could limit the potential for injuries to pedestrians.

So how does El Dorado County compare to the national, state and region numbers?

El Dorado County (two incorporated cities) which is mostly rural has a much smaller population than Sacramento County with the densest population concentrated in the unincorporated El Dorado Hills area. However, pedestrian fatalities have increased from 2009 and although the actual numbers themselves are small, they reflect the conclusions of the GHSA report that fatalities are rising. In 2009, there was one pedestrian fatality involving a pickup truck traveling at an unsafe speed which occurred with dry road conditions in the daytime.

This compares to 2018 when El Dorado County incurred two pedestrian fatalities involving passenger cars. Both incidents occurred at night without street lights, dry road conditions and both pedestrians were at fault.

Since multiple agencies are involved in reporting to the California Highway Patrol program, the report for 2019 is not complete, however, there have been three pedestrian fatalities reported thus far this year.

Passenger cars were involved in each case and two occurred at night with street lights and there were no unusual weather conditions reported. The pedestrian was at fault in one report and snow or ice conditions were reported in one incident with unsafe speeds reported in two incidents.

There were a total of 24 pedestrian involved incidents reported in 2009 as compared to 22 incidents in 2018 and 21 in 2019 which is not yet complete. Interestingly, there were not any pedestrian fatalities in 2008.

According to the spokesman for the California Office of Traffic Safety, Timothy Weisberg, "there is no single reason or solution to the growing number of pedestrian deaths in California and across the country. We wish it were that simple to address and reverse the trend". ~



End of the Sidewalk on Alyssum Circle, as seen from Bass Lake Road. Pedestrian & Bicycle facilities are still lacking in the Bass Lake Area

ALL EL DORADO COUNTY SCHOOLS TO CLOSE FOR ONE WEEK

The El Dorado County Office of Education shared the following message Saturday March 14th :

The safety and wellness of students, families, and school personnel are the highest priorities of all El Dorado County schools and districts. In recognition of the statewide COVID-19 situation and the potential impact in El Dorado County, School District Superintendents and Dr. Ed Manansala, County Superintendent of Schools, have decided in concurrence with Dr. Nancy Williams, County Public Health Officer, to close all public El Dorado County schools during the week of March 16-20. Districts will notify families for actual dates. We will reassess at the end of next week whether an extension of school closures beyond March 20th will be necessary. Dr. Nancy Williams reported while there are no current positive cases in our county at this time, the El Dorado County Public Health Division expects to begin seeing positive cases in the coming days and weeks which may require a continued response. Several counties in California and states across the country have made similar choices, including the counties of Placer, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Ventura. The states of Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin have decided to close all public schools. While we recognize this decision will pose challenges and hardship to many families in our county, the most effective way to slow and disrupt the transmission of this pandemic is by implementing social distancing practices. During the time of the school closure, we are asking that students and families follow the County Public Health Officer's directive to stay home and minimize social contact to the extent possible. Protecting public health requires a community-wide response, and we will need the help of families to help remain united in our response. Dr. Williams emphasizes that, "while school dismissals are intended to protect students, teachers, and staff, we need everyone to take social distancing seriously if we are to achieve the greater benefit of protecting everyone in the County from COVID-19." While children have not been shown to be a high-risk group for serious illness from COVID-19, they are still able to transmit the virus to populations who are most vulnerable to serious illness, such as older adults and those with compromised immune systems.

- To achieve the greatest effect in reducing COVID-19 transmission in El Dorado County, please encourage students and their families during this time to:

- Avoid large public gatherings such as malls, movie theaters, and other spaces, especially those that are indoors.
- Plan to spend the dismissal week with just their immediate family and a few friends.
- Use social media and phone to keep in touch with the rest of their family and friends.
- Postpone visits to older adult relatives and neighbors, and to people with compromised immune systems.
- Avoid traveling out of the county to other locations where COVID-19 is circulating more widely.

We understand that implementing these changes with such limited notice is challenging and disruptive, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation. We are grateful to community members throughout our county for their tremendous efforts during these challenging times. This is a dynamic situation where information and circumstances can evolve quickly. For the latest updates visit:

Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 website: <https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19>

El Dorado County Public Health website: <https://www.edcogov.us/Government/hhsa/Pages/EDCCCOVID-19.aspx>

El Dorado County Office of Education website: <http://edcoe.beehv.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-information>

Sincerely,

Dr. Ed Manansala, El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools

Cheryl Olson, Superintendent, Rescue Union School District

Dr. David Roth, Superintendent, Buckeye Union School District

Dr. Ron Carruth, Superintendent, El Dorado Union High School District



MARCH 3, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

Results from the March 3, 2020 Primary Election:

