

tures, and the board and staff are invited to submit their input on prioritization soon.

- Meetings with the architect and contractor for the Station 1 remodel are producing some high-level brainstorming and plans to expand the building are now moving toward the eastside of Station 1, allowing the drive-through bay option to remain in the plan.

**Gallagher repeal**

Truty gave the following update on the repeal Gallagher ballot initiative for the November election:

- It will be quite an uphill climb to get the bill passed, according to the state Fire Chiefs, since many are opposed to the bill.
- The financial repercussions could make or break some local special districts including D38.
- TLMFPD, Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District and Hanover Fire Department are the only three departments to de-Gallagher in northern El Paso County.
- TLMFPD has secured the Residential Assessment Rate (RAR) at 5.88% from dropping any further for the time being, but an unknown calculation could be used in the future and could be really problem-

atic in 2024.

- The de-Gallagherization ballot issue that passed in November 2019 only addressed the RAR and not the commercial tax rate, which has been fixed at 29% since 1976. For more about de-Gallagherization, see [www.ocn.me/v19n8.htm#tlmfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v19n8.htm#tlmfpd) and [www.ocn.me/v19n6.htm#tlmfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v19n6.htm#tlmfpd).

**Operational update**

Deputy Chief Randy Trost gave the following update:

- Two multi-mission reconnaissance aircraft now have a primary mission to spot potential wildland fire sparks such as a cigarette butt from as high as 20,000 feet. The aircraft departs from Centennial, and once requested can be flying within 60 minutes to anywhere within Colorado.
- Intel from the aircraft is now available to fire departments via a website and app, and fire departments are encouraged to use the tool to maintain funding for it.
- Flights can be requested by fire departments and El Paso County Search and Rescue through the El Paso County fire warden.

**Wildland/fire marshal update**

Division Chief of Community Risk/Fire



**Above:** Board President John Hildebrandt administers the oath of office to the new division chief of Logistics Capt. Dean Wahl, whose wife Kathy Wahl (pictured at center) pinned on his badge of office during the ceremony. **Right:** Lt. Mauricio Ayala (right) presented Wahl with a firefighter's helmet from the district. Photos by Jennifer Martin.



Marshal Jamey Bumgarner gave the following update:

- The Northwest Passage Emergency Evacuation Drill scheduled for September is now postponed until May 2021. Residents will be encouraged to participate then.
- Some homeowner associations in limited access communities are placing evacuation route signs to indicate safe routes for residents to use in an emergency.
- Monument Academy High School on Highway 83/Walker Road is on a busy schedule for final fire code inspections before the grand opening on Aug. 15.

**Training update**

Battalion Chief of Training Jonathan Bradley gave the following updates:

- Wildland Fire Drills was hosted on the new property at Station 1, and the Wescott Fire Department and BFFRPD took part with instructor participation from all three districts.
- A series of EMS webinars on resiliency, domestic violence recognition, and handling in the field were provided by Dr. Judith Long, the district psychologist who supports

TLMFPD's Peer Support Program.

- Blue Card IC simulation for both TLMFPD and BFFRPD. The Blue Card program is a local hazard zone command training and certification program designed for fire departments.
- Water Training Awareness in June with the Technical Rescue Group.
- Engineer Tyler Ruona completed the Driver Operator Course practical test on the 2231 Tower Truck after the vehicle had returned from a two-month repair.
- The three paramedic students are finishing up rotations and will begin internships in July.

Bradley said emergency room experience has now resumed for students, but labor and delivery experience is being augmented with simulation. Hildebrandt said you just cannot simulate labor and delivery. Bradley said the new paramedics would be able to receive hands-on experience in labor and delivery rotations later in the year or in early 2021.

**Board member comments**

Tharnish said the TOM has finally won its state Supreme Court lawsuit lasting 3.5 years to acquire land at Forest View Way in Red Rocks Ranch. The TOM can now proceed with the installation of a water retention tank and a pipeline with fire hydrants to connect into the town water system. Four pipeline routes are available, and his preference would be the most costly, extending the pipeline from Red Rocks Ranch and east along Highway 105 to connect to the town water pipes at TLMFPD Station 1. The pipeline will take a long time to install and the project is scheduled to start in late 2020 or early 2021, he said.

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**Correction**

In the TLMFPD article in the June issue of OCN, "Wall" should read "Wahl." OCN regrets the error.

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Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. July 22 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information, including possible Zoom joining instructions, contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011. For upcoming agendas, see [www.tlmfire.org/board](http://www.tlmfire.org/board).

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at [nataliebarszcz@ocn.me](mailto:nataliebarszcz@ocn.me).

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