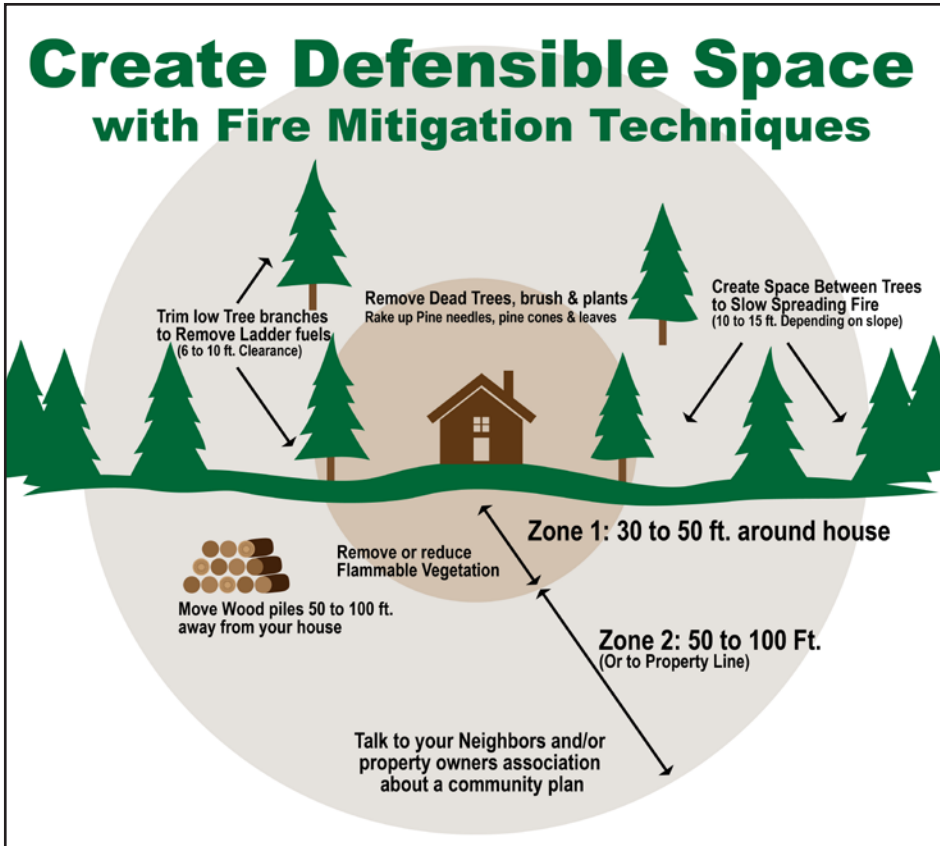


Wildfire defense tactics



Above: The Neighborhood Wildfire Preparedness meeting at Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) Station 1 on May 12 asked, “Are you ready?” Speakers organized by the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management explained how residents must do things differently because we live in the “wildland-urban interface.”

To protect homes, we prevent natural wildfires from cleaning forests. Property owners need to do that forest management work now, including brush clearing and tree thinning. Michelle Connelly, operations director of the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, said, “The ponderosa forest we have right now, with 300 trees per acre, is not natural or sustainable.” Instead, a healthier number would be 50 trees per acre.

TLMFPD Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner warned of the severe drought and wildfire risk forecast for the next few months and asked everyone to make their properties more defensible against wildfire. He reminded everyone to register each of their cell phones for “reverse 9-1-1” notifications at elpasoteller911.org. See related 2018 drought map with Donala article on page 13.

Community Emergency Response Training volunteers explained “defensible space” (see diagram) and how it can improve a home’s survivability after the occupants have evacuated from an area with an active wildfire. They explained how to “harden” their homes against blowing ember storms by making educated choices on roofing and other building materials.

Dave Root of the Woodland Park Field Office of the Colorado State Forest Service informed people how to organize their neighborhoods, create Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and obtain grants and new strategies to cut back flammable vegetation and reduce fuel. Contact him for support at David.Root@colorado-state.edu.

For all the workshop information, visit <https://publicworks.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/OEM/EventMaterials/Wildfire-Workshop-Further-Information.pdf>

Questers donate to WMMI



Left: On May 11, the local Rocky Mountain Chautauqua Questers chapter presented a \$5,000 check to the Western Museum of Mining & Industry to be used for the windows restoration in the Reynolds House. This historic 1890s Victorian farmhouse is undergoing a major renovation project, funded in part by the Colorado State Historical Fund. The museum is responsible for 25 percent of the funding; the Questers donation is part of the

museum’s dollars for the work. Front row, from left: Cindi Ryan, Marlene McGrath, J.T., Phillis Bonser, and Rick Sauers. Back row, from left: Geri Becker, Andi Harris, Sara James, Millie Townes, Paula Johnson, and Cindy Deem. *Photo courtesy of WMMI.*

Gleneagle Sertoma Hearing Expo



Left: Gleneagle Sertoma partnered with the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Colorado Springs chapter, for the second year offering their Hear It Here Expo at Library 21C in Colorado Springs. It featured audiologists, hearing assistive device providers, and hands-on experience with equipment available for personal use. Sertoma and HLAA share the common goal of volunteer community service with an emphasis on hearing health. *Photo courtesy of Gleneagle Sertoma.*

Mother’s Day Purse Party

Right: Local senior ladies enjoyed a day out May 18 with a variety of games and prizes that rounded out the Mother’s Day Purse Party luncheon event. It created a fun opportunity to share laughs and surprise gifts in honor of moms and Mother’s Day. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*



WMMI hosts Machinery Days

On May 19 and 20, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) hosted the Pikes Peak Antique Machinery Days in collaboration with the Arkansas Valley Flywheelers, Front Range Antique Power Association, and Pikes



Peak Model A Ford Club. Visitors saw the operation of a variety of small to rather large machines powered by gas, diesel, and compressed air. A tractor pull (pictured above) along with the museum operating its Osgood steam shovel, H.K. Porter trammer, and Yellow Jacket Stamp Mill were the highlights of the event. Visitors could also tour the historic Reynolds Ranch House to learn about present and future renovations to the structure and its importance to local history. Information on upcoming events at the museum is at www.wmmi.org. *Photo by David Futey.*

Monument Revitalization

Right: Taking advantage of the unseasonably warm spring weather and inspired by the Downtown Monument Revitalization project, Marylee Reseig and John Howe created a colorful combination of columbine, geraniums, delphiniums, petunias and pansies to enhance the budding perennials they planted last year. Downtown Monument Revitalization is a collaboration of local representatives from the town, chamber, small and large businesses, and other participants to build a stronger community and improve economic development. Many events are planned this summer to bring more residents downtown. To learn more, go to www.facebook.com/DowntownMonument/. *Photo by Mike Wicklund.*



New Palmer Lake dock



Above: On May 28, Palmer Lake dedicated a new launch dock for paddleboards, canoes, and kayaks at the lake’s north end, convenient to the north parking lot, which boating visitors are requested to use. Boaters and floaters are required to have a life jacket for each person. The next day, Paddle for Parks held a “Whatever floats, not a boat” celebration, including auction items and a flotilla of paddleboards, kayaks, and amusing floaties, to commemorate the new dock and do fundraising for Town of Palmer Lake parks, which are undergoing major improvements. See <http://awakepalmerlake.org> for more information. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*