

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Oct. 26

Mark Smith retires after 20 years with Woodmoor Public Safety

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board, which met on Oct. 26, celebrated the retirement of Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) officer Mark Smith. Smith joined WPS in 1996 and retired from the Army after 20 years of service.

Smith worked in private security in Colorado Springs and, after joining WPS, attended and graduated from the Pikes Peak Regional Law Enforcement Academy with honors. WPS chief Kevin Nielsen noted that Smith spent his entire 20 years working a graveyard shift and once called the Sheriff's office to report a suspicious minivan that turned out to be related to 54 burglaries in the area. WIA President Eric Stensland noted that Smith is the first officer to retire from WPS, and his tenure represents an impressive accomplishment.

In other reports, the board also noted they have board elections coming up with three open positions. The board

encouraged residents to come to the Architectural Control Committee for guidance before they start projects to avoid spending a lot of money having to redo work.

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 holidays. 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 contacted at jackieburhans@ocn.me

Right: Mark Smith, left, retiring WPS officer, is presented with a plaque by WPS chief Kevin Nielsen. *Photo by Jackie Burhans*



October Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

October followed the same general pattern as September, with temperatures well above normal and precipitation below normal. Normally, we have several nights with low temperatures in the teens and at least a few days of accumulating snowfall. Not this year. Low to mid-20s was the best we could do for cold air, and only a few days of snowflakes, which didn't accumulate. Instead, most days were mild and dry, with many days reaching well into the 70s.

It's interesting to note that this is also the same pattern we saw last year, when September and October 2015 were much drier and warmer than normal. Of course, we made up for it in a hurry last year, with a big snowstorm during the middle of November and well above normal seasonal snowfall overall. It's important to remember because of our location (high elevation, interior of the continent, etc.), we are rarely blessed with "normal" conditions. We are most often at one extreme or another (hot cold, warm dry). So enjoy the dry and mild weather while it lasts, because it won't last much longer.

The first three days of October were mild with low 70s from the 1st through the 3rd. A change in the pattern moved in from the 4th through the 7th, as temperatures dipped below normal each day. Highs were in the upper 50s to low 60s on the 5th, then upper 40s on the 6th. As the main trough moved over the area right around sunrise on the 6th, we saw our first snow of the season, with most areas on top of the Palmer Divide picking up a trace to half inch. Of course, this all melted quickly, but the day remained cool and breezy. Temperatures warmed back to normal levels over the next few days with lots of sunshine through the weekend. Also, the cooler air mass and clear skies allowed overnight temperatures to consistently fall below freezing, reaching into the mid-20s from the 5th through the 8th.

For the remainder of the month we received no measurable precipitation—very unusual for October. With the exception of four days between Oct. 9th and the 31st, ev-

ery day was above normal, with some days near record-high territory.

Highs reached into the upper 60s to low 70s from the 9th through the 12th. A weak surge of cooler air and upslope flow made a brief intrusion on the region during the overnight hours of the 11th, leaving behind low clouds, fog, and drizzle all day on the 12th. This also dropped high temperatures by about 30°F between the two days. But this intrusion of cool air was very short-lived, as we quickly jumped back in the 70s over the next few days. In fact, we hit upper 70s from the 14th through the 16th, nearly 20°F warmer than normal for mid October. Overnight lows were mild as well, as a blanket of high clouds and breezy conditions held low temperatures well into the 40s.

Our next brief intrusion of cooler air came on the 18th. Highs were held to about normal levels, in the low to mid-50s. But of course this felt much cooler because we have previously been so warm. Overnight lows were also chilly, bottoming out in the upper teens during the morning hours of the 20th.

However, this was the last cool air we saw during the month, as highs consistently reached the 60s and 70s all the way through Halloween. There were plenty of high and mid-level clouds moving through at times, and gusty winds as well, but the only precipitation we saw from the 13th through the 31st was a brief rain shower during the early evening of the 25th. Given how cold and snowy it can often be around Halloween, I'm sure most trick-or-treaters were happy to have the mild and dry conditions.

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. Our first sub-zero morning low temperatures occur during the month as well. 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 2016 Weather Statistics

Average High	66.8° (+7.3°)
100-year return frequency value max	67.7° min 50.7°
Average Low	34.9° (+5.1°)
100-year return frequency value max	36.8° min 26.4°
Monthly Precipitation	0.11" (-1.62")
100-year return frequency value max	4.63" min 0.18"
Monthly Snowfall	0.2" (-10.8")
Highest Temperature	78° on the 15th, 16th
Lowest Temperature	19° on the 20th
Season to Date Snow	0.2" (-11.2")
<i>(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)</i>	
Season to Date Precip.	5.63" (-4.17")
<i>(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)</i>	
Heating Degree Days	438 (-140)
Cooling Degree Days	0 (0)

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.

Annual Holiday Craft Fair

Sat., Nov. 12, 9 am - 3 pm



Come shop the works of a variety of crafters and home-based businesses! Breakfast and lunch concessions will be available.



Family of Christ Lutheran Church 675 Baptist Road
Info: (408) 393-9610 or beverly4461@me.com

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 27.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

Please vote no on 301

The historic "Pogo" comic strip had a famous line: "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

For Palmer Lake, this seems to be more real than ever as the town goes for its third vote in the past three years concerning the legalization of the retail sale of marijuana.

Some folks believe that the town needs the tax money, indicated by the proponents to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Maybe it could bring in some money. But we have to ask: Is the capability to raise funds the only criteria for this decision? What other factors might we also consider?

How about Palmer Lake breaking federal law, as retail marijuana sales remain illegal according to the Controlled Substances Act of 1970? The classification was reviewed in 2016 at the request of pro-marijuana folks and the U.S.

Drug Enforcement Administration decided to keep marijuana classified as a Schedule 1 substance, along with heroin and LSD.

How about marijuana being a pathway drug for one-sixth of the users, who unfortunately end up on much more harmful substances? Do we want to expose our citizens to this for some quick cash?

How about the crime which can come with marijuana as harder drug dealers see Palmer Lake as a feeding ground and seek to convert users to more expensive substances? Is our Police Department ready and equipped for this? Are we?

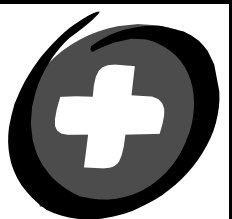
There are many more "How about...?" questions to be asked and answered. Some very useful information can be examined on the website www.CALMPalmerLake.org. Take a look.

Let's not become our own enemy. Let's just keep retail sales of marijuana out of Palmer Lake.

Please vote no on 301. Thank you.

Chris Amenson

Heartsaver CPR/First Aid Class



Sat., Nov. 19, 8 am-4 pm

Open to everyone; includes CPR/AED for infant, child, and adult; conscious choking; and first aid.

Limited to 24 students. To reserve a spot, send a personal check for \$25 (required in advance) to Carley Lehman, 17630 Woodhaven Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80908. Deadline to receive payment is Mon., Nov. 14. Please include an e-mail address or phone number for confirmation. There will be a 30-minute lunch break. Please bring your own food, as this location is not close to any restaurants. Practicing of skills is required, so please wear comfortable clothes. See <http://tlumc.org> for directions to Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church, 20256 Hunting Downs Way (SW of Highway 83 and County Line Road).

Questions: Call Carley Lehman at (719) 502-3242.