

NCA Discusses Radio Tower and Trails

By KIM GLASSCOCK
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A proposed new 50-foot radio tower in Niwot should solve pockets of less-than-adequate radio emergency communications coverage in Niwot and Gunbarrel for Mountain View Fire Rescue, Assistant Chief Dave Beebe told Niwot Community Association (NCA) board members at the Nov. 4 meeting.

The new radio tower will be installed just north and east of the Somerset neighborhood water tank structure, within the existing fenced area and on land owned by Left Hand Water District. It will be about 15 feet taller than the existing

water tank. "We sited it where we did because there's no more room for another tower to be placed directly on the water tower," Beebe said.

There is a safety need for the new tower and better emergency communication, Beebe told NCA members. "We use a communications system from Motorola and their analysis said this new tower will greatly improve our radio transmissions in this area," he said. "We feel this communications hole is a safety concern."

The backup generator for the tower will be powered by natural gas, so no propane tank will be on the site, Beebe added.

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- December 3rd - Niwot High School OPEN HOUSE from 6PM - 9PM

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NCA members asked if the tower would be screened from view by the neighbors, and Beebe said the topography of the site screens most of the tower. "We are working to make this as unobtrusive as possible," he said.

The district has received an energy grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs which will cover half of the \$1.2 million cost of the tower project.

Boulder County Commissioners are scheduled to decide whether to approve the Mountain View Fire Rescue Limited Impact Special Use Review request for the communica-

tions tower at their Dec. 15 meeting.

TRAIL IMPROVEMENT SUPPORT

The NCA is supporting a bid by Boulder County Parks and Open Space for grant funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife for a trails improvement project near the Left Hand Valley Grange Park. The funding would help pay for re-routing a section of the Longmont-Boulder (LOBO) trail near the park, constructing a new section of trail by Niwot High School, improving street crossings for the trail, and adding a restroom and information kiosk near the park. The NCA sent a letter to Colorado Parks and Wildlife supporting the grant request.

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