

However, the county Planning Commission did not mention the 12 letters of opposition. In Ottino's discussion with the county, he was told that the county does not enforce homeowners' association (HOA) regulations and that such disputes were civil issues and he should reach out to the HOA. The hearing on the special use permit is scheduled to go to the county commissioners on Nov. 1, Ottino said, asking that the HOA appear in person to object to this request.

Bush replied that he had signed a letter opposing this minor kennel request and that the board has authorized him to contact County Commissioner Holly Williams to call her attention to the matter. He said that HOA rules are not overridden by the county's decision. The board is aware of the situation and will send a notification to the dog owners reminding them of the rules and regulations to which they must comply, notwithstanding any county decision, he added. Bush added that WIA had pulled up all the records and had not found any complaints that had risen to the level of the board on which they could take action. Now that the board was aware, Bush said, it would act by enforcing the rules and regulations, levying fines, or placing a lien on the property if need be.

South Woodmoor Preserve improvement
Ottino also asked that the board not install parking at the

new South Woodmoor open space that he, along with 118 others, had preserved by purchasing part of the property and donating the rest to WIA. He wanted WIA to do weed control, maintenance, and mowing but asked that they discourage parking along Caribou and Cloverleaf. Bush replied that WIA made an agreement with WOSC LLC on what they would do with the preserve, which included improving one trail and installing four benches and a pet waste station. WIA has declined WOSC's request that it put up trail markers and name trails but has approved two visual displays with a dedication plaque naming the WOSC members who preserved the open space. Bush said WIA currently has no plans to install any parking at the South Woodmoor Preserve and was looking into placing boulders to discourage vehicle access. He added that the trail would look like every other WIA trail with road base on it that is maintained annually.

Board highlights

- Vice President Peter Bille reported that WIA is taking bids on managed information technology (IT) services and moving forward with its IT systems upgrade project.
- Treasurer Connie Brown said the 2023 WIA budget would be approved at the November meeting and then posted on the website.

- Bush commended Covenants and Forestry Administrator Justin Gates for his fantastic job interacting with WIA members.
- Public Safety Director Brad Gleason noted that winter is around the corner and asked residents to slow down while driving. He also reminded them that the county's Department of Public Services is responsible for plowing the streets in Woodmoor, not WIA. DPS can be reached at 719-520-6460, and more information can be found at <https://woodmoor.org/2019/02/snow-and-ice-control-plan/>.
- Gleason noted that across the state there has been an increase in auto thefts, but Woodmoor itself had only seen some stolen catalytic converters and bicycles.

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 will be on Nov. 16 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

Jackie Burhans can be contacted at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

October Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

October, like September, was warmer than average with below normal precipitation. There were two periods of active weather during the month, with quiet and mild conditions during the remainder of the month. The generally quiet conditions resulted in a long period of fall colors. This contrasted with the last few years when early freezes or snow ended the fall colors way too quickly.

The beginning of the month was relatively active, with several days of light rainfall and slightly above normal temperatures. The first day of the month saw our last vestige of late summer weather, with a few late afternoon thunderstorms developing as temperatures reached the upper 60s to low 70s. The afternoon and early evening rain showers produced a 10th to a quarter inch of precipitation around the region. High temperatures remained in the 60s from the 1st through the 6th with overnight lows staying above freezing. However, we saw our first frost of the season on the morning of the 6th as lows dipped into the low to mid-30s. Rain showers occurred on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th as well but only produced generally light rainfall, with less than a 10th of an inch each day.

A frontal passage moved through during the early hours of the 7th, bringing low clouds, fog, and drizzle, and cooler temperatures. Highs only reached the upper 40s and low 50s that afternoon. This cooler air mass along with clearing skies the next morning produced our first widespread freezing temperatures of the season. Temperatures just touched freezing in many locations for only a short period, meaning that the growing season wasn't quite over.

Mild and dry conditions then took control for the next couple of weeks, with no precipitation occurring from the 8th through the 22nd. During this period, high tempera-

tures were in the 60s to low 70s most days. However, the dry and mainly clear skies also allowed overnight lows to get chilly. Most nights saw temperatures dip into 20s and low 30s starting on the 12th, effectively ending our growing season.

A period of active weather began to affect the region on the 21st as a series of low-pressure systems began to move onshore in the Pacific Northwest. The first of these storms moved through from the Northwest, bringing a shot of snow to the mountains and a quick shot of moisture for us. This produced some graupel and sprinkles during the afternoon of the 23rd. Then, as the back portion of the system moved out of the region, a quick shot of upslope weather produced the first accumulating snow of the season for many of us. This produced a dusting of around 2 inches, with the highest amounts around Palmer Lake.

Unsettled conditions behind this first system allowed cooler weather to stick around with a few sprinkles and flurries each day along with partly cloudy to cloudy skies. The strongest of the systems moved through at the end of this period as a compact area of low pressure slid down the west side of the Rockies out of the Pacific Northwest, toward the Four Corners and out across central New Mexico. This powerful and quick-moving storm brought widespread snow to the region starting during the morning hours of the 27th. As the last portion of the storm moved through, areas of convective snow developed during the early afternoon. This produced heavy snowfall for about two hours with mostly sunny skies returning by late that afternoon. This storm put down 2-8 inches of snowfall and a very beneficial half inch of moisture. In addition, the mountains picked up more early season snowfall helping to get us off to a good start in the high country.

Behind this storm, quiet and seasonal conditions returned with temperatures in the 50s for the last few days of the month. Each night was chilly as well, with lows generally in the 20s. However, the sunshine and light winds made for a very pleasant end to the month.

