



Above: A drone's eye view of the Struthers Road/Gleneagle Drive roundabout construction as it nears completion. *Photo courtesy Crystal Peak Design.*

Below: As of March 18, construction of various forms was continuing throughout the area, including road work on the roundabout at Gleneagle Drive and Struthers Road and home construction in Gleneagle, Sun Hills, and other areas. *Photo by David Futey.*



events provide information to the public about forest health, soil conservation, safe chainsaw use, noxious weeds, and forest pests.

Under the MOU, the county contributes \$35,000 toward grinder expenses, and SAMCOM provides \$10,000 toward the costs. If the costs exceed this \$45,000, the two parties divide any additional costs equally between them. The county coordinates the contract for the grinder and holds the lease for the site. In the aftermath of the 2019 spring storms and bomb cyclone event, the program had a record year, serving 3,563 customers, collecting 44,940 cubic yards of slash and giving out 17,574 cubic yards of mulch.

The site, at the southeast corner of Shoup and Herring Roads, opens for the 2020 season for slash drop-off on May 2. Normal business hours will be Saturdays 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays noon-4 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5-7:30 p.m. The last date for slash drop-off is Sept. 13. There is a \$2 drop-off fee for slash.

Free mulch will be available for self-loading from May 16 through Sept. 19. For large quantities of mulch, an end loader is available on Saturdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., charging \$5 for two cubic yards.

For more information, visit www.bfslash.org or call Carolyn, 495-3127, Chuck, 495-8675, Jeff, 495-8024, or the county Environmental Division, 520-7878. Anyone wanting to volunteer to work a shift can do so via the website.

Transfer of developers' fees to school districts

At its March 19 meeting, the BOCC voted unanimously to approve the transfer of subdivision plan and plat fees to the appropriate county school districts. \$17,417 went to Lewis-Palmer School District 38. In a letter to the El Paso County treasurer requesting the fee transfer, David Crews, executive director of finance at the school district, said that the budgeted amount of funding from the state and local community of \$52.63 million falls slightly short of the \$56.63 million needed to fully fund the district.

Crews wrote, "The \$17,417 could not come at a better time. Our high schools are looking for additional funding to pay stipends for teacher leaders who will guide other teachers in strategic professional development that would lead to stronger instructional

practices in the classroom. This amount would cover these additional expenses."

Academy School District 20 received \$8,874, which will go toward the cost of accommodating enrollment trends and facility needs.

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

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