

could be issued featuring the items that cleared, the items that were expensed, and the items that didn't clear, in order to fully represent the financial situation. QuickBooks doesn't offer this sort of spreadsheet, so Administrative Assistant Stacy

Popovich is looking into different options.

**February run report**

In February, the Wescott Fire Department ran 218 calls, as compared to the 221 calls run in February 2015. This indicates a 1 percent decrease from last year's numbers.

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The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors' next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. April 19 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Please call 488-8680, a non-emergency number, for more information, or visit [www.wescottfire.org](http://www.wescottfire.org). The district is also on Facebook.  
*Kate Pangelinan can be reached at [katepangelinan@ocn.me](mailto:katepangelinan@ocn.me).*

**NEPCO Meeting, March 12**

**County transportation updates addressed**

*By Larry Oliver, NEPCO president*

Home owners association (HOA) representatives attending the Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO) General Membership meeting on March 12 received three transportation presentations. First, District 20 State Rep. Terri Carver spoke on current legislative issues impacting local transportation. Next, El Paso County Engineer Andre Bracken and County Public Services Engineer Victoria Chavez discussed plans for current and future county transportation projects, and needs.

Rep. Carver talked about her activities in transportation and other areas. She is concerned that our part of the state is not getting a fair share of the transportation funding. Carver is currently focused on two things:

- The State Transportation Advisory Commission (STAC) that has representation from each of the 15 State Transportation Regions, and concern that the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) filters comments from those 15 regional representatives. She stated that a newly signed bill gives the STAC a more effective role.

- Also, the 11 commissioner district areas (<https://www.codot.gov/about/transportation-commission/commissioners.html>) are not aligned with the 15 transportation planning regions (<https://www.codot.gov/content/aboutdot/Commission/CommMap.html>), resulting in no real accountability. Chavez stated that the state is moving toward a more accountable and transparent transportation system, but that CDOT seems to need some reforming and improvement.

Carver also expressed concern over local areas within Northern El Paso County that, at this time, do not have access to high speed Internet.

County Engineer Bracken then discussed current transportation projects in the NEPCO area. He made the following points:

- County Line Road is completed.
- West Baptist Road is almost complete.
- The county is closing down the Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority because its work is also completed.
- This year includes a large number of new transportation projects scheduled for our area.

Projects include:

- Highway 105 improvements using PPRTA and federal funding.
- Northgate and Smith Creek drainage improvements including a detention pond across from the Mining Museum on Northgate Road and a large drain pipe under Northgate Road.
- Monument Hill Road preliminary

design is complete, and construction should start later this year.

- Beacon Lite Road improvements.
- Planned changes to the Struthers Road and Gleneagle Drive intersection.

Chavez described the Major Transportation Corridors Plan (MTCP) 2016 Update activity. According to Chavez, The MTCP is a critical step in creating effective and efficient transportation infrastructure, ready to meet future needs. The plan provides for:

- An updated vision for future transportation.
- A prioritized list of transportation improvements.
- A funding plan for ensuring adequate resources to build the future transportation system.
- A look at multimodal transportation needs.
- A long-term right-of-way preservation plan for each roadway corridor.

Chavez emphasized how important it is for her to hear from NEPCO member HOAs and other residents of El Paso County regarding transportation needs. According to Chavez, there is a projected 56 percent growth within the NEPCO area between now and the year 2040. More information can be obtained, as well as a download of projection maps, at [www.epcroadplan.com](http://www.epcroadplan.com).

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*If your HOA or business is interested in NEPCO membership, go to [www.NEPCO.org](http://www.NEPCO.org) and click on the "JOIN NEPCO" link at the top of the homepage.*

**Red Rock Ranch Homeowners Association, March 14**

**Town water tank site search explained**

*By Lisa Hatfield*

As part of its March 14 meeting, the Red Rock Ranch (RRR) Homeowners Association (HOA) board asked Monument town officials to share the facts regarding a new town water tank that they had heard was going to be located in the area, which is in unincorporated El Paso County. Monument Town Manager Chris Lowe said none of the six sites the town was considering was within the Red Rock Ranch HOA boundaries.

Treasurer David Weber ran the meeting in the absence of President Mark Fears.

Lowe explained that the town is still at the beginning of a process to find a site for a second town water tank. So far they have talked with Forest View Acres Water District to assess its interest, he said, but the town has not yet talked to all the water districts and HOAs that they plan to.

The town is looking at potential sites at a specific elevation west of Highway 105 to provide the right water pressure from the new tank to the system, but they have not purchased a site yet, and they do not want to publicize it beforehand

because the price could "ascend," which would not be fair to Monument taxpayers. He said when a site is identified that would fit the town's engineering criteria, it would be purchased, and then the town will talk with all the HOAs in close proximity of the parcel to solicit the neighbors' ideas for site-specific landscaping.

Monument Public Works Director Tom Tharnish said the project would also have to go before the El Paso Board of County Commissioners, which would send out notices inviting comments from residents within a certain distance. "That would likely include people in this Red Rock Ranch HOA," he said. The ultimate decision about the location would be up to the Monument Board of Trustees, which would consider town staff's recommendations.

Jonathan Moore, assistant division manager, Forsgren Associates Inc., said the town's current tank is on top of Monument Hill on Beacon Lite Road. Moore, Tharnish, and Water Engineer Will Koger of Forsgren Associates explained that a second tank at a lower elevation would

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