

DWFPD (Cont. from 18)

- 3 on the ISO classification, which ranges from 1 as the best to 10.
- Wescott plans to make Gleneagle a Firewise community. Because there are many open spaces and trails that could allow fires to spread to homes, educating the community on creating defensible homes and spaces will help to prevent losses.
 - A resident wrote a thank you letter after being hospitalized due to an emergency breathing issue. He commended Wescott for its fast response and professionalism in treating and transporting him successfully.

The board went into executive session at 9:34 p.m. to receive legal advice regarding Station 2 property adjustment. According to Popovich, the board came out of executive session at 10:25 p.m.

A motion was made to authorize legal counsel to negotiate a Construction Easement Agreement for development on the Station 2 property.

The developer of Flying Horse North has asked for an easement from the department in order to put up a sign. See <https://ocn.me/v18n12.htm>.

The next Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 19 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Meetings are usually on the third Tuesday of each month. For information, call Executive Administrator Stacey Popovich at 488-8680 or see www.wescottfire.org.

Allison Robenstein can be reached at allisonrobenstein@ocn.me.

Note: The TLMFPD meeting was held Feb. 27 as this issue of OCN was going to press and will be covered in our April 6 issue.

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 26

Highway 105 project and Walden Preserve development move forward

By Helen Walklett

The El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) made decisions at recent meetings that will see progress in the Highway 105 project and in a housing development in Black Forest.

Walden Preserve 2 development

At its Jan. 29 meeting, the BOCC made two decisions relating to the Walden Preserve 2 development, situated southeast of Monument and east of Highway 83 in Black Forest. It approved a request to accept some streets within the subdivision's filings 1 and 2 into the county's road maintenance system and the release of a letter of credit for \$32,884 relating to filing 2. Both approvals followed the completion and satisfactory inspection of public im-

provements at the two filings.

Highway 105 project progresses

At their Feb. 5 meeting, the commissioners approved two requests relating to the Highway 105 project. They approved memorandums of agreement, special warranty deeds and easements that the county Department of Public Works had identified as necessary to advance the project. One temporary easement comes from property owned by Kerri Molly-Benz and Gaetano Benza at a cost of \$42,600. A second temporary easement and two non-exclusive permanent easements come from property owned by Cheyenne Village Inc. at a cost of \$91,300.

The Highway 105 project will see road improvements from I-25 to High-

way 83 completed in phases. The first phase, known as Project A, is federally funded and concerns the section of road from the I-25 interchange east ramps to Lake Woodmoor Drive. It will extend the four-lane section east of Knollwood Drive and include improved shoulders and additional turn lanes and sidewalks. The county is working to complete the designs and acquire the necessary property, and construction is expected to begin in fall 2019.

A future public meeting to discuss the remainder of the project from Lake Woodmoor Drive to Highway 83 is tentatively planned for later in the design process but has not yet been scheduled. Funding for this part is included in the Pikes Peak Regional Transportation Authority capital funding program over the next 10 years. Its phasing and construction are still to be determined.

Special use request for Black Forest equine therapy clinic

At the Feb. 26 meeting, the commissioners unanimously approved without discussion a request for approval of a special use application to operate a commercial stable at 14445 Holmes Road in Black Forest. The property is on the east side of Holmes Road and north of Vessey Road. The application was heard by the El Paso County Planning Commission on Feb. 5 and came to the BOCC with a recommendation for approval. The applicant must now file a site development plan application. (See the *Planning Commission* article below for further details.)

Update on

Monument Hill Road closure

To enable work to be carried out for the Monument Hill Road Safety Improvements Project, Monument Hill Road has been closed from the intersection of Woodmoor Drive to the south entrance of the Monument Hill Church since mid-October. This phase of the work was expected to be completed by early February, but due to weather delays and a shortage of materials this section of the road will now remain closed into April.

Upon completion of this first phase, work will move to the northern section of the road. This second phase will see Monument Hill Road closed from the south entrance of Monument Hill Church to the south entrance of Palmer Ridge High School, eliminating access from Monument Hill Road to Deer Creek Road, Woodmoor Drive, Furrow Drive, and County Line Road will serve as the detour.

The BOCC has approved several easements to allow the project to go ahead, most recently at its Sept. 11 meeting. (See <https://www.ocn.me/v18n10.htm#epbocc>)

Schoolchildren still sought to lead Pledge of Allegiance

The BOCC continues to seek children to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of its meetings. Anyone interested should contact the clerk to the board at carctb@elpasoco.com or Matt Steiner in the Public Information Office at MattSteiner@elpasoco.com

Helen Walklett can be reached at helenwalklett@ocn.me.

El Paso County Planning Commission, Feb. 5 and 19

Progress on the county water and master plans; special use for Black Forest stables advances

By Helen Walklett

Mark Gebhart, deputy director of Planning and Community Development, updated the El Paso County Planning Commission on work on both the water and county master plans at the beginning of its Feb. 5 meeting.

Gebhart said the water master plan, which the Planning Commission

adopted in December, had still not been certified but that it would come to the Planning Commission for certification in due course. This was because the county had not yet received the final version for publication, which would contain the changes agreed during the Planning Commission hearings. He also advised the commissioners

Michael George O'Dair Jr.

May 23, 1976 –
February 12, 2019

Michael George O'Dair Jr., age 42, passed away February 12, 2019. He currently resided in Highlands Ranch, Colorado where he had purchased and enjoyed making his home for the past 10 years.



Michael was born May 23, 1976 to Michael George O'Dair Sr. and Amy Jo (Steele) O'Dair in Colorado Springs. He grew up in the same house in Monument since his fourth birthday. He graduated from Lewis-Palmer High School, where he made many life-long friends from his childhood.

After graduation, Michael attended the Air Force Academy and the University of Colorado majoring in Meteorology. Mike received his Air Force commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and was rewarded a pilot training spot. After being a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, he was asked to fly for our government before deciding to return to Denver and accept a pilot's position with the airlines.

Mike enjoyed the game of golf and grew up playing since a young age, progressing to being on the high school team. At the age of nine, Mike began his true love of Martial Arts. Over the years, he would rise to black belt and be given captain positions on many teams. It was 1997 when Michael would make the pre-Olympic trials for the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Although tempting to go further in that endeavor, Michael stayed with his desire to go into the Air Force and be a pilot.

Michael Jr. is survived by his mother, Amy Jo O'Dair; his sisters, Shannon Melcher, and Kimberlee Gresham (husband, James Gresham); and his niece, Cora June Gresham. He was preceded in death by his father, Michael O'Dair Sr.

A private family service is being held at Shrine of Remembrance. Burial will take place in Fort Logan National Cemetery, Staging Area B, 3698 S. Sheridan Blvd., Denver, CO 80235, at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2019.

Online condolences may be left at ShrineOfRemembrance.com

"We are so very appreciative of the kind and loving care of Woodmen Valley Chapel and Shrine of Remembrance. No words can come close in describing the gratitude we feel."