

proved the final release of a letter of credit for \$377,709 following the completion of subdivision improvements at the Grandwood Ranch development northeast of the Baptist Road and Roller Coaster Road intersection. Also at this meeting, the commissioners approved a non-exclusive permanent easement associated with the extension of Furrow Road related to Grandwood Ranch.

- Aug. 10—approved intergovernmental agreements

with Monument Charter Academy, Lewis-Palmer School District 38, and Academy School District 20 to retain school resource officers provided by the county Sheriff's Office for the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

- Aug. 24—approved the award of a contract and purchase order to Ridgeline Construction Inc. dba Performance Recreation for the Santa Fe Open Space Construction Project at a total cost not to

exceed \$186,580. The project includes the flagging and construction of soft surface trails at the new 60-acre Santa Fe Open Space along the New Santa Fe Regional Trail southeast of Palmer Lake on the southern slopes of Ben Lomond Mountain.

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Woodmoor Improvement Association, Aug. 25

Board discusses tall grass and resident communication

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) met on Aug. 25 to hear board reports, discuss tall grass fire danger, and encourage residents to sign up for emails to improve communication.

Tall grass presents a fire danger

Director of Covenant Control Director Ed Miller reported that 368 notices have been sent to residents regarding tall grass. All but 75 have complied with the request to mow tall grass which, when it dries, presents a fire danger. He said the 75 second notices had been sent out. President Brian Bush said that WIA appreciates that the vast majority of responses were positive. He asked that the community as a whole practice good fire mitigation by getting rid of tall grass on their property which, he said, also improved the look of the community.

Residents urged to sign up for WIA emails

Bush noted that it is difficult to communicate with residents if they have not signed up for WIA email blasts. He asks that everyone get signed up by scrolling to the bottom of www.woodmoor.org and entering their email to subscribe to WIA Email Updates. Residents will receive

monthly newsletters and occasional notices with important information. Newsletters are also available on the WIA website. Bush emphasized that resident emails will not be sold or misused.

At the same time, residents can enter their email address to subscribe to Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) Monthly Reports to get information on local safety issues. Public safety information can also be found at www.woodmoor.org/woodmoor-public-safety/.

Board highlights

- WIA will be reviewing and updating its schedule of fines and welcomes resident input. The current schedule is at www.woodmoor.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Fine-Schedule-Revised-2017.pdf. The contact form is located at www.woodmoor.org/wia-staff-contact-form/.
- Due to increased reports of bear activity, WPS reminds residents to only put trash out on pickup day and to return it to a secure place as soon as possible.
- WPS will be doing lot checks for non-approved off-drive parking and requests that residents take care

about parking on top of vegetation due to fire hazards.

- A second reimbursement package was submitted for mitigation grant reimbursement, and a second recruitment letter has been sent out focusing on the Woodmoor Drive corridor.
- The final chipping day Aug. 7 processed 141 loads totaling 90 cubic yards of material. Bush commended board members Tom Smith and Ed Miller and WIA staff for their significant physical and monetary effort on fire mitigation.

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 meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 22.

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

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August Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

Very dry conditions took hold of the region during August after a wet end to July. Precipitation for the month was well below normal, with less than an inch of total rainfall occurring. In fact, this amount of rainfall is rarer than a 1 in 100-year recurrence interval. In other words, in any given year there is a less than a 1% chance of August being this dry. Temperatures were above normal for the month as more of the sun's energy was able to heat the atmosphere versus evaporating moisture.

Smoke was present on several days from wildfires throughout the Pacific Northwest and California. With the extremely dry conditions experienced during the month, it is likely there will be increased fire activity as we head into fall.

The month started with a couple days of cooler temperatures and wet weather. Highs were in the upper 60s to upper 70s from the 1st through the 4th. Accumulating rainfall occurred on the 1st and 3rd, but this only amounted to about a quarter of an inch.

Dry and relatively warm conditions moved in from the 5th through the 11th, with no measurable rainfall occurring and temperatures generally in the mid- to upper 80s. Although skies were generally clear, with limited cumulus cloud development, there were several days of smoke. The smoky conditions made for some hazy days,

with difficult breathing conditions for some.

From the 12th through the 15th, some monsoonal moisture was able to move into the region. This allowed the more typical afternoon and evening thunderstorms to form in the area. These produced light rainfall total, with again less than a quarter inch accumulating during the period.

Another extended period of dry and generally warm conditions returned for the entire second half of the month. Temperatures were consistently in the mid- to upper 80s except for a couple of days. Cooler air moved in on the 20th and 21st, with highs in the low 80s on the 20th and low 70s on the 21st and on the 29th. A few brief rain showers occurred during the afternoon of the 26th and afternoon and evening of the 28th. Unfortunately, these only produced barely measurable amounts of rain, certainly not enough to bring beneficial moisture to the region.

A look ahead

September is a transitional 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 as well, and 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 2021 Weather Statistics

Average High	84.6° (+3.1)
100-year return frequency value max	83.9° min 72.9°
Average Low	52.3° (+2.9)
100-year return frequency value max	55.2° min 46.8°
Monthly Precipitation	0.45" (-2.45"), 85% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	6.07" min 0.94"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0"
Highest Temperature	88° on numerous days
Lowest Temperature	45° on the 8th
Season to Date Snow	0.0" (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	2.72" (-3.55", 57% below normal)

(the precip season is from October 1 to September 30)

Heating Degree Days **16** (-46)

Cooling Degree Days **88** (+45)

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at 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.

A call for School District 38 transparency

We are grateful for the efforts of the district and the staff of D38 for the hard work last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, we are currently seeing a dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases locally. As a physician, I reviewed the current guidance for schools and corresponded with the superintendent about the district plans to implement them for the upcoming year. The responses have

clarified that the district has decided not to follow the recommendations of the county and state health departments (and CDC and the American Association of Pediatricians) that are targeted at communities experiencing high rates of transmission and vaccination rates less than 70 percent, as is the current situation for El Paso County.

I recognize there may be reasons for not following these recommendations at a local district level. Given the importance of this issue for the safety of our children, particularly those under 12 years of age who are not eligible for vaccination, it is incumbent upon the superintendent and the district to be forthcoming about the reasons for not following clear recommendations for

higher precautionary measures recommended by these guidance documents.

I encourage you all to review the relevant guidance and request that the district be transparent about their decision process. None of us wish to see a repeat of the last year, and we all consider the safety of our children of paramount importance. It is only through a clear understanding of the current situation, recommendations, and school policy that we can all make decisions about the upcoming school year that fit our individual families. Regardless of your position on COVID-19 precautions, the lack of transparency from the school district should be very concerning to all D38 families and staff.

Steve Griffen MD

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Fall into great mysteries

By the staff at Covered Treasures

"Foolish people are never harmless. Stupidity accounts for as many crimes as anger and greed."—Louise Penny

Fall is a perfect time to dive into some great mysteries. Here's a sampling.

Striking Range: A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery

By Margaret Mizushima (Crooked Lane Books) \$27.99

A deadly secret is buried in the Colorado high country. He was suspect number one—the man who tried to kill Deputy Mattie Cobb and may have killed her father 30 years earlier. But before Mattie and cold case detective

Jim Hauck get to interview him, he's found dead in his cell. As Mattie and Robo pursue this case, they are called to help investigate the death of a young woman and a missing infant. The killer has a cold-blooded

