

cline in residential taxes for schools. Business property tax would increase by \$35 per year.

Enrollment has increased at Lewis-Palmer Middle School (LPMS) to nearly 900 students and modulars have been installed over the summer as a short-term fix. The intent is to remove the modulars in two years from both the middle schools and elementary schools, which would also increase capacity as sixth grade is moved back to middle school. The new school would open in the 2021-22 school year.

Somers pointed out that, while this impacts students, it also benefits the entire community. He said strong home values reflect a strong school district and strong schools create a strong community. D38's overarching why is to make sure that all students have the support they need to experience a successful future.

Somers then fielded questions from the WIA board and audience. He confirmed that the money would go solely toward building the new elementary school. He acknowledged some take the position we may not see the projected growth. He shared the analysis of why the previous bond and MLO did not pass including the complexity of the bond, objectionable ballot language, lack of positive Blue Book statements, and a lack of alignment by board members. He said the board has taken steps to address those issues and would be hosting town hall meetings in the coming weeks.

Somers said staff from LPMS and the elementary schools would move to the middle school. If this bond does not pass, he said, the district would go back to the drawing board on long-range facilities planning, look at why the community is not in agreement, and have some very significant and difficult decisions to make. Ultimately it comes down to what are we willing to invest to support every student with the quality education they deserve, he said.

**Woodmoor Open Space Committee update**  
Richard Lamb, a board member of WOSC LLC, updated WIA on its yearlong effort to preserve open space in South Woodmoor. The group has raised funds to purchase 100 acres and has partnered with a local real estate development company, ProTerra Properties, to purchase the remaining 33 acres. Lamb indicated that final agreement among all partners is still pending with the timeline unknown.

#### PDSM updated

Director Per Suhr reported that the Architectural Control Committee has reviewed and updated the Project Design Standards Manual. Standards and clarifications were provided for raised gardens, roofing consistency, tree houses, gazebos, and flag poles. Information was updated on playground equipment location. The biggest revision was about Yard Art being limited to 10 objects or structures. Less than 3% of the PDSM was revised. The board unanimously ap-

proved the changes, which will be available online at <http://bit.ly/wia-acc>.

#### Board highlights

- The board unanimously approved a motion by Community Affairs Director Bert Jean for five trial scholarships of \$1,000 each for the 2020 academic year.
- Director Brad Gleason reported on the Safe Routes to School project. The design phase is almost complete, and rights-of-way agreements are in place. There has been delay on the spillway portion due to a planned widening of Lake Woodmoor Drive, but progress continues.
- The board unanimously approved the addition of resident James Kahn to the Architectural Control Committee.

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The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next regular meeting will be on Sept. 25.

The WIA calendar can be found at <https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/>. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at <https://www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/> once approved and posted.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at [jackieburhans@ocn.me](mailto:jackieburhans@ocn.me).

## August Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

August was warmer and drier than normal overall as, after a wet start, dry conditions moved in for the second half of the month.

After a clear start to the day, brief heavy rain greeted us on the 1st, with thunderstorms producing pea-size hail around 5 p.m. Generally dry and mild conditions then returned for the next few days, with just isolated thunderstorms most afternoons and early evenings and only brief rainfall. Highs were in the upper 70s on the 2nd, then low to mid- 80s from the 3rd through the 7th.

Unsettled conditions associated with the North American Monsoon returned for the next week. Several surges of moisture affected the region and afternoon and evening thunderstorms were the result. Several of these storms reached severe levels, with brief heavy rainfall and hail.

The most "exciting" period of storminess occurred during the late afternoon on the 8th. This occurred as an area of thunderstorms developed to our north and west and moved into our area from Douglas County. As the thunderstorms developed and moved over the Palmer Divide, they encountered a very unstable environment and were fed by moisture flowing in from the southeast. This allowed the storm to grow into a supercell right over Monument and I-25 then move south/southeast over Gleneagle and the Highway 83 corridor toward the Falcon area. During its lifecycle, tornado warnings were issued based on radar indicated rotation. Fortunately, no tornado actually reached the ground in the areas, but a funnel cloud was spotted as it moved off the Palmer Divide toward Falcon. The storm did produce spectacular wall clouds, heavy rain, and hail.

Thunderstorms continued to develop each afternoon and evening, with hit-and-miss areas of rainfall. High temperatures remained cooler than normal with all the moisture in the air, but overnight lows were also warmer than normal, balancing things out and keeping temperatures right around normal for the period.

The pattern began to shift starting on the 15th, with warmer and drier air moving in. This allowed temperatures to reach the mid- to upper 80s from the 15th through the 20th. Highs peaked in the upper 80s to low 90s on the 19th and 20th. Skies were mostly clear to partly cloudy during the period, with no rain occurring in the area. This heat wave was broken with strong thunderstorms during the early to mid-evening hours on the 20th as the heat from that day allowed a significant amount of energy to build up, waiting for a trigger to release the energy. This occurred as a disturbance moved through the atmosphere and allowed the storms to develop. These produced brief heavy rainfall and lots of lightning.

