

Our Community News

Volunteers reporting on community issues in Monument, Palmer Lake, and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area



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Issue #261 — Volume 22 Number 12 — Saturday, December 3, 2022

Free

**OCN needs
your help!
See page 29**

Local Events

Readers should assume that event information published in this issue is subject to change and information should be confirmed a day or two before the event by calling the information number or checking the organization's website.

See pages 28-31 for event locations and other details of these and many other local events.

- **Our Community News mailing day, Thu., Dec. 1, Jan. 5**, approx. 9 am–2 pm. Information on page 29.
- **Small Town Christmas, Sat., Dec. 3**, 10 am–6 pm, see ad on page 2.
- **Monument Hill Kiwanis Club 16th Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair, Sat, Dec, 3**, 9–4 pm
- **A Christmas Carol play, Fri.-Sat., Dec. 9-10**, 7 pm, (plus 2 pm on Dec. 10), see ad on page 9
- **YMCA 5K race series, Jingle jog, Sat., Dec. 10**
- **89th Annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt, Sun., Dec. 11**, 1–3 pm
- **Christmas concert by Soli Deo Gloria Choir, Vivaldi Gloria** concert, Sat. **Dec. 17**, 3 pm
- **20th annual Tri-Lakes Music Association Christmas Cantata!** Fri.-Sun., **Dec. 16, 17**, 7 pm; Sun. **Dec.18**, 2 pm, see ad on page 11
- **Hometown Christmas concert, Sat./ Dec. 17**, 5:30 pm, Black Forest Community Club.
- **FriendsGive! Wed., Dec. 21**, Black Forest Community Club.
- **Palmer Lake Outdoor Classic youth hockey day, Fri., Jan. 6**, 6 pm face-off, Sat., **Jan. 7**, 9 am, on Palmer Lake.

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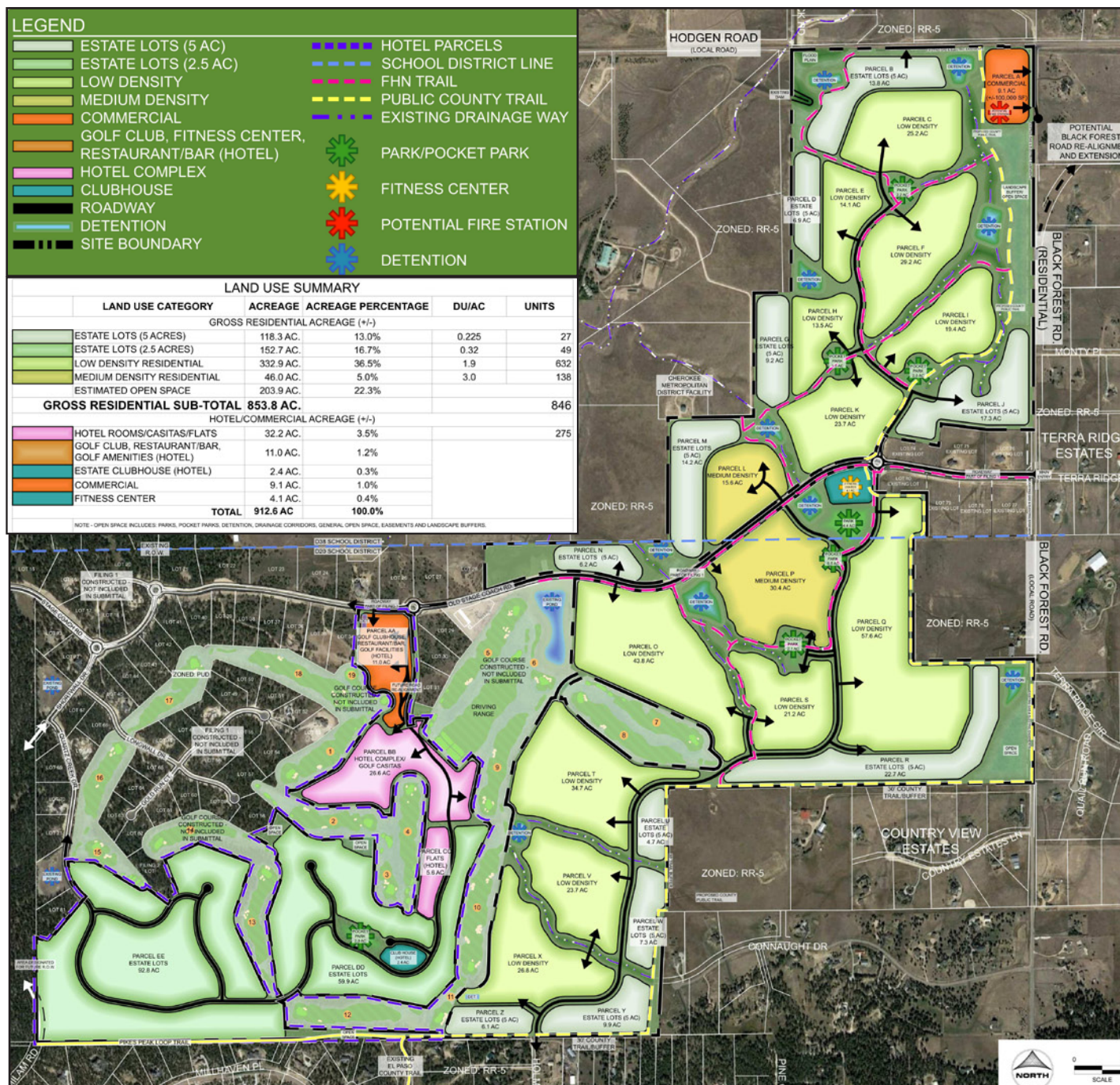
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El Paso Board of County Commissioners, Nov. 1, 8, and 15

