



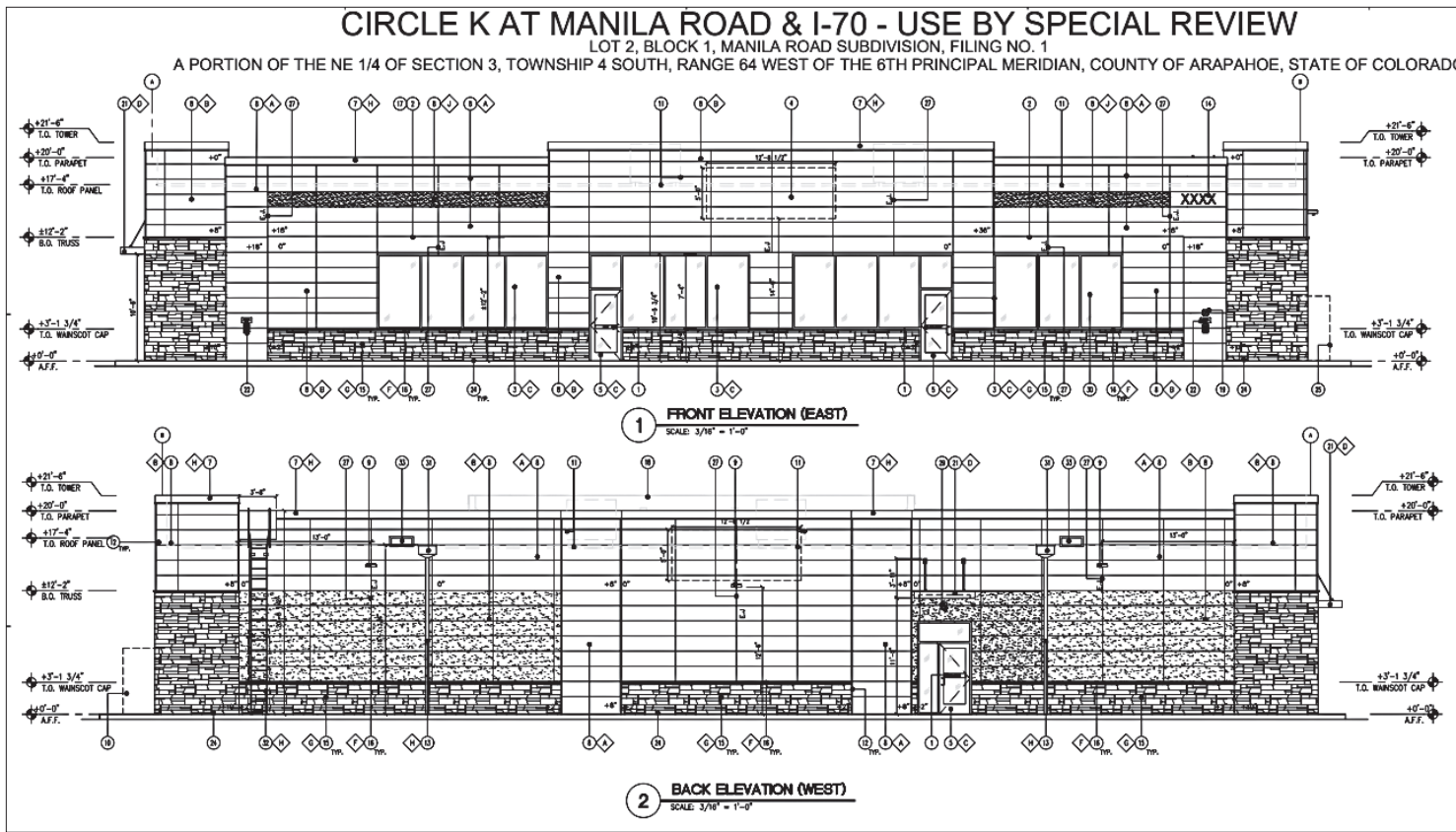
The I-70 Scout

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Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Big new Circle K slated at Manila Road



by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — The Circle K gas station and store at I-70 and Manila Road will be razed and re-developed.

