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Arapahoe County News Briefs

News tips and information for Arapahoe County employees and news media

Arapahoe County contributes \$50,000 for Parker Open Space purchase

When Arapahoe County needed funding assistance to save the 17-Mile House, the Town of Parker was there. On Tuesday, the Board of County Commissioners returned the favor when they approved \$50,000 in Conservation Trust Funds to help the Town purchase two parcels of open space along Parker Road.

“Arapahoe County was fortunate to have neighbors like the Town of Parker who came to the aid of the county when we were trying to purchase the 17 Mile House and barn in 2001,” said Commissioner Debra Vickrey. “Now, we have the opportunity to help the Town of Parker further their Open Space program, which in turn, benefits citizens of our county as well as Parker.”

The Town of Parker will use the funds to help purchase 4.4 acres, which would include the development of a pedestrian trail, an environmental interpretation center and a mini-arboretum. The land, which is located along Parker Road just east of the Norton Farms Open Space, will permanently preserve wildlife and riparian areas and create a passive recreation link for the growing open space and trail system that lies along the border of Arapahoe and Douglas counties.

Arapahoe County approves \$500,000 agreement with Greenwood Village for improvements to Union/Dayton intersection

A \$500,000 intergovernmental agreement between Arapahoe County and the City of Greenwood Village for improvements to the Union Avenue/Dayton Street intersection was approved by the Board of County Commissioners Tuesday.

The agreement calls for the design, construction and maintenance of roadway improvements along Union Avenue from Yosemite Street to Dayton Street, and along Dayton Street from Chenango Avenue to Union Avenue. The project includes additional signals at Cherry Creek High School, modifying existing signals, adding left-turn lanes, median and right-of-way landscaping and irrigation improvements, new sound walls, and sidewalk curb/gutter and storm sewer improvements.

Arapahoe County's \$500,000 contribution toward the road project, for the County's share of the cost based on current unit prices. The County's financial commitment is outlined in the June 5, 1998 Four Corners intergovernmental agreement. The agreement, which was signed by Greenwood Village, Arapahoe County and the City of Aurora, calls for roadway and pedestrian improvements along Union/Dayton as well as left turn access into Cherry Creek High School campus. Under the latest intergovernmental agreement approved

Tuesday, Greenwood Village will construct and maintain the improvements to Union/Dayton with no additional cost to Arapahoe County, beyond the \$500,000.

Coroner wins prestigious Colorado award

Arapahoe County Coroner Dr. Michael Dobersen recently won the Ike Miller Memorial Award, which is presented annually by the Colorado Coroner's Association.

The award, which was established in 1992 by Dr. Ben Galloway, in memory of his friend and long-time respected associate Ike Miller, is the most prestigious award given by the Association. It is presented to a person or organization that has been instrumental in the leadership and advancement of forensic science in Colorado.

Dobersen, who has been Arapahoe County Coroner since 1993, is president of the Colorado Coroner Association. He is one of only 450 forensic pathologists in the United States and has consulted in national high profile cases, such as the JonBenet Ramsey murder, the Columbine High School shootings, the 1994 Steamboat Springs "Black Widow" case, and was called to assist in the World Trade Center terrorist attack. He is highly regarded by his colleagues and is often asked to perform autopsies for other counties and states. He is a member of the 18th Judicial District's Critical Incident Team, and the federal National Disaster Medical Service, which responds to airplane crashes and other major mass fatalities. He also is an associate professor in the Department of Pathology of the University of Colorado Medical School and has authored more than 60 publications on various subjects.

Cherry Creek Dam Road will be closed June 30 – July 3

Cherry Creek Dam Road between Parker Road and South Dayton Street will be closed 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 30 – July 3.

Arapahoe County Road and Bridge crews will be paving the road during daytime hours. Because the road is so narrow, crews will close the entire segment of the road during paving. The road will reopen to traffic after 6 p.m.

Daytime road closures on Cherry Creek Dam Road also will occur July 7-10 and July 14-17 until the project is completed. For more information, contact Arapahoe County Road and Bridge division at 720-874-6820.
