

Pfaff commented that this action also frees future boards of pre-existing commitments.

Assessment update

Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton reported on the status of assessment in the district. She enumerated the tests being administered and the fact that the district scores exceed the state average by 20 percent in most areas. The district retains its accreditation with distinction and exceeds the required participation.

Benton pointed out a few areas of weakness, such as reading at the seventh-grade level and reading and writing at the sixth-grade level.

Success stories included improvement in writing at the seventh-grade level due to emphasis on writing across all subject areas.

The district had its highest ever overall score last year, 87.9 percent, due in part to continued gradual improvement among those who are behind in various areas, notably those with disabilities, English language learners, and those on free/reduced-cost lunch. The district also improved its overall performance in academic achieve-

ment, postsecondary and workforce readiness, and academic growth and growth gaps.

Benton said that she hoped to receive the scores from last spring's science and social studies tests in early September.

Because Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) testing was ended at the end of the last school year, it will be more difficult to measure growth, she said.

During the course of the meeting, the board went into executive session on two occasions, once to consult with an attorney and once to discuss matters of personnel and the superintendent's evaluation process.

Two members of the public made comments at the meeting. One requested that the district hire additional counselors for gifted students. The other spoke against the use of the Common Core model of teaching.

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer D-38 usually meets on the third Thursday of each month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St. in Monument.

Due to a schedule conflict, the September meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Aug. 27

Humane Society's dog complaint process explained

By Harriet Halbig

Sgt. Ken Gingrich of the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region addressed the board of the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) at its Aug. 27 meeting. The association is reviewing its rules and regulations, and barking dogs are a frequent complaint.

Gingrich said Humane Society regulations require that a complainant know the address of the barking dog. When a complaint is filed, a letter is delivered to the address of the dog. The complaint includes the first name of the complainant. The dog owner is then given three days to solve the problem. If the dog continues to behave for 60 days, the complaint is removed from the owner's record. If there is a recurrence, the owner may be ticketed and fined.

Gingrich also stressed that a complainant should notice whether something is provoking the dog to bark, such as a passing deer or another dog. While Humane Society personnel would not normally come to Woodmoor for minor infractions, they would come in the case of a dog bite that breaks the skin, because that may require quarantine of the animal.

After a brief discussion, the board concluded that WIA rules were probably sufficient. Homeowners are encouraged to speak to the owner of a dog that barks or trespasses.

Gingrich and Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) Chief Kevin Nielsen said that Woodmoor abides by the state leash law, requiring dogs to be leashed on public property.

In a related matter, Nielsen said that dogs found roaming within Woodmoor are taken to the Woodmoor Veterinary Clinic, because the WPS has no facilities for housing animals.

Fire mitigation efforts continue

Forestry Director Eric Gross reported that homeowners are continuing to aggressively cut back scrub oaks and other flammable materials on their properties and that the slash day in mid-August was a great success.

Gross said that, despite this year's rains, homeowners should know that trees will not recover quickly from several years of drought. He said that several trees on common property have died and been removed, primarily along the median of Fairplay.

He also reported that applications for fuel mitigation grants are no longer being accepted.

Gross requested that the board ap-

prove the use of \$1,000 to cut back new growth of scrub oak on the uphill portion of Toboggan Hill. This growth was due to the rains. The board



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