

## COUNTY (Cont. from 18)

### Variance of use at Gleneagle Square

At their Dec. 10 meeting, the commissioners approved a request for a variance of use to allow a vehicle rental business to operate from the former Loaf 'N Jug gas station premises at Gleneagle Square. The property is slightly northeast of the Struthers Road and Gleneagle Drive intersection. The request was made by Bucher Design Studio on behalf of the tenant, Nate Vaccari. The variance allows the applicant to have a maximum of five employees serving about 30 customers per day with a total of 10 rental vehicles stored on the property at any time. It also permits a private car wash bay on the property.

### I-25 Gap project

The commissioners approved two resolutions relating to the I-25 Gap project at their Dec. 5 meeting. They approved a resolution to appropriate expenditures in the amount of \$600 million from the General Fund's fund balance to the 2019 General Fund Budget for the project. They also approved a contract with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The contract's purpose is to establish their respective rights and obligations in respect to the administration of the INFRA grant, the design and management of the project, and the contribution of county funds to the project.

### Monument's Comprehensive Plan amendment

At the Dec. 17 meeting, the commissioners approved a resolution made by the Town of Monument's Planning Commission in November and approved by the town's Board of Trustees earlier in December. The

resolution updates the Annexation Plan/Growth Area map in the town's 2017 Comprehensive Plan to include land that is available for annexation. See <https://www.ocn.me/v19n12.htm#mpc>.

### County master plan update

At the Dec. 12 BOCC meeting, the commissioners received an update on the county master plan project from John Houseal of consultants Houseal Lavigne Associates and, specifically, the newly released "Existing Conditions Report." This is an extensive document that gives a snapshot in time of where the county is now. It can be found online at <https://elpaso.hlplanning.com/pages/documents>.

The consultants led a Master Plan visioning public workshop on Dec. 11. See photo of the El Paso County Master Plan Visionary Workshop, Dec. 11 on the right. The survey from that workshop can be filled out online through Jan. 7 at <https://elpaso-hlplanning.hub.arcgis.com/pages/questionnaires>.

### Other decisions

- Dec. 10—The commissioners approved the almost \$385 million budget for 2020 after Sherri Cassidy, the county's chief financial officer, walked them through the final version. The budget documents can be seen on the county website at <https://admin.elpasoco.com/financial-services/budget-finance/county-budget/>.
- Dec. 10—Approved the award of a contract and purchase order to Tree Beavers LLC for the Pineries Open Space Forest Thinning Project at a total cost not-to-exceed \$127,600. The Pineries Open Space is in Black Forest, northeast of the intersection of Vollmer and Shoup Roads.

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**Above:** At an El Paso County Master Plan Visionary Workshop on Dec. 11, attendees provided their input through their smartphones and were able to see their opinions on screen in the auditorium calculated immediately. Other concerned citizens on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/elpasocountyco](http://www.facebook.com/elpasocountyco)) who were not able to attend could be involved in the workshop through live polling. Subjects in the polls included infrastructure, water use, transportation, and other services needed for the high growth of the area. The consulting team that has been working with county planners is looking for insight from the public. To give your opinion, take the survey at [planningdevelopment.elpasoco.com](http://planningdevelopment.elpasoco.com) and click on "your el paso master plan." Photo by Marlene Brown.

## Woodmoor Improvement Association, Dec. 18

# Board updates reserve fund policy, approves renovation

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on Dec. 18 to wrap up the year with updates to the reserve policy, approval for renovation work, and plans for the annual meeting. Board member Tom Smith was absent.

### Update reserve policy

The board voted unanimously to update the reserve fund policy, which has not been updated since 2006. Since then much has changed in the way that WIA operates. The new policy will be posted on the website at [www.woodmoor.org](http://www.woodmoor.org).

### Renovation plans

With the Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) addition complete, the board unanimously approved renovating the old WPS offices as well as the conference room. The cost is not to exceed \$30,000 and will come

out of the reserve fund.

