

Decor by Diane
Interior Painting
 No job too small. Over 30 years experience.
Decorbydm@aol.com or (719) 488-0817

Cyndee Henson
 719-439-1493

Happy Tails
 Dog Walker & Pet Sitting Service
 Insured • Bonded • PSI Member
 + CPR Certified

**COUNSELING
 PSYCHOTHERAPIST MA
 MARY SENOUR**

Marriage • Family • Adolescents
 Substance Abuse • Body Image
 Coping Skills • Coaching
 236 N. Washington St., Monument

(719) 331-4312 Email: senour71@gmail.com

It's a Pane Window Cleaning

✓ Windows ✓ Screens
 ✓ Tracks
 Very Customizable
 Free Estimates

Ryan Schutz (719) 337- 4225

Tri-Lakes Consignment, Ltd.
 Furniture, Antiques, Collectibles & Gifts

West End Center
 755 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake
(719) 203-5178
 TLConsign.com

Find your next treasure at Tri-Lakes Consignment

Beginner to Intermediate

My House or Yours (719) 448-9233
 25 Years Experience (719) 650-8877

Susan Humphreys
 Piano Teacher

susan.lohr54@gmail.com

TRI-LAKES Y
 17250 Jackson Creek Parkway
 Monument, CO 80132

**NOW REGISTERING
 SPRING SPORTS**

<p>INDOOR SOCCER Ages: 3-6 years old Practice & Game on Saturday only (inside) Early Registration: January 23-March 7 Session: April 8-May 13</p>	<p>OUTDOOR SOCCER Ages: Grades 1-6 Practice one night a week, games on Saturdays Early Registration: January 23-March 7 Session: March 27-May 13</p>
<p>VOLLEYBALL Ages: Grades 1-8 Practice one night a week, games on Friday Early Registration: January 23-March 7 Session: March 27-May 13</p>	<p>FLAG FOOTBALL Ages: Grades 1-12 Practice one night a week, games on Saturdays Early Registration: January 23-March 7 Session: March 27-May 13</p>

Register today at ppymca.org
 or stop by any YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region locations.
 Financial assistance is available. No contracts.

ly refused on Jan. 16, so there was not time to fill that slot with another candidate to send to the West Metro academy class. Academy classes are not held very often, so this shortage causes a delay in filling one vacant staff position.

Buckingham suggested that if another candidate could be given a conditional offer, he might be able to go to a class at a different academy that Buckingham knew of that would start in March.

Trost and Keough explained ongoing problems with both exterior and interior lighting at all three stations. The staff has now decided to replace all the fixtures used for exterior lighting since they require very expensive bulbs to be replaced often, and there are electrical malfunctions that need to be fixed. It could cost tens of thousands of dollars just to upgrade the fixtures, and then lighting in the parking lots also is absent.

At 7:45 p.m., the meeting went into executive session to confer with district counsel for legal advice on the status of impact fees. Truty told OCN that no decisions or discussions took place after the end of the executive session.

After the meeting, on Jan. 26, TLMFPD Chief Chris Truty announced that its new fire marshal would be Battalion Chief Jamey Bumgarner. Officially, Bumgarner will have the title of administrative battalion chief, which will include the responsibilities of district fire marshal.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911 or see www.tlmfire.org.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Jan. 17

Citizens brainstorm about how to shrink Wescott

By Lisa Hatfield

Sixteen members of the public attended the Jan. 17 Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) Board of Directors meeting, which was full of discussions about the future of the district and the upcoming mill levy vote planned because Wescott's revenue will be cut 66 percent by 2019. The debate with neighbors of the Sun Hills Station 3 about the potential sale of that station continued. The public heard more about a Wescott meeting with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD). And at the end of February, Wescott staff will be using the old Gleneagle Golf Club clubhouse as training for a controlled burn.

After the executive session, the directors voted to hire Webb Strategic Communications to help with public education about the mill levy, said Executive Administrator Stacey Popovich.

How did we get here?

Chief Vinny Burns summarized that DWFPD is currently "in a bit of a financial crisis" since the City of Colorado Springs annexed the southern half of Wescott in January 2004, and 12 years later the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) opened CSFD Fire Station 22 at 711 Copper Center Parkway off Voyager Parkway. A court decision allowed DWFPD to continue collecting full property taxes from the city's annexed area due to the city not providing a staffed local CSFD fire station until April 4, 2016, when CSFD Station 22 was opened. The city never gave a discount or refund to these annexed Wescott property owners. See www.ocn.me/v3n9.htm#fhr, <https://coloradosprings.gov/sites/default/files/planning/annexplan06.pdf>, page 15, and <https://csfd.coloradosprings.gov/article/event/station-22-grand-opening>.

The Oct. 18 intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between DWFPD and the city covers the exclusion of the portion of the DWFPD service area now annexed into the city from Interquest Parkway north to Old Northgate Road. All of Flying Horse Ranch was annexed, as was the Northgate Highlands subdivision at the north end of Voyager Parkway. See www.maptechnica.com/city-map/Colorado+Springs/CO/0816000.

The overall effect will be to reduce the size of the district's service area by half of its current 22 square

miles and reduce its total revenue by 66 percent beginning in 2019 under the current district property tax of 7.0 mills. In 2017, DWFPD's property tax revenue will not be affected, but in 2018 it will receive 33 percent less revenue, and in 2019 it will receive no property tax revenue from the part of the district south of Northgate Boulevard. Revenue loss is skewed because so much of the half of its territory Wescott is losing is commercial areas that are taxed at a higher rate See www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#dwfpd.

Resident Lois Williams asked about TLMFPD's statement in December that Wescott's Shamrock Station 2 was closing. Burns said, "Where they got their information is beyond me. Our board is fully briefed that it is not fully closing. There are days when it will be closed, but not an everyday occurrence...Officially it is open, although at times it will be unstaffed." Due to the district's decision in December to eliminate almost all overtime pay to save over \$100,000 in 2017. See www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#tlmfpd.

The district hopes voters in the sub-district north of the Colorado Springs northern boundary will approve a November 2017 mill levy increase ballot measure that would start generating revenue for DWFPD in 2019. During public comments Gary Rusnak, a Wescott homeowner and Gleneagle North Homeowner's Association Treasurer, said he had done his own calculations on the budget and that the cuts planned by the district were \$1.4 million short of what was needed to get them through to 2019. He asked the directors to move faster on adjusting the budget and on getting the word out to district voters about the implications of the upcoming ballot measure.

A workgroup for residents interested in working with the district to analyze the financial future was scheduled to meet Jan. 31 and report back to the regular February board meeting.

Public education consultant hired

Burns said Pinnacle Consulting Group Inc. recommended public relations firm Webb Strategic Communications to assist DWFPD with consumer and voter education regarding the November mill levy ballot measure.

Keith Webb of Webb Strategic Communications, who has 28 years' experience in the fire district business, said:

- The time to educate voters is now. Once the ballot language is out, the district cannot spend any money on advocacy for a mill levy.
- The citizens committee should look at what the mill levy does to stabilize finances but also a third party to try to negotiate some kind of agreement with TLMFPD or Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection. There are definite advantages to unification, and we can help you with that.

Burns said, "We missed the mark in prior elections, and

Let me rock your style!

One of the most important things for looking young is a modern haircut. I specialize in the latest color trends and textured razor cuts.

Arlene Nelson

Monumental Styles & Co
 325 Second St. Suite Y, Downtown Monument
(719) 487-8660

Assist 2 Sell
 There is a better way
America's Leading Discount Real Estate Brokers
 719 487-1777 www.COList4Less.com