

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Dec. 14

Board hears Toboggan Hill concerns, plans annual meeting

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on Dec. 14 to hear owner concerns about Toboggan Hill and its new parking lot, to discuss the upcoming annual meeting and elections, and to finalize the 2017 budget.

Toboggan Hill concerns

Resident Janet Sellers spoke during the owner's comments section to express concern about the parking lot work being done for Toboggan Hill. The back of Sellers' property overlooks the popular sledding area off Deer Creek Road. Sellers raised concerns about the cutting down Indian sacred trees, unstable soil under the parking lot, lack of compliance with no-parking signs, and the impact of people from outside the neighborhood. She also noted that people use the hill at night and disturb the peace.

Board member Rich Wretschko noted that the plan is to replace any trees that are removed and said that the parking lot is stable and being designed so that runoff is better controlled. The board's concern is community safety with the current situation making it difficult for emergency vehicles to pass. President Erik Stensland

noted that there was community outreach to survey impacted homeowners. This was sent out via email, noted on the website and Facebook, and mentioned in the local paper. Each property owner adjacent to the hill was sent a postcard. Woodmoor Public Safety Chief Kevin Nielsen noted that a local news channel and online web sites mention Toboggan Hill as a great sledding hill. WIA is not able to prevent people from outside the area coming to use public spaces, he said.

Annual meeting

The annual meeting will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 30 at Lewis-Palmer Middle School, 1776 Woodmoor Drive. There will be food and door prizes—you must be present to win. Elections will be held via mail-in ballot and during the annual meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Board report highlights

- The board unanimously approved the 2017 budget, which will be posted on the website at <https://www.woodmoor.org/budget-statements/>.
- Fire hazard levels continue to be high; the board asks that residents not burn pine needles or garbage in their yards and be careful about disposing of

coals from any fire pits.

- There have been a number of reports of packages stolen from porches in Woodmoor Park.
- Home surveillance company Ring offers a \$25 discount for Monument residents available till Jan. 31 using the code 3monument (all lower case.) Product information is available at www.ring.com.
- Residents are reminded to check the ID of anyone who claims to be from a local utility such as water, phone, or cable—or anyone who shows up on your property unexpectedly. Call the utility or Woodmoor Public Safety to verify identity.

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 Jan. 25. 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.

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December Weather Wrap



Above: After a sunny Christmas Eve in the upper 40s, the Tri-Lakes area awoke to a winter wonderland on Christmas Day after snow fell overnight. This made for picturesque sights around the area, including the gazebo at Fox Run Regional Park. Photo by David Futey.

By Bill Kappel

Temperatures were almost exactly normal during December, but it was drier than normal once again, with about half as much snowfall as normal. We did see a wide range of temperatures, bouncing from well below zero to the low 60s.

December started off a little cooler than normal, with some light snow on the 2nd. Highs held below freezing that afternoon as well. Temperatures warmed to normal levels over the next couple of days, with highs reaching the upper 30s to mid-40s. Winds kicked up as well ahead of a strong surge of Arctic air. This rushed in around 6 p.m. on the 5th with temperatures dropping from the 40s to the single digits by midnight. Cold air continued to filter into the region over the next couple of days, with light snow as well.

Highs only reached the low 20s on the 6th, then only the upper single digits to low teens on the 7th and 8th. Low temperatures dipped below zero as well each morning. During the period, 2 to 4 inches of powdery snow accumulated. This cold air mass was pushed to the east by gusty westerly winds starting on the 9th. This allowed temperatures to quickly jump to above-normal levels over the next few days, reaching the upper 40s to upper 50s.

The second week of December started off normal enough with high temperatures a little above average on the 12th, reaching into the 40s. Cooler air worked in

over the next few days, with highs holding in the 30s on the 13th and 14th, slightly below normal for mid-December. Then, as often happens in our region, winds kicked up out of the west/southwest over the next two days ahead of a strong storm system. These westerly winds produce downslope (descending air) off the Rocky Mountains to the west. As air descends it warms and dries. This of course left us with temperatures well above average on the 15th and 16th, with highs hitting the 50s to low 60s.

But a big change was on the way as Arctic air was moving down the Plains states to our north and just waiting for the storm system to kick out of the region and allow the winds to turn from the west to the north. This happened quickly during

the evening of the 16th as the Arctic front moved in. Temperatures dropped 30 to 40 degrees in a few hours, hitting the single digits above and below zero by midnight. Cold air continued to filter in at the same time the atmosphere began to moisten up. The extremely cold air was very efficient at squeezing out any moisture available, with 3 to 6 inches of fluffy snow accumulating from late that evening through early the next afternoon.

Cold air held a tight grip on the region on the 17th, with daytime highs barely breaking zero degrees. Lots of sunshine returned that afternoon and into Sunday the 18th, but temperatures only managed to warm into the mid-20s to end the weekend.

The week of Christmas started quiet and seasonably cool but ended with snow and wind just in time for Christmas Day. Temperatures started off the week of the 19th on the cool side, as some fresh snow and clear skies allowed morning temperatures to drop well into the single digits. However, plenty of sunshine and gusty winds warmed things up quickly on the 20th. Highs reached the low 50s that afternoon and, because the winds continued through the night, low temperatures were not very low, staying above freezing in many locations. Cooler air began to work into the region over the next couple of days, knocking temperatures back to normal. Also, a switch to east/southeasterly winds allowed a little fog and a few flurries to develop during the afternoon of the 22nd.

Westerly winds along with lots of sunshine quickly returned on Friday and Christmas Eve. This warmed temperatures back to above-normal levels, with highs hitting the upper 40s to low 50s each day.

But this was ahead of a very powerful storm system that was dropping out of the Pacific Northwest toward Colorado. Unfortunately for those of us who love lots of snow, this storm moved just a little too far north and too quickly through the region to produce heavy snow for us, although the mountains did well. But it did pack enough punch to produce 1 to 3 inches of snow early Christmas morning, making for a beautiful white Christmas. The storm really strengthened just to our east, and the tight pressure gradient from the storm allowed winds to blow hard most of Christmas Day. Wind gusts reached over 70mph in some spots around the Palmer Divide and over 100mph near Boulder. The storm was quite energetic, as evidenced not only by the winds but also the fact that a few thunderstorms developed that morning in southern Elbert County; pretty unusual for December—good thing Santa was already done in the area.

The month ended on a quiet note with temperatures generally above normal. Highs reached the mid- to upper 40s on the 27th and 28th, then cooled slightly to the 30s on the 29th. But gusty winds on the 30th allowed low 50s to return before one final dip to the 30s on New Year's Eve. From the 26th through the 31st, no precipitation fell, ending the month on a dry note and just what was expected after a near record dry fall and early winter.

A look ahead

January temperatures can be the coldest temperatures of the year, but there is often a proverbial "January thaw" where mild temperatures make a brief appearance. Precipitation is on the low side, with amounts generally less than an inch. The month has numerous sunny and windy days, with quick shots of snow in between.

December 2016 Weather Statistics

Average High	38.7° (+0.2°)
100-year return frequency value max	50.5° min 32.6°
Average Low	13.2° (+0.8°)
100-year return frequency value max	22.4° min 5.4°
Monthly Precipitation	0.69"
	(-0.32", 31% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	2.82" min 0.00"
Monthly Snowfall	9.7"
	(-8.0", 45% below normal)
Highest Temperature	60° on the 15th
Lowest Temperature	-11° on the 17th
Season to Date Snow	15.0"
	(-24.9", 62% below normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	6.90"
	(-4.19", 48% below normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	1211 (-16)
Cooling Degree Days	0 (0)

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