

path, but was not sure if there was an easement. She felt that it would be an excellent use of the space to create a walkway so people would not have to walk along the roadways. People could walk or bike on the trail, and it would fit in with the Tri-Lakes Master Plan of 2003.

Wood noted that trail and greenway use improves health, reduces traffic and parking, promotes an active community lifestyle, increases social interaction, and promotes mobility for youths and seniors. She also noted that there is a large hill that goes down to the library from the dam that people could use as a stair challenge similar to Castle Rock or to the Incline in Manitou.

Jennifer Cunningham, secretary/director of Community Outreach, asked what TLLUC would be willing to invest in terms of time, investigating easements, etc. Wood indicated a willingness to help, saying she was just forming the subcommittee that would be inventorying trail and park and is just beginning to research the issue. Her goal is to research what we have and figure out how to connect it. Stensland indicated that she should talk to Bob Pearsall, the common areas administrator, to help with the inventory. An audience member suggested looking into the National Safe Routes to School program for possible grants to help make trails for kids to walk to school.

Owners appeal for Firewise fencing

Residents Mike and Lynn Welch appealed a decision by the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) that denied their request for dog kennel fencing using power-coated steel. They pointed out the current prohibition in the Project Design Standards Manual (PDSM) of non-flammable fencing contradicts recommendations by the Fire Department,

the wildfire action plan on the WIA site, and guidelines found on the Firewise.org website in the Firewise Guide to Landscape and Construction brochure.

The Welch family argues that their lot has topography similar to Black Forest where the fire started and is in WIA's most severe fire risk area. They also note that their neighbors' lots have heavy fuel loads and that the fence would adjoin their house where there is a low roof soffit. Further they note that the current PDSM (<http://bit.ly/wia-pdsm>) on page 19 section I, E states "It is strongly recommended to refer to the WIA's library of Firewise and defensible space literature when developing site plans, landscaping plans and building designs, and when selecting materials for construction on Woodmoor lots" and refers to Appendix H of the same document regarding Firewise construction and defensible space. Appendix H refers to notes that the brochure "Preparing a Wildfire Action Plan" is available at the WIA office or may be downloaded from the WIA website (<http://bit.ly/wildfire-action>).

The board indicated they would respond in seven to 10 days.

Board report highlights

- The Toboggan Hill parking survey got a 20 percent response rate. Seventy-seven percent of the respondents said something needs to be done to alleviate parking and agreed to expanding the parking lot. The board unanimously approved moving on to the planning phase of this project.
- Residents who did not receive a survey are encouraged to update their contact information online.
- There is a Community Events page on the Woodmoor

website under the About section.

- Credit card skimmers are becoming a huge issue in El Paso County and Colorado Springs at gas stations and ATMs. Residents are advised to look for tampering, scratches, bad fit, and excessive movement of credit card readers and to pay inside if they have concerns.
- There have been six reports of bear sightings recently.
- New Architectural Control Committee member Michael Erlich was unanimously approved by the board.
- The board unanimously approved a motion to use \$6,500 of reserve study funds to update the sprinkler system at The Barn. This fund had originally budgeted \$26,000 for sprinkler maintenance.
- A new rental policy for The Barn and the new pavilion were unanimously approved. Non-resident fees will increase from \$37.50 to \$50 per hour. Residents will be able to use these amenities at no charge for up to four hours over a six-month period and will then pay a discounted rate.

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 June 22. The WIA calendar can be found at: <https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/>. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at: <https://www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/> once approved and posted.

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

Crime prevention discussed at NEPCO meeting

By Larry Oliver, NEPCO president

Sgt. Mitch Mihalko and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Merody Broom, both from the Community Relations and Outreach Unit of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPSO), gave crime prevention presentations to homeowners association (HOA) representatives May 14 at the Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO) General Membership meeting.

Mihalko spoke about some recent crimes that occurred around Northern El Paso County. These included:

- Monument PD has identified a juvenile that had been "keying" cars at the YMCA and Kohl's parking lots. EPSO has not had any "reported" cases.
- Mail thefts have occurred in Woodmoor (several suspects were identified), the Black Forest area (Timber Lane, Falcon Drive, and Shoup and Hungate Roads), and community mailbox prisms/thefts in Flying Horse just west of Highway 83.
- Fraud cases are being reported countywide. Electronic devices called skimmers are capturing debit/credit card information, having been placed on gas pumps and ATMs. Skimmers capture your debit/credit card information.
- Houses under construction make easy targets for thefts of construction tools, new appliances, etc.

Consider game cameras as an option for homeowners/builders.

- A menacing case occurred on May 5 on Struthers/Gleneagle. EPSO is trying to ID a gray Mazda SUV with no tags occupied by a white male in his 30s with blonde or reddish hair and a beard.
- Other sporadic burglaries have been reported in the northern part of the county. Residents should always lock doors and windows, and close garage doors.

