

with more time to prepare for the opening of the new school. A submittal deadline of April 30 also aligns with the application timeline adhered to by the Colorado Charter School Institute.

Per state regulations, to request this waiver LPSD must create a replacement plan, which is simply moving the date from October to April. The District Accountability Advisory Committee and licensed administrators and principals for LPSD and Monument Academy (MA) agree with this request. The district was also required to hold this public hearing four weeks prior to requesting the waiver and post-

ing a notice in three public places. The final step is to provide a signed board resolution, which they hope to get at the August school board meeting. It is up to the state Board of Education as to when they would put it on their agenda and whether they would like LPSD to do a presentation.

The meeting included the opportunity for public comments, but no members of the public spoke. Wangeman answered some audience questions, explaining that this would not impact the formal timing for the upcoming MA high school application but noted that the district was already informally review-

ing the application. The MA high school application is expected to be formally presented by October of this year. The waiver, which several districts including D49 have previously obtained, would affect any future charter school applications.

In addition to regular Board of Education meetings, the Lewis-Palmer School District holds special meetings, work sessions, and public hearings as noted on the district calendar at www.lewispalmer.org.

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El Paso Board of County Commissioners, July 18

Final BRRTA funds approved for Baptist Road improvements



Above: Crew members from El Paso County Department of Transportation took measurements on July 6 for installation of sidewalk improvements along Baptist Road between Kingswood Drive and Jackson Creek Parkway and median gravel cover improvements east to Desiree Drive. This is the final project for the remaining available Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority (BRRTA) funding that County Engineer Jennifer Irvine and Elaine Johnsen, county funding optimization manager, are administering now that BRRTA has voted itself out of existence. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) concurred with BRRTA's dissolution on Dec. 9, and the Monument Board of Trustees concurred on Jan. 3. www.ocn.me/v17n2.htm#mbot For more information see www.ocn.me/v16n10.htm#brrta, www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#brrta, www.ocn.me/v16n12.htm#brrta. Photo by Lisa Hatfield. Caption by Jim Kendrick.

By Helen Walklett

At its July 18 meeting, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) unanimously approved the expenditure of \$1.328 million from the Road and Bridge 2017 budget for the construction of a final phase of improvements along Baptist Road. This cash was transferred to the county from the Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority (BRRTA) under the terms of an Intergovernmental Agreement drawn up between the two ahead of the BRRTA's dissolution in December 2016.

July also saw the BOCC issue a call for volunteers to serve on the El Paso County Planning Commission.

Baptist Road improvements

This final project will see the installation of sidewalk along the north side of Baptist Road between Jackson Creek Parkway/Struthers Road and Kingswood Drive, and median cover improvements east to Desiree Drive. The total cost of the project is \$1.383 million and will use up all of the transferred \$1.328 million in BRRTA funds. The remaining \$55,486 will come from the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority.

The BOCC also approved the contract for the work which will be undertaken by AA Construction Company Inc. The AA contract has been extended each year since being initially awarded in 2014.

Moving to approve the final expenditure of funds, Commissioner Peggy Littleton said, "BRRTA was ... a success story." Between 1997 and 2016, BRRTA com-

pleted multiple projects to improve the Baptist Road corridor. See www.ocn.me/v16n12.htm#epbcc1103, www.ocn.me/v16n12.htm#brrta.

Volunteers needed for Planning Commission

In a July 24 news release, the BOCC put out a call for citizen volunteers to serve on the El Paso County Planning Commission. It is seeking to appoint two individuals. Applications are due by Aug. 8.

The Planning Commission reviews planning petitions and makes recommendations to the BOCC on land use requests, and prepares a master plan for unincorporated areas of the county. It consists of nine members appointed by the BOCC for three-year terms and meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The volunteer program application form can be found at www.elpasoco.com (click on the "Volunteer Opportunities" link). Applicants are asked to reference the board and position they wish to represent and to send completed applications and a letter of interest and/or a resume to: Board of County Commissioners, Attn: Linda Berg, 200 S. Cascade Avenue Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Applications can also be faxed to 719-520-6397 or emailed to volunteer@elpasoco.com.

