

WIA (Cont. from page 1)

share a lobby.

The board approved the proposal to construct the healthcare village with an administrative fee of \$672, a refundable compliance fee of \$15,000, and a legal recording fee not to exceed \$500.

Pending approval by the Town of Monument, construction could begin in early 2014.

Homeowners question rules

Homeowners Association manager Matt Beseau re-

ported that many members of the WIA sent emails in response to last month's invitation to express opinions about the association's rules and regulations, particularly those limiting the number of vehicles allowed in a driveway and the storage of utility trailers in driveways and other areas of lots.

Several community members came to the meeting to express their opinions.

One said that because she has several children with their own vehicles

and frequent visitors from out of town, she had attempted to obey the limits by having visitors park in public lots nearby and shuttle them to her house. She said that she had been reported to the association twice by neighbors and is considering selling her house to avoid further aggravation.

Board President Jim Hale said that she should call the office and explain her circumstances. Then if neighbors complain they can be told that the association is aware of the

situation.

Two homeowners commented that they own utility trailers that are kept on their property out of sight of the street. They said that their neighbors have often made use of the trailers to move slash and other materials from their property. The trailers are in good repair. Both said that they would be willing to pay a small fee to keep the trailers.

Hale said that perhaps there would be a way to construct a storage shed for the trailers to conceal them from sight. He commended the speakers for

helping their neighbors.

Another homeowner said that she objected to commercial vans parked in her neighborhood. Hale responded that commercial vehicles are prohibited overnight, although they must often be parked during the day while services are being performed.

Former board Treasurer Nick Oakley objected to any loosening of rules, because many people choose to live in Woodmoor because of its covenants. He said that the lack of fences lends a spacious atmosphere to the community and people ap-

preciate the lack of clutter of vehicles in driveways.

Hale responded that the rule limiting the number of vehicles on a property is a rule rather than a covenant. He also observed that lifestyles have changed significantly since the founding of Woodmoor in the 1970s, with more intergenerational households requiring vehicles to get to work and school.

Hale said that he feels that the conversation about rules will continue.

Vandalism, mail theft reported

Public Safety Director Per Suhr reported that there had been reports of vandalism and mail theft in north Woodmoor. The postal inspector is investigating, and it is suspected that kids were going through mail hoping to find checks. Two benches on common area property were destroyed.

Forestry Director Eric Gross reported that work continues to rid the common areas of scrub oak. The board passed the appropriation of an additional \$1,880 to complete the work.

The association remains 6.1 percent under budget in expenditures.



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

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As a concerned citizen living in Monument, it troubles me to read about and listen to all the misinformed people discuss the 3A Ballot Initiative.

First, there is no huge reserve fund everyone believes exists, and it's not a 20 percent property tax hike, like everyone thinks. This information is coming from a few people who have no stake in the district or community and just want to get even with the district for some reason. One of the biggest opponents claims to be a retired eight year teacher of D-38, when in fact that person was actually a substitute teacher for D-38 for six years and his contract was not renewed after two years as a full-time teacher. This guy doesn't even live in El Paso County.

We moved here eight years ago because of the region and strong D-38 school system. I commute to Denver every day, and could have purchased a home near there, but stayed because of the schools. Since then, I've noticed things happening in the school district that concern me. We have underpaid teachers, larger classroom sizes, and everything is on a shoestring budget. I've seen quite a few people with kids flee to D-20 and Pine Creek where they have the community support and I expect to see more.

CONSIDER THE FACTS:

1. The actual property tax increase is between 9 and 14 percent. The 20 percent tax hike is based on the SCHOOL portion only. That equates to \$8.00 per \$100,000 of assessed, not actual value per month. So, if your home is assessed at \$300,000 your taxes go up \$24 per month.
2. The property taxes you pay in El Paso county are some of the lowest in the nation, and about 50 percent of what others pay with a school system like this.
3. Every dollar you pay for 3A stays local for our kids and our community.
4. D-38 teachers have only had one pay raise in the last four years due to lack of state funding.
5. D-38 teachers are below the average teacher salaries within this area.
6. District 38 does not have large reserves. D-12 Cheyenne Mountain has \$13 million in reserves! There are sixteen school districts about the same size as D-38. The amount of D-38's reserves are right in the middle of these sixteen districts, at number eight.
7. The problem is D-38 has a funding issue because it doesn't get enough state funding per child. It's not a savings issue!!
8. D-20's community passed an MLO about five years ago, and are getting approximately eight mills more than D-38.
9. This MLO would put D-38 on an even playing field with D-20.

The problem: Everyone here in D-38 expects a high level of education excellence no matter what happens. That is not sustainable and is beginning to deteriorate at current state funding levels.

If you want to see your property values increase? Vote YES.

If you want your property value to decrease. Vote NO.

If you want to see businesses thrive. Vote YES.

If you want business to go elsewhere. Vote NO.

Don't be short-sighted on the actual issues.