

she located the budget line item.

New move-ins rule reconsidered

In response to a resident request that the board reconsider how it assigns baseline sanitation service rates to new move-ins, the board discussed the topic at length. The consensus was that instead of assigning the previous resident's rate to the new resident, beginning July 1, new move-ins will be assigned the same baseline rate as that for new homes which is based on winter usage from November to February without irrigation.. Remington and Fisher were not sure of the exact number of gallons of this baseline rate, but Fisher estimated it would be in the range of 5,000-6,000 gallons of wastewater a month. The new resident's usage clock starts the following March to determine their water usage and by default their sanitation usage, too.

One contractor stealing water

Remington said that the district has been

aware of builders who are bypassing water meters during construction. Fisher said this has happened for the last decade. Attorney Gary Shupp said it is cost-prohibitive to sue them to recover costs, and "you can't put a company in jail." The current consequence has been a warning to the contractors, but next time it occurs, the district will "call the police, since it is theft," Remington said.

Residents should let district replace bushes and trees

Remington said several residents have requested that the district replace sagebrush bushes planted by the district near their homes. Fisher said the district is trying to phase out sagebrush from the future planting palette of the district. If there are dead trees, residents should let the district know, too. Fisher asked residents to let the district do the replacing of any trees or bushes instead of trying to do the work themselves.

At 6:39 p.m. the board went into executive session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the district's attorney regarding specific legal questions and personnel matters.

Triview Metropolitan District board meetings are normally held the second Tuesday

of the month at 5 p.m. at 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 300 (east of the Ent Federal Credit Union). Information: 488-6868 or visit www.triviewmetro.com. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, June 11
Availability of Service Charge raised, other fees explained

By Lisa Hatfield
At the June 11 Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board meeting, the board held a public hearing full of comments and questions from residents and then voted to increase the Availability of Service Charge (ASC) applied to vacant lots from \$25 a year to \$75 a year, which was lower than the maximum the state would have allowed, in order to accelerate the rate the district's revenue sponsored debt is paid off.

Residents question ASC increase
President Barrie Town and District Manager Jessie Shaffer explained that the ASC is a fee to charge customers who have water and/or sewer services available within 100 feet of their vacant lot and the district has the infrastructure ready to serve that lot. It is applied only to vacant lots in the district that have not already paid tap fees in the past. Shaffer said revenues from the ASC can



Professional Deck Restoration

Sanding, Staining and Sealing, Repair

Since 1999. Free Estimates.



719-578-8900

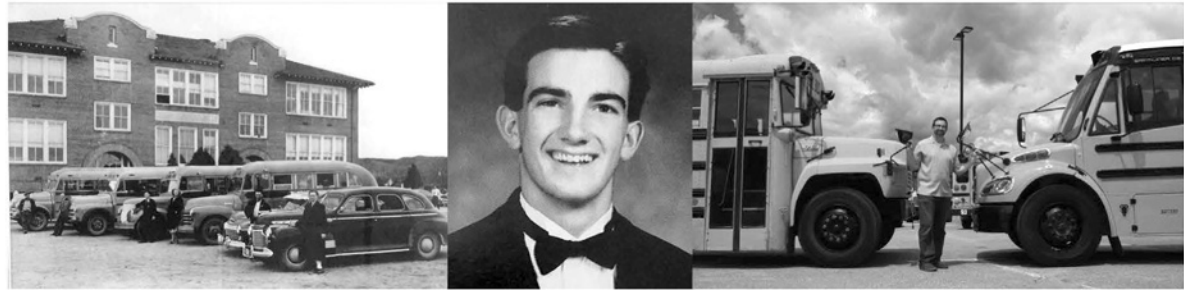
www.Bordersdeckcare.com or bordersdeck@hotmail.com



Lewis-Palmer School District #38 SCHOOL NEWS

146 Jefferson Street, Monument, CO 80132
(719) 488-4700 • info@lewispalmer.org • www.lewispalmer.org

July 2015



As illustrated above, the changes in school transportation over past decades are significant. (The changes in Robb Pike don't seem as drastic.)

