

LONE TREE VOICE

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DOUGLAS COUNTY, COLORADO

COSTLY CONCERN

A sharp rise in child care costs has impacted the finances of many families. **PAGE 12**



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Lone Tree roads are in for rehab

Several projects are planned for city streets this summer

By Rick Gustafson
Special to Colorado Community Media

Dirt has been turned at the groundbreaking ceremony and the ramp-up for construction has begun, but the FasTracks Southeast Rail Extension is not the only project that will be creating construction zones in and around the city of Lone Tree

this summer and for the next few years. Here is a look at some of the projects:

Lincoln Avenue pedestrian bridge

Construction of the pedestrian bridge spanning Lincoln Avenue near the Heritage Hills intersection will begin in August and will involve a few night closures.

The city views the area as a “major pedestrian barrier,” and the bridge will connect two major trail systems. The

Lone Tree Department of Public Works estimates that the pedestrian bridge will accommodate around 170 crossings per day.

When completed, the bridge is expected to decrease traffic congestion on Lincoln Avenue due to improved red-light times. The total price for the pedestrian bridge is \$7 million.

Signal timing

An additional but less obvious form of traffic improvement scheduled for this summer is a

Roads continues on Page 8



Drivers in and around Lone Tree can expect to see crews working on as many as 15 road construction and maintenance projects this summer. Photo by Rick Gustafson



One of more than 75 “death row” dogs from Texas and New Mexico lands at Centennial Airport on May 4. The dog was on its way to placement in a nearby shelter. Photos by Alex DeWind

Plane brings pups a brighter future

Dog is My Copilot flies more than 75 rescue dogs and cats to Centennial Airport

By Alex DeWind
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Peter Rork, a retired pilot and orthopedic surgeon, pursued an interest in rescue animals after his wife died four years ago.

“I lost my appetite for medicine,” he said, “and I had a plane at the time.”

He now transports “death row” dogs and cats from unwanted areas by plane every couple of weeks. His flights became so crowded with animal crates that he invested in a larger aircraft.

He recently had a record transport. “This is the biggest response we’ve had so far,” Rork said. “It’s the biggest dog flight we’ve flown into Denver.”

Dogs continues on Page 7



From left, Jess Pramov, Katy Cline and Hayden Cline of Paws on the Ground rescue wait for the death row dogs and cats to land by plane at Centennial Airport on May 4.

Shaw among new faces on council

District 1 member wants to maintain quality of life

By Rick Gustafson
Special to Colorado Community Media

When the new Lone Tree City Council is sworn in next week, it will mark a significant change in the composition of the council: a new mayor, two new councilmembers, and a temporarily vacant seat.

Since the three candidates for the three open seats were all running unopposed by the application deadline, the council canceled the election and declared each candidate elected at a meeting on April 19.



Shaw

Council continues on Page 7

RIVALRY GAME



ThunderRidge and Mountain Vista square off in a close soccer contest just ahead of the state playoffs.

PAGE 19

Dogs

Continued from Page 1

Rork, of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, flies for Dog is My Copilot, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), Wyoming-based organization committed to flying animals out of areas with unsafe shelters. On May 4, he flew a Cessna 208B with more than 75 cats and dogs from New Mexico and Texas to Centennial Airport. About 50 rescue

and shelter volunteers waited with handmade signs, crates, playpens and open arms. Mercedes Cordova, founder of From Forgotten to Forever Rescue and Transport, works with Dog is My Copilot to move shelter animals from Roswell, New Mexico, to Colorado to save them from euthanization. "There's a 90 percent euthanization rate," she said. "Most don't make it. So we transport every couple of weeks." Cordova, of Colorado Springs, works closely with rescues throughout Colorado.

Rescue and foster volunteers, such as Suzanne Lively, admire Cordova's dedication to animals. "She single-handedly has saved so many dogs," Lively said. "She's my hero." Animal rescues look to Colorado because of the Pet Animal Care Facilities Act, a "licensing and inspection program dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of those animals in pet-care facilities throughout Colorado," according to the Colorado Department of Agriculture

website. PACFA regulates rescue facilities and requires that animals be documented in state records, said Cordova. Jamie Roberson, founder of Denver Dachshunds Rescue and Transport, picked up chihuahuas — a dachshund and chihuahua mix — at the latest transport. Her goal is to save dogs from being euthanized and place them in safe homes. "There's always kids in need," she said, referring to the rescue dogs. "And Colorado is more animal-friendly."



Dog is My Copilot, a nonprofit organization based in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, transports more than 75 dogs and cats to Centennial Airport in one of its largest rescues in history on May 4. Photo by Alex DeWind

Council

Continued from Page 1

One of the new faces on the council is Wynne Shaw, who will represent District 1, replacing Councilmember Harold Anderson, who is completing his second term and is term-limited. Shaw has lived in Lone Tree for 16 years and in Colorado for 40. She earned her associate degree from the University of South Florida and spent most of her career in the financial services sector. "The last 23 years I spent at Schwab and then at TIAA-CREF ... in various positions from customer service to fairly senior leadership and enjoyed it very much," Shaw said. "It's a good background to have." When she retired from the industry two years ago, she became a full-time volunteer, spending much of her time working at local organizations such as the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society, as a board member for the Douglas County Republican Women, and as the leader of a local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. "It's about 105 ladies, and we meet monthly," she said. "We do good things around the community." Shaw is also a member of the Colorado Beta Gaveliers, a group that promotes

interest in parliamentary law by practicing and critiquing parliamentary procedure at monthly meetings. Though she had not previously run for public office, over time her interest in local politics grew. "It turns out that I had time to start going to city council meetings and enjoyed them very much," she said. "I got an appreciation of how well our city is run, not only from a resident's standpoint." Her time at council meetings allowed her to get to know and appreciate the work done by city officials and employees and she decided to become more formally involved. "I learned that Harold's seat was going to be available and thought it would be a great opportunity," she said. Part of Shaw's motivation for running comes from her observation that some people in the political arena have chosen politics for selfish reasons. "I wanted to make sure that nobody like that got onto council. That's part of the motivation for running," she said. Shaw will be entering office without a specific list of outcomes, but would like to see the city take advantage of benefits available from federal and state agencies to help with expected growth. She believes that this council will play an important role in the successful expansion of Lone Tree on the east side of Interstate 25. "I want to make sure that the decisions we make support the city's comprehensive

plan; that we are able to expand and grow the community feel across the highway when we finally get there," she said. "I love the idea of having Schweiger Ranch as a historic place among the new building that's to come, so I'm excited about the way the city can grow."

Maintaining Lone Tree's quality of life, safety and natural space is a priority for Shaw. "All of it contributes to our quality of life here," she said. "And that's very important."

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