A look ahead

November is generally dry and cool around the region. We usually get several light snowfalls interspersed with sunny skies. Gusty winds commonly develop on a couple of days as the jet stream becomes more active and more directly affects Colorado. High temperatures average in the upper 40s early in the month to low 40s by the end with overnight lows often dipping into the teens and single digits.

October 2022 Weather Statistics

Average High	61.3° (+1.8°)
100-year return frequency value	max 67.7° min 50.7°
Average Low	32.4° (+3.1°)
100-year return frequency value	max 36.8° min 26.4°
Monthly Precipitation	0.90" (-0.83")
100-year return frequency value	max 4.63" min 0.18"
Monthly Snowfall	6.2" (-4.8")
Highest Temperature	72° on the 11th, 14th, 20th
Lowest Temperature	18° on the 24th, 28th
Season to Date Snow	6.2" (-5.2")
	(the snow season, Oct 1 to Sept 30)
Season to Date Precip.	13.91" (-8.58")
	(the precipitation season, Jan 1 to Dec 31)
Heating Degree Days	562
Cooling Degree Days	0

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. The letters are arranged in alphabetical order by author's last name.

It's our future, residents

This month, the Palmer Lake Board of Trustees is asking the residents of Palmer Lake to consider the sale of retail marijuana. On what basis should we, the residents, decide this issue; a prospective increase in town revenue or the negative effects marijuana may bring to the town?

The Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) program has published annual reports every year since 2013 tracking the impact of legalizing recreational marijuana in Colorado. The purpose is to provide data and information so that policymakers and citizens can make informed decisions on the issue of marijuana legalization. What they found should scare every resident of Palmer Lake. Here are some of their findings:

- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths in which drivers tested positive for marijuana increased 125 percent while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 24 percent.
- Past month marijuana use for ages 12 and older is 78 percent higher than the national average, currently ranked third in the nation.
- Adult marijuana use is 73 percent higher than the national average, currently ranked third in the nation.
- The yearly number of marijuana-related hospitalizations increased 101 percent after the legalization of recreational marijuana (2013 compared to 2017).
- 67% of local jurisdictions in Colorado have banned medical and recreational marijuana businesses.

Is approving retail marijuana the only solution to Palmer Lake's financial challenges? Or are there other motivations to bring a variety of problems to Palmer Lake? Every voting

citizen of Palmer Lake needs to carefully decide our future. Shall we keep the town we have and face our financial challenges another way? Or should we let Palmer Lake go to pot?
Chris Amenson

The need is now, the time is now

Twenty-three years—almost a quarter of a century! That is how long it has been since the Lewis-Palmer School District community voted for a mill levy override to support the teachers, staff, and educational programs in this district's schools. In 1999, our community decisively passed an MLO that was not a "slush fund" but a legitimate way to continue the pursuit of excellence for which we are known. Voters now have an opportunity to, once again, pass an MLO to directly support our teachers and non-administrative staff salaries. District 38 teachers and support staff should be treated like the professionals they are. This community can actually control the outcome of this election and its direct impact on the Tri-Lakes area. The need is now, the time is now. Vote yes on 4A. Let us not wait another 23 years to support the professionals who work in our classrooms every day.

Dwight "Ted" Bauman
Retired Superintendent of Schools,
Lewis-Palmer School District 38

D38 MLO

To the anti-tax crowd in School District 38: Enjoying your latest signs. One screams "No more waste." Interesting how those who complain about schools wasting money never seem to be able to provide any concrete evidence of actual waste. First of all, money spent on children is never a waste. It's an investment. Please don't talk to me about "family values" if you aren't going to support the education of young people. Ever since I was in junior high school, which was long ago, I've heard people say, "I don't have kids in school anymore so why should I support the schools?" Well, because, ladies and gentlemen, someone paid for your educa-

tion long ago. That's a gift we should never stop repaying.

As an added insult you have posted your signs near schools so you can show the kids and their teachers just how little you care about them.

One sign carries the words "slush fund." Seriously? Again, sensational, hyperbolic verbiage with no proof to back it up.

The same sign also reads "No one likes sequels." That is true and many of us are tired of listening to well-off, privileged people whining about fulfilling their obligations.

Look folks, if you don't want to support the community you reside in then just move somewhere else.

It's that simple.

Bill Beagle

Get the facts straight

Issue 4A supports pay and retention for teachers and support staff at D38 and MA. Reading the county voter pamphlet, errors are quickly identified in the "against" summary. False: D38 has lost 400 students. Fact: This is disinformation. D38 went from 6,895 (2018-19) to 6,637 (2021-22), a loss of 258. Cohort class data shows growth as classes progress through the schools (grades 1-8 from 2017-18 to grades 5-12 in 2021-22). In '19-20, the district had 407 teachers. D38 has 387 teachers now—a loss of 20 positions. Assuming a class of 20, this is a 400 student "loss." D38 actually cut more positions than what corresponded to the student loss of 258. False: "Most" new teachers renewed contracts after 2021-22. Fact: One needs to look at three years to indicate a trend. D38 staff are 10% below market. The statement ignores the decrease of applicants and acceptances due to low salaries. D38 had a 26% turnover rate at the start of this year. Why is it acceptable that this is average? False: A home with an assessed value of \$100K would pay an additional \$745/year. Fact: The author counts on residents not knowing the difference between property assessed value (which doesn't always increase, e.g., 2008-11) and assessed market value. A home with an assessed property value of \$500,000