County approves sketch plan for 846 homes and a luxury hotel resort in Black Forest



Above: On Nov. 15, the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners voted 3-1 to approve the Flying Horse North sketch plan shown above. The property is at the southwest corner of Hodgen and Black Forest Roads and continues south to incorporate land on the north and south sides of Old Stagecoach Road. *Graphic courtesy El Paso County.*

By Helen Walklett

At the Nov. 15 El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) land use meeting, the commissioners voted 3-1 to approve the Flying Horse North sketch plan. The vote took place without the participation of Commissioner Holly Williams who represents District 1; she recused herself stating she had had a conversation that gave her concerns about her ability to hear the matter fairly.

During November, the commissioners also gave final direction on the

2023 budget and made decisions relating to a special use application for a minor kennel in Woodmoor and a minor subdivision in Black Forest.

Flying Horse North sketch plan approved with increase in density

At the Nov. 15 BOCC land use meeting, which lasted into the evening, the commissioners voted 3-1 to approve the Flying Horse North sketch plan whose proposals include 846 single-family homes and a luxury hotel resort on

912 acres in Black Forest. The property is at the southwest corner of Hodgen and Black Forest Roads and continues south to incorporate land on the north and south sides of Old Stagecoach Road.

The application was heard at the El Paso County Planning Commission on Nov. 3, where the vote was tied 4-4, meaning that the application came to the BOCC without a recommendation. *See EPCPC article on page 6.*

COUNTY (Cont. on 2)

Monument Board of Trustees, Nov. 7 and 21

Annexation action delayed; election results portent change in direction

By Chris Jeub

Anticipating a large turnout the day before the 2022 election, the Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) met at The Monument Community Presbyterian Church on Nov. 7. The BOT reviewed the budget, voted on annexations, and prepared to replace the interim town

attorney while hearing from a contentious crowd over concerns of the direction of the trustees. The election on Nov. 8 filled all four open seats with new trustees as well as a new mayor (results detailed below). The second meeting of the month on Nov. 21 was met with very little public comment.

Budget

Monument's Director of Finance Mona Hirjoi presented 2022 budget numbers and explained updates to the general fund and the 2A water fund. General fund changes included a 4% increase

MONUMENT (Cont. on 7)