

## El Paso County Board of County Commissioners District 1

## County Commissioner Candidate Statements

Ballots will be mailed beginning June 4. All ballots are due by 7 p.m. on election night, June 26. Please review the primary election information the county has posted at [www.epcvotes.com](http://www.epcvotes.com).

OCN asked each of the candidates to respond to the following question: **"In no more than 150 words, describe the specific skills, knowledge, and perspective that qualify you to make informed decisions for the future of El Paso County."**

**Frank DeLalla**

For over 35 years I served customers in the defense and intelligence communities, developing and supporting complex weapon systems. I successfully led large organizations that answered to multiple stakeholders, including end-users, their acquisition agents, corporate leadership, and employees. This taught me how to work within and manage large organizations and to negotiate successful outcomes that addressed competing interests.

My engineering background provides the discipline to analyze and solve complex problems. I was accountable for a diverse portfolio in excess of \$400 million per year, so I know how to analyze and manage significant financial resources like our county

budget.

My skills, knowledge, and experience give me unmatched ability to:

- Prioritize the concerns of county citizens;
- Manage our county's financial resources; and
- Listen and build consensus among diverse interest groups.

I am a proven leader, not a life-long politician, so I bring a fresh and innovative perspective to the Board of Commissioners.

**Calandra Vargas**

A commissioner is elected, not appointed, because my primary responsibility is to represent the citizens of our district. My neighbors, my community, deserve a passionate, local representative who will champion our priorities at every level of government. Every decision must honor my constituents and the priorities of our county, which are public safety, infrastructure, and wise use of water resources. We need a commissioner who can build relationships with anyone and everyone who values liberty, a prosperous economy, and a peaceful civil society. I am a front-line conservative who has the policy knowledge and political experience essential to serve as the next commissioner.

I know the district, the people, and the policies we need to ensure a bright future for all of us. I am ready to lead because I am ready to serve. Please connect with me personally to learn more at [CalandraforColorado.com](http://CalandraforColorado.com), thank you!

**Holly Williams**

I strongly believe in and have lived a life of public service and dedication to our community. I served as public trustee of El Paso County, a political appointment by Gov. Bill Owens, from 1999 to 2007. I quadrupled net revenues for our county from \$281,000 in 1999 to more than \$1.2 million in 2005 and slashed the operating cost per transaction of the office from \$26 to \$10 while improving customer service.

I earned a Master of Public Administration from UCCS focusing on local government and the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR). I have demanded and provided efficient and fiscally conservative government. As a property owner myself for more than 25 years, I am committed to keeping taxes low while funding roads, supporting public safety, and protecting and enhancing our quality of life. I am the utmost responsible and accessible—my website is [www.hollyforcolorado.com](http://www.hollyforcolorado.com) and my cell is 719-385-0722. ■

## Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, May 24

## Residents ask for options for Hidden Pond

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on May 24 to hear residents' concerns about the draining of Hidden Pond, consider ways to improve fire mitigation, and authorize funds for a new phone system and designs for an upstairs bathroom and possible addition for Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS).

**Hidden Pond options**

More than 15 residents attended the May meeting to discuss the recent draining of Hidden Pond and to request that the board revisit the issue, research other options, and provide cost information. President Brian Bush provided the background on this discussion. In December 2017, the board received a letter from Doug Hollister, District 10 water commissioner for the Colorado Division of Water Resources, requiring the board to provide an augmentation plan for the six ponds owned by WIA or face legal action. Similar plans have been required previously of the golf course and the Air Force Academy and will be required going forward of any entity that owns ponds. Each organization will have to determine whether to maintain their ponds and pay an augmentation fee based on the surface area to account for evaporation, which would deprive someone downstream of their senior water rights, or to drain the pond to avoid those fees.

The board determined that two ponds (Wild Duck and Lower Twin) usually retained water, two ponds (No Name and Greg's Pond) never retained water, and two ponds (Hidden Pond and Upper Twin) seldom retained water. The board agreed to pay \$2,500 and \$2,200 per year respectively to augment the water evaporated from Wild Duck and Lower Twin and decided to install culverts to drain Hidden Pond and Upper Twin to bring them into compliance.

Residents asked the board if other solutions that were considered, if the cost to augment Hidden Pond had been calculated, and whether WIA covenants required a two-thirds vote for this decision. The board explained that it decided to drain the pond based on the best information it had on its lack of water retention and did not price alternatives. Board members also noted that the covenants only require a vote of

two-thirds of property owners to acquire or expand the common areas but that projects for the common areas are voted on in open board meetings held monthly.

Residents also expressed frustration at the communication sent out, asked if there had ever been plans to line the pond, whether the pond could be made smaller to limit the augmentation costs, and inquired about well depths and impacts as well as the possible diversion of Deer Creek. The board had sent a postcard to residents around the pond, but many felt those were easy to miss or misunderstand. Architectural Control Committee and Common Areas Administrator Bob Pearsall indicated that he had never seen a reserve study discuss the possibility of lining Hidden Pond; Bush indicated that it would be a very expensive project. Bush said it was possible to consider modifying the size of the pond, and all noted that some of these questions were better answered by Woodmoor Water and Sanitation.

Residents suggested that it might be feasible to fundraise to maintain the pond similar to the Awake the Lake organization in Palmer Lake. Many residents spoke of how important Hidden Pond was to them, their kids and grandkids as a resource for playing and catching crawdads and other fish. Residents are not concerned with the depth, and the augmentation costs depend on the surface area. The board asked that residents provide any photos they have showing the pond at various points to help gauge how much water it retains and agreed to revisit this issue. It will have staff do some research on options and costs and report on their findings at the next WIA board meeting on June 27.

**Improving fire mitigation**

Forestry Director Ed Miller reported that there were six Firewise evaluations, one general Forest Health request, one general thinning inquiry, and one report of possible mountain pine beetle infestation. There have been 10 Firewise evaluations so far this year in a community of 3,000 homes. The board noted that the covenants don't require evaluations or mitigation and asked for any ideas on suggestions on how to increase the number of people who mitigate their properties.

Changing the covenants would require legal review and a vote of two-thirds of property owners, which is a very high bar to meet. The board agrees that it is important to increase participation as the estimate is that at most 10 percent of properties are mitigated.

**Board report highlights**

- WIA has done landscaping work in front of The Barn, restarted water fountains, and reactivated the sprinklers for the season. Initial mowing of the common areas will be done the week of June 5, weather permitting.
- The board unanimously approved spending \$2,000 to replace the antiquated phone system.
- The board unanimously approved spending \$5,000 of design funds for plans for an upstairs bathroom to better serve all residents and a possible addition for Woodmoor Public Safety. These designs will be used to ascertain true costs of these projects.

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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 June 27.

The WIA calendar can be found at [www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/](http://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/). WIA board meeting minutes can be found at [www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/](http://www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/) once approved and posted.

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

## May Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

May was another month of below-normal precipitation, making it the eighth month in a row of drier-than-normal conditions. The major controlling factor of the dry conditions that began last fall is the strong La Nina pattern that set up over the tropical Pacific. This pattern, when combined with other favorable atmospheric patterns, results in a stronger-than-normal area of high pressure of the southwestern United States. This pushed the storm track to the north over

the West Coast and allowed cold air to dive into the northern Rockies/upper Midwest.

Unfortunately, that leaves our region on the dry and mild side of the pattern. This has been especially pronounced this season, with record snowfall and cold extending from Montana through the upper Midwest and Great Lakes regions. Colorado was basically split along the I-70 corridor, with areas to the north progressively cooler and wetter and areas to the south progressively warmer and drier. So, although



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