Helen Walklett can be reached at helenwalklett@ocn.me.

El Paso County Sheriff's Office report

June crimes in county Sheriff's District 1

The following sampling was compiled from the monthly El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPSO) Neighborhood News. This report covers only EPSO District 1, does not list every crime reported to EPSO, and does not include criminal activity from the Town of Monument, the Town of Palmer Lake, City of Colorado Springs addresses, or other agencies:

Burglary: 1400 block Becky Dr., 14200 and 14300 blocks White Peak Dr., 17200 block Colonial Park Dr., 19000 block Shadowood Dr.
Criminal Trespass Auto: 13600 block Ashbrook

Heights Nursery Rd./Mt Herman Rd., 20000 block Chisholm Trail, 2100 block Stella Dr.
Menacing: 2100 block Stella Dr. MM 162/ I25. I25/ W. Baptist Rd. 1200 block Scottswood Dr.
Theft: MM 162/ I-25. MM 156 I-25.
Criminal Mischief: 3000 block Lakefront Dr.

FOR EMERGENCIES: DIAL 9-1-1 and state your address.

El Paso County Sheriff's Office Dispatch (non-emergency crime reporting): 390-5555

EPSO Telephone Reporting System (for minor crimes without suspect information): 520-7111

EPSO Traffic Hotline (for reporting problem areas or traffic violations): 390-5555 option 5

EPSO Tip Line (for reporting suspicious activity or the location of wanted persons): 520-7777 Always remember to promptly report criminal activity or suspicious behavior.

For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator: Merody Broom 719-520-7151 or MerodyBroom@elpasoco.com. ■

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, June 28 and July 27

Residents speak on speeding, development, and short-term rentals

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on June 28 and again on July 27 to hear residents' concerns on speeding, rules on signage, an upcoming development on Lake Woodmoor Drive, and feedback on short-term rentals such as Airbnb and Vacation Rentals by Owner (VRBO).

Speeding and signage

Resident Tammie Oatney came to the June meeting to raise concerns about speeding cars on the residential streets of Woodmoor. She expressed concern for the safety of pets and children playing or riding their bikes. She asked for clarification about signage allowed to encourage safe driving, noting that she understood that the covenants require 66 percent of homeowners to vote for changes but that the rules and regulations also cover signage.

Oatney attended Coffee with a Cop in May and

spoke with an officer who told her this has been a longstanding issue. She noted that Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) cannot write tickets. She appreciated that traffic control devices began appearing but felt they were only a temporary fix as people will speed up after they pass such a device. In July, WPS reported on statistics for eastbound and westbound Shadowood Drive showing respectively 7 percent and 10 percent exceeding the speed limit by five to 12 miles per hour. Southbound White Fawn Drive statistics showed 26 percent of vehicles going up to 10 mph over the limit and 8 percent going 11 to 20 mph over the limit.

Oatney said she spoke with WPS in March when they delivered a welcome packet. She had a "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" sign from Home Depot and asked the WPS officer if she could have the sign and was told it was OK so long as it was taken in at the end of the day. However, in early June a runner objected to

her sign. Oatney called WPS and confirmed that the sign was allowed, but in June she received an email violation notice from WIA. On June 6, her husband submitted a request for approval of temporary signage from Home Depot. She indicated concern with the one-square-foot size limit for signs per the rules and regulations. She noted the different rules for construction signs and political signs and requested approval of the signs, email blasts reminding residents of speed limits, and that WIA speak to the El Paso County sheriff to ask for more patrols.

Board President Peter Bille noted that WIA handles violations that are reported rather than seeking them out. When they receive a report, the WPS or WIA staff attempts to verify the violation. Staff indicated that the email was a courtesy notice that someone had reported an issue.

A second resident, a teacher, suggested clarifying