As these storms eventually moved east into Kansas, they produced strong outflow winds that moved moisture into the area during the overnight hours and produced areas of low clouds and fog each morning from the 21st through the 24th.

High pressure returned to end the month and shut off the moisture and instability needed for widespread thunderstorms and rainfall. The area was generally dry from the 24th through the 31st. This represents a long period for late August to not see any significant rainfall or widespread thunderstorms. Temperatures jumped around from the 70s on several afternoons, then 80s the rest of the time, again peaking in the upper 80s on the afternoon of the 25th.

#### A look ahead

September is a transition month for the region, with the last tastes of summer mixed in with our first morning freezes. Leaves begin to change by the end of the month, and in some years a little snow can happen. The overall weather pattern is generally one of tranquility, with our chances for thunderstorms dwindling and blizzard conditions not quite ready for prime time. We are often greeted with sunny, pleasant afternoons, with highs from the mid-70s early in the month to the mid-60s later in the month. Our first sub-freezing low temperatures usually occur during the third week of the month, so prepare those tender plants.

#### August 2018 Weather Statistics

Average High	<b>81.3°</b> (+2.0)
100-year return frequency value max	<b>83.9°</b> min <b>72.9°</b>
Average Low	<b>52.4°</b> (+3.1)
100-year return frequency value max	<b>55.2°</b> min <b>46.8°</b>
Monthly Precipitation	<b>1.85"</b> (-1.05"), 36% below normal
100-year return frequency value max	<b>6.07"</b> min <b>0.94"</b>
Monthly Snowfall	<b>0.0"</b>
Highest Temperature	<b>88° on the 19th, 20th, 25th</b>
Lowest Temperature	<b>47° on the 24th</b>
Season to Date Snow	<b>0.0"</b> (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	<b>7.30"</b> (+1.03", 14% above normal)
	(the precip season is from October 1 to September 30)
Heating Degree Days	<b>10</b> (-52)
Cooling Degree Days	<b>61</b> (+18)

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at [billkappel@ocn.me](mailto:billkappel@ocn.me).

## Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters are on page 31.

**Disclaimer:** The information and opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community are the responsibility of the letter writers and should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

### Move beyond status quo and thrive in Palmer Lake

Citizens for a Better Palmer Lake, a recently organized open-door citizens' group, is addressing serious concern about our many town issues. We seek the transparency, accountability, and communication Palmer Lake has sought for years from our local government.

This group originated because of the planned closing of our Volunteer Fire Department, which many citizens opposed. Subsequent investigation revealed mill levy tax funds paid by Palmer Lake residents for the Fire Department since 2016 were not all given to the FD! The town hasn't explained where/why those funds were diverted. But Palmer Lake citizenry have other major concerns, many evidenced by the resident survey conducted by our group.

We are investigating the proposed Fire Department budget, which Palmer Lake taxpayers will be asked to adopt, at a whopping 18.5 more mills, in ad-

dition to our current 10, for a total of 28.5 mills—the additional mills are for salaries! The budget claims an ambulance service, which Palmer Lake would need a loan to buy (along with loans for buildings, equipment, trucks) as a profit center, but we have yet to find any town of our size of about 995 households where ambulance service actually turns a profit.

Our town manager has refused our request to make a survey presentation to the council, insisting that she review it first—not required—and won't allow us a regular place on the agenda. The town government's message is unambiguous: They are not interested in Palmer Lake citizen concerns. Why are they so afraid?

Palmer Lake is at a critical juncture.  
**Trish Flake, Jen Martin, and Karen Stuth**  
Members, Citizens for a Better Palmer Lake

### Noxious weed control

As the wife of the "irate" beekeeper, I would like to respond to comments made about noxious weed control at the July 9 Joint Use Committee of the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility meeting, specifically that "the declining bee population is a worldwide problem, not just caused by three sanitation districts

doing weed control." Please tell us, then, how you think the world's bee population is declining if not one sanitation district, backyard, state/county/city/town roadside, garden, farm, park, railroad right-of-way and driveway crack at a time. Herbicides are certainly not the only contributing factor in pollinator decline, but herbicide use is cumulative, and the solution lies not in convincing ourselves that because everyone else is using herbicides that must be the right thing to do but in learning ways of managing weeds as mindfully and harmlessly as possible. In this case, maybe just mowing several times a season, sans herbicides, would be enough.

And speaking of rethinking weed control, kudos to Monument's Parks Department on their recent purchase of a pollinator-friendly steam weeder!

Thank you from the beekeeper, the beekeeper's wife, and the bees!  
**Leah Squires**

### Time to save our bees

This is in regards to Monument Sanitation's take on eradicating weeds!

**Quote:** "The consensus was that mowing and herbicides were the best options for the districts to