District Busses Roll Through History

Robb Pike, 1993 Lewis-Palmer High School graduate and former Lewis-Palmer School District school board member, has interesting ties to the district's busses. Bus #17 (shown above to the left of Mr. Pike with one of the district's newest busses) was purchased the year Robb was a senior and was used primarily that year to transport teams to sporting events. Robb remembers a specific bus driver, George Bell, "We were always excited when he drove. He was our good luck charm. When he drove, we usually won." Bus #17 remains part of the fleet today as a back-up bus and still generates memories.
Bus drivers and busses continue to provide significant connections in Lewis-Palmer's tradition of excellence. Dala Grunder, an LPSD driver for almost 40 years, relates that her aunt and uncle, Floyd and Faye Bellinger, drove for the district in the 60s and 70s. "Driving a bus is not just a job. Drivers consistently refer to the students they transport as 'my kids,'" shares Grunder. "It's nice to run into former parents and students in the community years later and still be recognized and still remember each other's names," she continues. Grunder has driven two generations of students, driving the children of students she transported decades ago. Fleet Manager Chuck Kruger chimes in, "We safely deliver our most valuable resource, our future, to and from school every day." This is a serious business and a relational business at the same time.

LPSD maintains a fleet of 59 busses (44 regular, 15 special needs) with an average bus age of 12 years old. The average lifespan of an LPSD bus is typically 20 years, approximately 200,000 miles. "Preventative maintenance is the key to maintaining a fleet and prolonging expected lifespans. We do our PMs and inspections 1500 miles before the Colorado Department of Education requirements because we never want to do just the minimum. These are human lives," explains Kruger adding that "the 20 year old busses are as safe as they were when they came off the assembly line." Technology advancements do provide braking, lighting, vision, construction, comfort, fuel, and emissions improvements. Repair costs are also lower on newer busses as parts for older busses may be difficult to find or can cost more.
Extensive training for invested drivers and the proactive maintenance approach provided by the LPSD Transportation Department means district assets (both automotive and more importantly, human) receive great care. Due to recent years' budget constraints, only three new busses were purchased over the past six years. Historically, at least one bus is purchased each year. Excellent budgeting practices allow LPSD to add three new busses to the fleet this year, literally providing vehicles on which special memories may be built for years to come.

District Financial Performance

Credit ratings matter greatly to individuals. Credit ratings also matter for school districts. Lewis-Palmer School District is one of the higher rated districts in Colorado. Bond rating agencies publish guidelines and examples of sound financial practices for school districts. Lewis-Palmer School District received an Aa2/AA from Moody's and Standard and Poor, one of the highest categories in the state, based on the district's ability to conservatively manage finances through multiple state funding cutbacks. Standard and Poor's Top Ten Management Characteristics are listed below along with evidence supporting Lewis-Palmer School District's achievement of these standards.

Top Ten Management Characteristics		LPSD Performance
1	Structural Balance – Ensuring the budget is balanced for the long-term.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The budget is in balance with on-going revenues matching on-going expenditures. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Policy ensures that future revenues cannot be used for current benefit. In other words, today's dollars are spent on today's students, and future dollars are saved for future students.
2	Strong liquidity management or "ensuring adequate cash reserves and cash flow"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The district pools its cash reserves to maximize return on investment and ensures adequate cash flow.
3	Regular economic and revenue updates to identify shortfalls early	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monthly "Financial Dashboard" is presented to the Board and public detailing revenue streams and expenditure items that are highly susceptible to economic conditions.
4	Focus on reserves – "ensuring a balanced budget and holding a rainy day fund"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board policy requires "rainy day funds." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice consistent conservative fiscal management. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Policy requires minimum reserves in light of the State's structural imbalance.
5	Prioritized spending plans and established contingency plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District monitors economic conditions and legislative actions. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Key educational expenditures necessary to achieve our mission are protected. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adequate reserves are held in order to ensure time to sensibly react to changes in the economy.
6	Strong long-term and contingent liability management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post-employment liabilities are managed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continual analysis of enrollment forecasting and the state's ability to fund K-12 education occurs.
7	Multiyear financial planning that considers affordability of initiatives before they become part of the budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board policies ensure in depth review of all contracts that may place long-term financial responsibilities upon the district. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review and discussion of expenditures that will likely increase over time such as utility and pension expenditures occur annually.
8	A formal debt management policy to evaluate future debt profile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The state of Colorado has statutes which govern and manage general obligation debt for all school districts.
9	"Pay as you go" financing strategy for operating and capital budgeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As the state is recovering from the recession, the district is currently evaluating the status of its facilities to create three to five year plans designed to ensure deferred maintenance needs are addressed.
10	A well-defined and coordinated economic development strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The district works closely with the Towns of Monument and Palmer Lake as well as the Tri-Lakes Chamber to ensure it does its part to help the Tri-Lakes area. We realize our schools are the number one reason families move into our communities.