The facility, on a 7-acre site on the southwest corner of the intersection of I-70 and Manila Road, will close April 19.

The new Circle K will consist of a store of 5,200 square feet and two fuel canopies — one for cars and another for large trucks. When open, the new facility will continue with the 24-hour operations.

The Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners approved a Use by Special Review (USR) site plan, rezoning, and a minor subdivision replat for the facility

SEE CIRCLE K PAGE 15

A schematic presents front and back elevations for the new store planned at Manila Road, Bennett.

New sewer plant: DT forges ahead with major study

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — Efforts to break the tie for the final seat on the Deer Trail Board of Trustees continued this week but, as of press time, the winner remained uncertain.

A recount to determine whether Mary Arnold or Brandon Rowley had more votes for the two-year term up for grabs was conducted April 16 and, if no winner was announced, the two would be involved in an unspecified “drawing of lots” in the near future. If a lottery is necessary, hopes were to have it done with both candidates in attendance by the end of the week.

During the April 9 town board meeting, a question arose concerning whether moving up an anticipated resignation by trustee Byron Mounce would assist in allowing both Rowley and Arnold to be named onto the board, but Mayor Judd Behrens said it would not because filling a mid-term vacancy has its own rules under Colorado statute.

“It’s got to be open to any resident wanting to apply and be considered for the position and there’s a 60- or 90-day time frame also involved,” Behrens said. “Byron even asked if [him resigning]

SEE DT SEWER PLANT PAGE 6

New Bennett mayor, board take oath

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BENNETT — The town of Bennett has a new mayor.

Mayor Whitney Oakley took the oath of office during the Board of Trustees meeting April 9.

The swearing-in took place after a reception that honored Oakley and her predecessor, Royce Pindell, who served two terms in the position after assuming the office in 2016.

Oakley has lived in Bennett for eight years and is currently the manager at Bennett Anythink Library. She has served as a trustee for four years — two-and-a-half of which as mayor pro tem.

Oakley expressed gratitude to the residents of Bennett, her fellow trustees, and town staff for supporting her as she takes on the new role.

“I love the town of Bennett and I’m happy to be raising my family here,” she added. “I can’t wait to see where the future of Bennett takes us together.”

Pindell also thanked Town Manager Trish Stiles, the town staff, and his fellow trustees for the help and support they provided him during his mayoral tenure. Pindell was term-limited as mayor but was sworn in for another four-year term as a trustee.

Also taking the oath of office were Trustees Donna Sus,



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Bennett Trustees, staff, family and community members enjoyed a mayor’s reception April 9 to honor departing Mayor Royce Pindell and Mayor-elect Whitney Oakley. Above, sharing a table are, from left, Trustees Denice Smith and Donna Sus, Oakley, Trustees Kevin Barden, Steve Dambroski and Larry Vittum, and Lori and Royce Pindell.

Denice Smith and Larry Vittum. Sus and Smith will serve their second terms, ending in 2028. Vittum will serve a two-year term ending in 2026.

Also serving on the Bennett Board of Trustees are Steve Dambroski and Kevin Barden, whose first terms will end in April 2026. Barden was elected by the board to serve as mayor pro tem.

The seven-member Bennett Board of Trustees are part-time elected officials; they have jobs in addition to their responsibilities as board members.

The Bennett Municipal Code and state statute require the appointment of town officials following each biennial election. Current Bennett officials re-appointed and

sworn in were Town Clerk Christina Hart, Town Treasurer Danette Ruvalcaba, Town Attorney Scott Krob, and Presiding Municipal Court Judge Shawn Day.

The municipal code also calls for the appointment of a town clerk pro tem to serve in the absence of the town clerk. Town Clerk Pro Tem Taeler Houlberg and Second Town Clerk Pro Tem Rachel Summers each took the oath of office.

Business items included the extension of a Wastewater Development Fee incentive agreement with DATO Investments for Bennett Avenue Townhomes. Community Development Manager Savannah Chapa Vickery gave the

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