Broom presented information on the Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch Program, explaining that Neighborhood Watch is a group of neighbors willing to communicate with each other and pass along information. She further noted:

- Members all live in the same area or neighborhood.
- The group watches for and reports suspicious activity to law enforcement.
- The members meet regularly with each other.
- Members are educated by law enforcement on crime prevention and safety strategies.
- Neighborhood Watch groups build positive community partnerships with law enforcement, between neighbors, and with other public and private organizations.
- Participants learn to use crime prevention strategies

in their neighborhoods and how to recognize suspicious behavior.

- Communication flows freely between neighbors and from residents to law enforcement.

The program listed Citizen Resources from the Sheriff's Office, and a warning to always remember to report criminal activity of suspicious behavior promptly. These include:

- For Emergencies dial 9-1-1
- twitter.com/EPCSheriff
- facebook.com/EPCSheriffsOffice
- youtube.com/EPCSheriff
- Nextdoor: Social Networking for Neighborhoods
- El Paso County Sheriff's Office Dispatch (non-emergency crime reporting): 399-5555
- EPSO Telephone Reporting System (for minor crimes without suspect information): 520-7111
- EPSO Traffic Hotline (for reporting problem areas or traffic violations): 520-7192
- EPSO Tipline (for reporting suspicious activity or the location of wanted persons): 520-7777

If your HOA or business is interested in NEPCO membership, go to www.NEPCO.org and click on the "Join NEPCO" link at the top of the homepage.

May Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

Overall, May was cooler than normal, with precipitation right about average. This, of course, was in contrast to last year when we had the wettest May on record around the region. As normal in May, we experienced periods of winter weather along with summer weather all within a couple of days of each other.

The storm that brought snow and cold to the end of April continued to affect the region on the 1st, with lingering snow and blowing snow in the morning. Cold air stuck around that day, with high temperatures only reaching the freezing mark, about 30° colder than normal. The next day was a transition day, with colder than normal conditions sticking around, but plenty of sunshine returning. With the strong sun angle of May, the snow started to melt quickly as well.

Temperatures reached about normal levels on the 3rd, with upper 50s and low 60s and plenty of sunshine, with the warm-up continuing over the next few days. Highs reached the 70s from the 4th through the 6th, actually getting to slightly above average levels. Also, the first signs of our transition to a more summer pattern kicked in, as quiet mornings gave way to cloudy afternoon and scattered showers and thunderstorms. This, of course, is a pat-

tern that will be repeated on most days from June through August.

The second week of May saw more normal conditions, with highs ranging from the low 50s to the mid-60s from the 7th through the 11th. Scattered thunderstorms with brief heavy rain and small hail developed during the afternoon of the 7th, with a few similar storms on the 10th and 11th. Warmer and dry conditions moved in late in the week, with highs hitting the upper 60s to mid-70s on the 12th and 13th. Unsettled conditions returned to end the weekend, with a moist, upslope flow moving low clouds and fog into the region by the morning of the 14th.

We had a bit of winter and summer during the week of the 16th around the region. The week started off cold and wet, with wet snow at times on the 16th and 17th. Areas above 7,000 feet accumulated between a trace and a half inch each day, with rain and thunder mixed in a times. Highs only reached to low to mid-40s each day, with overnight lows touching the freezing mark. There were thick low clouds and fog in the area as well, making for a cold, wet start to the week. As this storm departed, a warming trend kicked in. Highs reached the mid- to upper 50s on the 18th, then low 60s on the 19th. Enough residual moisture stuck around each of those days to produce after-

noon clouds and a few thunderstorms. Warm, dry air then moved in Friday through Sunday. Highs jumped back to normal and slightly above normal levels each day, reaching the mid- to upper 70s. The drier air also meant sunny mornings and just a few afternoon clouds. The warm, dry weather gave us our first feel of summer weather and after all the moisture this winter and spring, helped to really get the growing season off to a nice start.

The third week of May had a quiet and seasonal start, with temperatures in the upper 60s to low 70s from the 23rd through the 25th. Mornings were quiet, with afternoon clouds building. There were a few rumbles of thunder on the 25th as well. This was a signal the pattern was changing, as a series of disturbances moved out of the Southwest and over Colorado during the next few days. Thunderstorms with rain and hail developed the next two days, with well over an inch of precipitation accumulating. As the area of low pressure wound up over eastern Colorado, winds also picked up. Cold air filled in on the 27th, allowing a few flakes to mix in early that morning as the heavy rain fell. High temperatures were also held down below normal, only reaching the low 50s on the 27th.

The storm departed just in time for Memorial Day weekend, with temperatures rebounding to the 60s on