

Black Hills recently purchased a parcel of land for an operation center from the Town of Palmer Lake, directly adjacent to the Palmer Lake Recreation Area. It is abandoning a failing septic system there and plans to connect to an existing sewer line operated by the Palmer Lake Sanitation District and located within the recreation area, which is owned by the county. Black Hills is paying a fee of \$1,510 to offset any impacts at the recreation area.

Monument Hill Road closed as safety improvement project moves forward

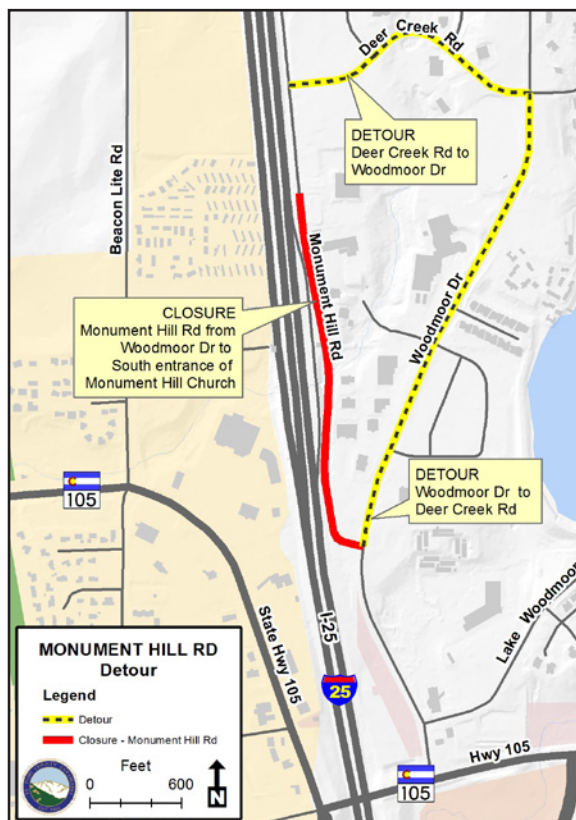
As part of the Monument Hill Road Safety Improvements Project, the county has closed Monument Hill Road from the intersection of Woodmoor Drive to the south entrance of the Monument Hill Church from mid-October until early February 2019. The project's exact schedule is dependent on weather conditions and resources. During the closure, Woodmoor Drive and Deer Creek Road are serving as the detour route for access to the northern portion of Monument Hill Road and Palmer Ridge High School.

The BOCC has approved several easements to allow the project to go ahead, most recently at its Sept. 11 meeting. (see <https://www.ocn.me/v18n10.htm#epbocc>)

Approval of appeal procedure under county Land Development Code

At their Oct. 11 meeting, the commissioners unanimously approved an interim procedure for appeals under the county's Land Development Code.

Lori Seago, senior assistant county attorney, explained that a formal appeal procedure had been included in the Land Development Code until 2006. When the new code was adopted in 2007 procedural provisions, including the appeal procedure, were taken out because a separate procedural manual was to be produced. She said this manual had not yet been completed and the county had been applying the pre-2007 appeal procedure in the interim. However, the county had now identified a need to formally adopt



an interim appeal procedure until a final procedure can be fully developed by staff. This will apply to both appeals arising from specific land use decisions made under the code and from the denial of site development plans.

Under the interim measures, a specific land use decision can be appealed within 30 days to the Planning and Community Development Department, which then must refer it to the relevant departments and agencies for comment. The appeal must be scheduled to be heard before the BOCC within 35 days of it being filed with the appellant given no less than 10 days' notice of the hearing.

An applicant also has 30 days to appeal a denied

site plan or site development plan. In this instance, due to the technicality of such plans, the appeal will be heard by the Board of Adjustment. The burden is on the applicant to demonstrate that the plan was denied in error. No party can appeal an approved site or site development plan.

Other decisions

- Oct. 9—The commissioners approved the issuing of an ambulance permit to the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District. It is effective from Oct. 1 for a one-year period.
- Oct. 9—Approved a memorandum of agreement, a special warranty deed, and two temporary construction easement agreements for the Highway 105 project. The easement is coming from property owned by Ken and Karen Hofmockel at a cost of \$80,100.

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Northern El Paso County Coalition of Homeowners Associations, Sept. 8

Crime prevention coordinator urges awareness

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Northern El Paso County Coalition of Homeowners Associations' (NEPCO) Sept. 8 meeting featured a presentation by El Paso County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Coordinator Brent Ambuehl, who provided a condensed version of the county's Rapidly Evolving Active Crisis Training (REACT) Program. Because of time constraints, Ambuehl's training excluded practice scenarios.

Perpetrators profiled

Ambuehl defined an active shooter, also known in the past as an active gunman or a spree killer, as any person who wants to kill and has access to multiple victims. Basically, a shooter is looking for a big impact in a short amount of time. Ambuehl explained that lessons learned from the 1999 Columbine High School shooting have reduced police response times from an average of 12 minutes to eight minutes. Shooters are typically mentally and physically prepared.

Run, hide, fight

Although civilians generally don't have the benefit of regular crisis trainings, they can practice locational awareness. He suggested noticing exits and escape routes, including windows, and knowing where the routes lead. The primary goal in an active shooting is to get as far away from the incident as quickly as possible.

When running is not an option, finding a place to shelter is the next step. Ambuehl encouraged out-of-the-box thinking and for people to look for any place where they can fit. He reminded the audience that cover—materials that stop or deflect bullets such as garbage dumpsters and engine blocks—is different from concealment, which is simply not being seen. Turn off phone sounds to prevent revealing one's hiding location, he added.

Fighting is the least favorable option, but once the situation arises an anything-goes offensive is the best reaction. Ambuehl suggested doing whatever is necessary including: targeting the shooters' breathing, vision, and balance; using keys as weapons; and throwing things as distractions. The main message is to act quickly and commit fully.

Law enforcement on the scene

Ambuehl stressed the importance of not interfering

with law enforcement officers (LEOs) once they arrive. People who are injured must help themselves and not expect LEOs to attend to them. Law enforcement's role is to stop the shooter. Do not get into your car, Ambuehl added; cars are part of the crime scene.

Representatives briefed on growth

Vice President Tom Vierzba summarized the area's development and projected population growth. Sterling Ranch raises shared water source concerns with numerous neighboring communities. Other developments such as High Plains Ranch and Redtail Ranch foreshadow heavier traffic on Hodgen. Vierzba stated that the area is expected to reach over 32,000 people by the year 2020.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

The next meeting is Nov. 17. Meetings are held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Monument Town Hall conference room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd. off Highway 105. See www.nepco.org for additional information.

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Above: El Paso County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Coordinator Brent Ambuehl instructs representatives of the Northern El Paso County Coalition of Homeowners' Associations on Sept. 8 about "Run, Hide, Fight" responses to an active shooter situation. Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.

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