Measure A, El Dorado Union High School District bond measure required a 55% yes vote to pass, but was defeated:

YES 38.51%
NO 61.49%

Measure G, Rescue Union School District bond measure required a 55% yes vote to pass, but was defeated:

YES 39.67%
NO 60.33%

Measure E, Los Rios Community College District bond measure required a 55% yes vote to pass, but was defeated:

YES 33.41%
NO 66.59%

El Dorado County District 1 Supervisor
Incumbent Supervisor John Hidahl was the top vote getter with 43.05%. In the November 2020 General Election, he will face the second place finisher, Ron Briggs who garnered 24.79%. Ben Paulsen finished in third with 21.77%, and Wayne Haug came in fourth with 10.39 %.

El Dorado County District 2 Supervisor
The District 2 race was a crowded seven candidate field, to replace termed-out Supervisor Shiva Frentzen. George Turnbo finished in first place with 26.03%, and will face off in November with second place finisher Ken Plimlott, who obtained 22.66% of the vote. The remaining candidates finished as follows:

Felicity Carlson 21.24%
Ray Nutting 20.43%
Kevin Loewen 5.04%
Tyler Kuskie 3.11%
Chris Cockrell 1.48%

El Dorado County District 3 Supervisor
Wendy Thomas finished with 60.33% to defeat Brian Deberry, who garnered 39.67. Wendy Thomas will take office in the 2021 Term.

California Senate District 1 (top two)
Incumbent Brian Dahle 58.1%
Pamela Dawn Swartz 35.8%

California Assembly District 6 (top two)
Incumbent Kevin Kiley 58.6
Jackie Smith 41.4%

President's Letter - (con't)

- I was curious about what was being done to promote pedestrian safety in California and our local county. With the advent of the new Shopping Center on Sienna Ridge Road and the lack of a safe access from our neighborhoods other than by vehicle, it was foremost in my mind. I was aware that there are grants available for bike trails and that the El Dorado County Transportation Commission has been pursuing that avenue.

With a safety grant funded by the Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) implements a project which includes both enhanced enforcement and a public education and awareness campaign to reduce pedestrian and bicyclist collisions.

The program provides for traffic educational events, rodeos, community informational sessions and collaboration. They also distribute bicycle helmets and other safety equipment and educational materials. On a local basis, the CHP offers "Bicycle Rodeos" and distributes free bicycle helmets.

Unfortunately, as you may have noticed in reading the article, there was no mention of building sidewalks! That will be research for another day.

Drivers looking for alternate ways into Folsom will soon have a new option. At this month's EDH Community Council meeting our District 1 Supervisor John Hidahl announced the Saratoga Way thoroughfare in El Dorado Hills that will connect to Folsom's Iron Point Road, is slated to open by the end of March. Supervisor Hidahl provided an update on Saturday March 14th, that this has been delayed again to the second week in April, due to PG&E's inability to make the electrical connections any sooner.

According to their latest project status report, the El Dorado Hills Community Service District (EDHCS D) has closed escrow on -

- both the EID and El Dorado County parcels which are part of the planned Bass Lake Regional Park. They are working on an agreement with Parker Development for the park to be built on Lot H in Serrano.

EDHCS D expects to review the CEQA documents in early July with the public review to be held in late July.

Also, it appears that a roof proposal was received within budget to repair the roof with new plywood and tile in damaged areas on the Oak Knoll Clubhouse in The Hills of El Dorado and a recommendation will be coming to the Parks and Planning Committee in April of 2020.

Respectfully,
Kathy Prevost
BLAC President



Saratoga Way extension in EDH to connect to Iron Point Road in Folsom the second week in April - Photo credit: Sel Richard, Village Life



Oak Knoll Park Clubhouse roof repair recommendation from EDHCS D Staff to be presented to the District's Parks & Planning Committee in April



Irish Blessing

"For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way: Good health, good **luck** and happiness for today and every day."



BLAC BOARD SETS MAY 11 BOARD MEETING. MEMBERS REMINDED TO RENEW

The next quarterly BLAC Board of Directors Business Meeting will be held May 11, 2020 at 7PM at a Location to be announced in the April 2020 Bass Lake Bulletin.

Treasurer Wil Burnet would like to remind BLAC members to return their 2020 membership renewals to him at their earliest convenience. If you missed your 2020 Renewal Letter in the Mail, please contact basslakemembers@gmail.com, or call BLAC Vice President John Davey at 530-676-2657 and leave a message.

For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice-President John Davey at 530-676-2657, email basslakemembers@gmail.com, or visit our online membership form at http://basslakeaction.net/members ~

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