### Annual meeting

Homeowners' Association administrator Denise Cagliari announced that the annual meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 27 at the Barn. Sign in will start at 6:30 p.m. and light appetizers will be served. The annual meeting includes highlights for the past year, goals for the coming year and the election of new board members. Ballots should arrive in the mail soon.

The January board meeting will be moved to the fifth Wednesday on Jan. 29 at 7 p.m.

### Board highlights

- The board is working with Woodmoor Water and Sanitation to review the augmentation costs on the ponds, which were higher than expected.
- Tall grass violations are closed due to snow and

will be reviewed in the spring.

- WIA will investigate providing Wi-Fi access in the Barn.
- There are 47 unpaid annual dues for 2019, among the lowest seen in years, and payments are being pursued. Annual dues for 2020 will be sent soon.

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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 meeting has been moved to Jan. 29 due to the annual meeting.

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).

## December Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

December was drier and warmer than normal across the region, which provided a nice break after the previous two months of cool and snowy weather. For the year overall, we were wetter than normal, including well-above-normal snowfall, and temperatures were slightly warmer than normal. Some of the most memorable weather events of the year included a very snowy January, a historic March blizzard, a record late May snowfall, then a wild swing between a record warm September to a near record cold October. All these memorable events and variable weather are part of the wonderful aspects we get to enjoy here along the Front Range of the Rockies.

The year ended with a fairly uneventful month,

with temperatures above average and snowfall below average. The first week saw temperatures average 5-15 degrees above normal with generally dry conditions. The exception was the 5<sup>th</sup>, when a cold front brought some light snow during the morning and early afternoon. This barely amounted to enough to measure but at least provided a reminder that we are in winter. Temperatures peaked in the mid- to upper 50s on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup>, with overnight lows in the teens and 20s.

More normal temperatures returned for the middle of the month, but we remained generally dry with just a few days of low clouds and flurries. Finally, a taste of more winterlike conditions moved in late on the 14<sup>th</sup>, with snow developing during the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Highs stayed below freezing that afternoon as well, only reaching the mid- to upper 20s, with 2-4 inches of new snow accumulating. Clear skies and fresh snow cover that evening and the next morning allowed temperatures to plummet below zero in many locations. But the next warmup was not far away.

Dry air quickly returned behind this system as a strong ridge of high pressure built in from the west/southwest. Sunshine and dry conditions dominated from the 17<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>, with temperatures warming each day, reaching the upper 50s to low 60s from the 21<sup>st</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Gusty winds and mild air held temperatures above freezing even during the overnight hours on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. These temperatures were about 20 degrees warmer than normal, reaching near daily record-high territory in what is usually one of

our coldest times of the year.

The month ended with a return to winter conditions as the wind direction changed from west to south, then north starting the day after Christmas. This resulted in areas of low clouds and fog that evening and continuing into the next day. This produced a nice layer of rime ice on most exposed surfaces, giving everything a holiday feel. The final storm of the month then moved in on the late 27<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>, with light snow starting that evening and increasing quickly on the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup>.

This combined with a reinforcing shot of cold air to produce near-blizzard conditions at times during the afternoon and evening of the 28<sup>th</sup>. The storm produced 3-6 inches of wind-driven snow for most before leaving the region late on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Sunshine returned to end the month, but temperatures remained cool with the fresh snow and light winds as highs stayed below freezing on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, before reaching the mid- to upper 30s on New Year's Eve.

### A look ahead

January can see the coldest temperatures of the year, but there is often a proverbial "January thaw" where mild temperatures make brief appearances. Precipitation is on the low side, with amounts generally less than an inch. The month experiences numerous sunny and windy days, with quick shots of snow in between.

### December 2019 Weather Statistics

Average High	42.1° (+3.8°)
100-year return frequency value max	50.5° min 32.6°
Average Low	17.6° (+4.3°)

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