

LONE TREE VOICE

A publication of  Colorado Community Media DOUGLAS COUNTY, COLORADO



PEN PALS: Writers learn to stretch their literary legs **P18**

TIME TO TALK

One in five residents of Douglas County lives with a mental illness. On pages 7-13, we kick off an ongoing series looking at the impact of mental illness and the collaborative efforts aimed at bringing it into the light. Learn more about why we wrote these stories in our editorial on page 14.



A SAFE PLACE: Hospital program helps sex-assault survivors get on the road to healing **P4**



SMASHING SUCCESS: Rock Canyon senior is the South Metro Volleyball Player of the Year **P33**

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THE BOTTOM LINE

'I have overheard people who make a coffee order sound like a recipe for pudding. If someone wants to meet for coffee, I am willing – if it's coffee.'

Craig Marshall Smith | columnist, Page 14



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VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 47

SUSTAINABLE PRINTING

Lone Tree City Council members host coffee hour

Mayor, two colleagues meet with residents for casual discussion

BY TABATHA DEANS STEWART
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Lone Tree Mayor Jackie Millet and Councilmembers Jay Carpenter and Wynne Shaw mingled with several Lone Tree residents at the Hub Dec. 7 to answer questions, exchange ideas, and engage in idle chit chat during Coffee with the Council.

Coffee with the Council provides an informal meeting place where residents of Lone Tree can interact with their local officials in a casual setting, while sipping coffee and sharing stories. Conversations are not always of a political nature, and residents can get to know more about their councilmembers personally.

Resident Doug Krug attended the gathering, and spent some time learning the history of Councilmember Jay Carpenter.

"I came to Lone Tree in 2000 as a single man, living the bachelor's life. I met my wife here, have four children now, and had to buy a bigger house," Carpenter said. "When my company wanted me to transfer, I decided to



Lone Tree resident Mel Semrad, (left) visits with Lone Tree City Council members Wynne Shaw and Jay Carpenter, during the Coffee with Council gathering at the Lone Tree Hub.

TABATHA STEWART

take a chance and stick around. I changed careers and knew this is where I wanted to stay. I did some volunteering, and have been serving on the council for about a year and a half now."

Carpenter and Shaw also entertained questions, ideas and stories

from community members regarding senior issues, including how many elderly residents have problems using new technology. Carpenter referred a resident to various classes and resources the city has to help the elderly population.

Millet was asked by attendees how

CHANCE TO CHAT

When: The next Coffee with Council is 9 a.m. Dec. 13

Where: The Lone Tree Hub, 8827 Lone Tree Parkway

Who: Mayor Pro Tem Susan Squyer and Councilmember Cathie Brunnick

things were going in the city offices, and specifically what the city council was up to.

"We of course just passed out budget this week, and the completion of the light rail bridge should be done this year. We're really taking the growth of the city to heart, we're working on pedestrian mobility and bike mobility," said Millet.

"And, we are just starting to look at some ideas for EV fueling stations along I-25."

Millet spent time with several residents talking about the increasing need for electric vehicle fueling stations, not only along I-25, but also an increase in the number of EVs that residents of Lone Tree own, as well as EVs that pass through Lone Tree every day.

Attendees were treated to coffee, croissants and some informational literature about various programs and activities in Lone Tree, including various service groups looking for volunteers.

E-470 widening project now complete

New third lanes, regional trail provide mobility options

STAFF REPORT

The addition of a third lane in each direction along E-470 from Quincy Avenue to Parker Road is complete. Part of the eight-mile Road Widening Project, the new lanes will allow the toll road to accommodate projected growth and continue to maintain flow of traffic.

A 2014 study of the E-470 Public Highway Authority indicated that the section of roadway between Quincy Avenue and Parker Road would need to be widened by 2018 to continue operating at the same

level of service desired by customers.

Work began in spring 2016, and the new lanes opened Oct. 16, two months ahead of projected. Final work on signage, landscaping and lighting is expected to wrap up in the coming weeks. Cost of the project is about \$90 million.

The project also included the construction of a regional trail along the west side of E-470, between Quincy Avenue and Ireland Way. The trail opened Dec. 1.

The trail has been constructed past the designated endpoint at Ireland Way, along the E-470 right of way to the Arapahoe/Douglas County line, although this section is not yet open to the public.

The Town of Parker is working with neighboring jurisdictions to determine the connectivity and final

design for the trail reaching to the Cherry Creek Trail west of Parker Road.

E-470 officials see the construction of the trail as laying the groundwork for future connections and travel options in the area through partnerships with the local jurisdictions.

"The Road Widening Project provided us with an opportunity to explore other steps, like the trail and added lanes, that we could take now to prepare for enhanced connectivity and options in the future," Tim Stewart, E-470 executive director, said in a news release.

"The larger focus of the project — adding roadway capacity — will allow us to meet customer demand and continue to provide a safe and reliable journey for travelers."

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