

cover the warning signs of stress, gain access to help, and provide emotional support to peers. The workshop was made possible with a grant obtained by Lt. Kris Mola.

Deputy Chief Randy Trost said recent suicide data show that the major cause of death for first responders is suicide. A regional program is currently being developed by the Firefighter Behavioral Alliance to create easily accessible information for first responders.

Fire prevention

Fire Marshal/Battalion Chief Jamey Bumgarner announced:

- TLMFPD firefighters Dak Damour and Matt Edmunds brought the new chipper to The Timbers neighborhood at Highway 105 and Furrow Road to help them in their effort toward becoming a

Firewise community.

- The annual Open House will be held at Station 1 on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will include a live extrication demonstration and visitors from the Office of Emergency Management, Wildland Teams, and El Paso County Teller 911. Hot dogs and refreshments will be provided. For further information, see www.tlmfire.org.

Gallagher ballot measure wording still in process

The regular board meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m., and the board moved into executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) to receive legal advice from the district's attorney, Maureen Juran of Widner & Juran LLP Attorneys at Law, as presented regarding the ballot language to be used in the November coordinated

election.

When the board returned to regular session, it voted 5-0 to affirm two possibilities for a "de-Gallagher" ballot question for the November coordinated election—a short version and a long version—on which the final decision will be made based on a few questions staff needed to research.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. after the executive session.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 25 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information, contact Office Administrator/HR Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011. For upcoming agendas, see www.tlmfire.org/board.

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz.ocn.me.

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, July 30, Aug. 6, 13, 20, and 27

Highway 83 safety concerns raised; second dwelling variance approved for Black Forest property

By Helen Walklett

At an El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) work session with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) on Aug. 6, Commissioner Holly Williams raised safety concerns about Highway 83. During the BOCC's regular meetings in August, the commissioners approved an application to allow the use of a second dwelling on property off Highway 83 and made decisions relating to the county Planning Commission and The Dunes at Woodmoor subdivision.

Highway 83 safety concerns raised

Following the regular BOCC meeting on Aug. 6, the commissioners held a work session with CDOT to identify the county's critical transportation needs and projects to guide funding decisions over the next decade. Commissioner Williams raised concerns about safety on Highway 83. She told the CDOT representatives that a lot of traffic was now using Highway 83 to avoid the I-25 gap work and that this increased traffic was at times making the highway's intersection with County Line Road hazardous.

She said, "That's an area where at certain times of rush hour you cannot make a left turn off County Line Road or Palmer Divide to get onto Highway 83. It's just too dangerous." She added that the highway in general required improvements to cope with growth, saying, "Most of my safety concerns are really [that] we're behind on our roads and we need to catch up ... with our growth." See related Snapshot on page 27.

Second dwelling variance approved

At the Aug. 13 BOCC meeting, the commissioners approved 4-0 a request by the Herbertson Family Living

Trust for a variance of use for a second dwelling on a 47.55-acre property on the east side of Highway 83, just to the south of its intersection with Walden Way and within the boundaries of the Black Forest Preservation Plan. Commissioner Cami Bremer was absent.

There are already two residences on the property, but the existing variance of use for the second residence is considered abandoned and no longer in effect because the property has been unoccupied for more than a year. This new variance allows the second property to be reoccupied, and the property owner plans to use it as a rental property.

The El Paso County Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend the application for approval at its July 16 meeting. See <https://www.ocn.me/v19n8.htm#epcpc>.

Appointments to the county Planning Commission

At the Aug. 6 BOCC meeting, the commissioners appointed Tim Trowbridge and Grace Blea-Nunez as regular members of the Planning Commission. Their three-year term runs until Aug. 1, 2022. Both were already serving as associate members when the vacancies arose.

The Dunes at Woodmoor

The commissioners approved the final release of a letter of credit for defect warranty for \$67,825 following the completion and satisfactory inspection of all the public improvements at The Dunes at Woodmoor subdivision.

Other decisions

- July 30—The commissioners approved resolu-

tions to enter into Intergovernmental Agreements with Academy School District 20, Lewis-Palmer School District 38, and Monument Charter Academy for school resource officers for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. School resource officers are provided by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office but funded by the school districts.

- Aug. 13—Approved the issuance of a one-year ambulance permit to the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District.
- Aug. 27—Approved an application by Brewing Ground Investments LLC, doing business as Black Forest Brewing Company, to temporarily extend the area of its liquor licensed premises at 11590 Black Forest Road to facilitate events planned as part of the 2019 Black Forest Oktoberfest Festival.

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

Woodmoor Improvement Association, Aug. 23

Board hears from D38 superintendent, updates project standards

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on Aug. 23 to hear a presentation by Lewis-Palmer D38 Superintendent K.C. Somers, receive an update from the Woodmoor Open Space Committee, and approve updates to the Project Design Standards Manual (PDSM).

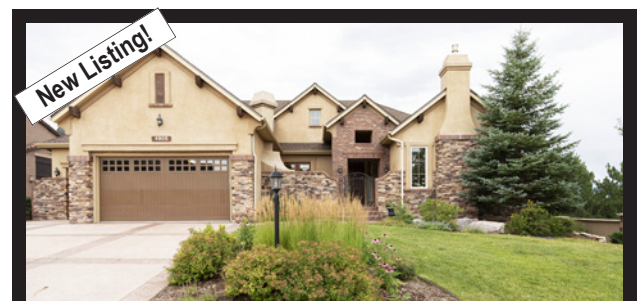
Board member Lee Hanson was absent.

Superintendent Somers' presentation

Somers talked about his series of six Listening and Learning Tour meetings that had 75 attendees and asked three questions: what people value about D38, what are D38's challenges, and what advice they had for him. Participants in the sessions value highly successful students and supportive families who make sure students are ready for school. They see challenges from rapid growth in Tri-Lakes and want the district to prioritize what is important while being fiscally responsible. Somers said D38 is committed to the very best educational environment that includes high academic programs as well as addressing the unique needs of 21st-century learners. He said D38 has very committed staff—phenomenal teachers, administrators and support staff—dedicated to making sure every student's needs are addressed in a very responsive, innovative manner that is continuously seeking to improve.

Somers hopes to re-establish a culture of trust and address concerns about responsiveness. His leadership style is to attend to needs and concerns of constituents and he feels if we had issues in the past we can learn and work toward a process of healing. The district's new theme is One Team, Our Team—meaning every member of the staff makes a valued contribution to the success of the organization. That extends to the broader community, parents, and families. D38 also values community partners including the YMCA, Kiwanis, business partners, etc.

The D38 school board, by a vote of 5-0, approved ballot language for a single-purpose bond for a new elementary school at the Jackson Creek location. Somers said building this school and converting Bear Creek Elementary School back to a middle school using district reserves will help to address capacity needs. In the next five years, D38 expects an increase of 693 students, per a recently completed study, and expects to see an additional 1,539 students over the next 10 years. D38 has already seen 11% enrollment growth over the past five years and over 20% in the past 10. It is important to address this strategically. The impact to the average homeowner of a \$400,000 home is cost neutral. He said with current bond debt being paid off, property valuation increasing, and a growing tax base, the result would be a 10-cent de-



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