

the trail remains off limits to anyone without a military or Department of Defense badge after the Academy was named in Inspire magazine and other terrorist correspondence as a desirable target. The Academy was directed by the commander of the U.S. Northern Command to increase force protection.

The premise of the meeting was to

brainstorm different ways the Academy could balance security while allowing public access. The most popular ideas were:

- Create a trails watch group to patrol and report any unusual activity
 - Signage with contact information for Academy Security
 - Surveillance cameras along the trail
- The trail was heavily damaged by the rains

this year, with repairs costing an estimated \$480,000. El Paso County is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine funding opportunities for the repairs, which for safety reasons would need to be completed prior to potentially opening up to the public again.

Talks will continue as the Academy and the county work together to reach an

agreeable compromise. A compromise, however, would still need to be approved by the U.S. Northern Command. Future meetings open to the public may take place. Final decisions were not expected to come before next year.

Terri Hayes can be reached via editor@ocn.me.

Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO), Sept. 26

Sheriff discusses law enforcement issues and initiatives

By Larry Oliver, NEPCO president

Bill Elder, El Paso County Sheriff, spoke about county law enforcement at the Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO) general membership meeting, held at the Monument Town Hall on Sept. 26.

Sheriff Elder began the presentation with a brief personal background. He grew up in Colorado Springs, attended Palmer High School, and for many years was a law enforcement officer in District 1 (the NEPCO area). He also worked in real estate as a homeowners association (HOA) manager, giving him experience in HOA matters.

Elder said that El Paso is the largest county in Colorado, covering 2,200 square miles (same as Rhode Island), with a population of 600,000. The county has the largest Sheriff's Office in the state, employing about 820 total personnel. Of those, 525

are "sworn-in" personnel and 100 are patrol officers. The county also has a 1,600-bed jail, with about 1,500 inmates a day.

Within El Paso County, Elder identified District 1 and the Falcon area as two focus points for his office due to the high growth in these areas. However, he pointed out that District 1 is a low-crime area compared to most of the county, with one patrol car assigned to the district full time. As crime rises in the county and traffic conditions worsen, the sheriff has designated five traffic motorcycles to cover the entire county.

The Crime Prevention section of the Sheriff's Office works closely with Neighborhood Watch personnel. One person in the office is dedicated to Neighborhood Watch, and provides helpful information as it is received. Elder urged everyone to call the Sheriff's Office if something catches their attention, and highly recom-

mended setting up Neighborhood Watches in communities where none exist. To aid county residents, the Sheriff's Office recently released a new smart phone app for receiving sheriff alerts, submitting tips, calling the office, etc. Download this app by searching for "El Paso County Sheriff's Office."

The sheriff discussed several safety tips to aid in crime prevention including:

Safety tips when on vacation away from your home:

- Have a neighbor collect newspapers and mail or stop delivery.
- Tell your Neighborhood Watch director that you'll be gone.
- Put lights on a timer.
- Leave a key with a neighbor.
- Plant signs stating your house is alarmed (This is a big deterrent to crime).
- Treat the door from the garage into

the house as an entry door, and lock it.

- Ask the Sheriff's Office to do an occasional "vacation check" of your house.

Safety tips for cars:

- Keep your address out of your car (check glove compartment).
- Put your proof of insurance and registration in your wallet or purse with your driver's license, not in your glove compartment.

Sgt. Shane Mitchell, who accompanied the sheriff, spoke about the Crime Reduction Unit that Sheriff Elder is in the process of organizing. Highlights include:

- The unit would have no assigned districts and would go where needed.
- Focus is on current crime areas.
- The unit would stay on a crime until it is solved.

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Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Oct. 28

Board hears update from No Methadone group, passes 2016 budget

By Jackie Burhans

At the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board meeting on Oct. 28, the board discussed the 2016 budget, heard a presentation from the No Methadone in Monument organization and announced the roll out of the new website design.

No Methadone in Monument

Tom Allen and Greg Coopman of the No Methadone in Monument (NMIM) group provided an update to the WIA board. Allen provided background information about the proposed Methadone Clinic and his involvement in forming the group to fight against it opening at 192 Front Street next to Limbach Park. He told the board that this impacts each and every one of us and could affect your property value from 17 to 22 percent. He indicated that the state directed Colonial Management Group

(CMG) to place a clinic in Monument but was not able to present data proving that there was a need in this location. The next target market for CMG is in Durango.

Greg Coopman discussed the timeline of community meetings and decisions and then gave some additional information about the lawsuit filed by CMG against the Town of Monument, the trustees, and the Board of Adjustments. The NMIM group is trying to get inserted into the lawsuit and has raised half of the \$60,000 goal to pay for additional lawyers to help fight this lawsuit. By asking to be added to the lawsuit, they hope to prevent the clinic and the town from settling the lawsuit outside of court, which could lead to the clinic opening.

Allen and Coopman indicated that they have the support of St. Peter Catholic

Church and School as well as the Colorado Springs Catholic Diocese. The D-38 school board also passed a resolution against the clinic and gave NMIM a plaque of appreciation for its work. More information can be found at <http://nomethadoneinmonument.weebly.com/> and its associated Facebook page.

WIA budget and finances

Homeowners Association (HOA) Manager Denise Cagliaro reported that she had worked with Kevin Nielsen, director of Public Safety, to develop a balanced budget for 2016. WIA President Jim Hale noted that in the past two years the board has not funded the reserve fund in the budget but has taken money left over from previous years to put into the fund but feels that cannot be counted. The board has decided to fund the contribution to the reserve fund in the budget going forward thanks to

hard work from Cagliaro, Nielsen, and the WIA staff in finding ways to save money. The board unanimously passed the 2016 WIA budget, which will be available on the website at <http://www.woodmoor.org/budget-statements/>.

The board also unanimously voted to allocate \$53,000 into the reserve fund for 2015 and agreed to a motion to explore options for providing an employee retirement plan for WIA staff in the future. They will look into the possibility of offering a 401K plan with a 3 percent match to start no earlier than 2016.

The board then discussed a motion to spend \$5,500 to install a security system with cameras in the Barn. Kevin noted that the Barn sees a lot of people come in and out and that Woodmoor Public Safety offers 24/7 service but isn't always at The Barn. They have seen instances of personal vehicles being vandalized. The system will have nine cameras; five inside and four outside to record comings and goings. The camera in the office will have audio recording as well.

The board discussed looking into the possible impact on insurance costs, which may help to offset the purchase price, the ability to use in cases of dispute on damage when they rent out the Barn, and the need for signs on premise indicating that the area is under surveillance. The board unanimously voted to approve this expenditure.

Board report highlights

- HOA Manager Cagliaro attended a local Council of Neighbors and Organizations (CONO) meeting. CONO (www.cscono.org) had a presentation by the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). CONO has a lot of free classes available.
- The annual meeting is coming up in



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