

equipment replacement at the April 28 meeting.

Toboggan Hill parking feedback

Director of Common Areas Richard Wretschko reported that he held a public meeting two weeks ago in the Barn that was well attended by residents around Toboggan Hill. The plan is to expand from the current six spaces to 18, pave and stripe the spaces, and redo the traffic pattern so the entry is on Deer Creek and the exit is on Toboggan Hill for safety. The current estimate is about \$28,000. This issue will be voted on at the next WIA board meeting in May. President Eric Stensland encourages residents to give feedback and to attend that meeting.

On snowy days people park along Deer Creek despite the no parking signs. There is a safety issue because emergency vehicles cannot get through and people are at risk when they cross the street. WIA posted a summary of the plan on Facebook and asked for input. Some responses suggested lighting, but other responses didn't want the light pollution. Residents did want to see trash receptacles added because litter gets excessive during heavy use.

A resident who attended the meeting asked how many sledding days we see each season, how many people use the open space, and how many of those were residents. Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) Chief Keven Nielsen estimated the number of days was nine, but did not have a number for people though he noted at times there have been hundreds. Nielsen noted that the WIA is a 501C4 corporation and that one tax requirement of that is that all common areas must be open to the public, although signs

say "residents and their guests only."

The resident asked why increase the number of parking spaces and change the texture of the neighborhood for eight or nine days of sledding. She asked why people didn't take advantage of the parking lot at the church and walk to the sledding area. Nielsen agreed that signage could be changed to reflect the overflow parking availability but noted that people ignore the signs and only obey the rules when a WPS member is present. Stensland noted that this kind of feedback from residents is needed and WIA will use Facebook, the website, email, etc. to communicate with affected residents.

Reserve study expenditures

The board approved the expenditures budgeted in the reserve study. The reserve study is funded over the years for both unexpected and expected repair and replacement of equipment. All costs represent a significant discount from list prices. The expenditures were:

- Replace worn-out front doors for \$4,000 to save energy
- Replace desk for administrative assistant for \$869
- Replace desk, storage, and lateral files for homeowners association manager for \$2,500

Board report highlights

- May 7 from 10 a.m. to noon is Firewise Day at United Methodist Church at Kings Deer. The event is for Woodmoor and surrounding communities. There will be vendors and displays on appropriate vegetation, rocks, and mulches.

- The board approved a motion for WPS to provide services to the Country Club of Woodmoor such as after-hour foot patrol, drive-by checks, and calls for alarms. The amount paid by the Country Club will more than cover the cost of services.
- There have been numerous projects submitted to WIA to construct large sheds. In the Project Design Standard Manual (PDSM), a shed can be up to 120 square feet. Several requests have been for sheds that are 200 to 400 square feet. Structures of that size are considered ancillary buildings and have different rules. Residents should consult the PDSM for the appropriate guidelines.
- The board approved the updated employee handbook that is based on the Mountain States Employee Council template with updates for specific WIA policies.
- The board unanimously approved having the WIA lawyer pursue legal action on lots 48LW and 41WCC to recover long outstanding dues, late fines, and fees after exhausting other options.

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 May 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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April Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

Like the last couple of months, temperatures in April ended up right at normal while precipitation ended up above average, but getting to these final amounts was far from straightforward. Much of the first two weeks of April were mild and mainly dry, then things changed dramatically during the second half of the month, with two major snow and cold periods. Keep in mind that April is on average our snowiest month, so a lot of snow isn't unusual. Of course, with the stronger sun angle and warmer temperatures, all that snow usually melts pretty quickly.

The first week and a half of April started off mild and dry. Temperatures were above average every day from the 2nd through the 10th, after starting off cold on the 1st. Highs reached the upper 50s on the 2nd, then mid- to upper 60s from the 3rd through the 6th. There was one quick interruption as a quick-moving cold front produced a brief snow shower during the late afternoon of the 5th. The pattern started to change a little on the 9th and 10th, with a couple disorganized storms moving through. The first didn't have any cold air with it, so it just produced some rain showers on the 9th. Then the next one came through at the same time as some cooler air. Low clouds and fog, along with snow showers, moved in late on the date and produced a dusting of snow.

Just when you were probably starting to get worried winter was over, we all got a good reminder as to why April is usually the snowiest month of the season. After a quick taste of cold and a dusting of snow greeted us on the morning of the 11th, temperatures rebounded to above normal levels over the next couple of days as high pressure built in from the west. Highs reach the mid-60s on the 12th and 13th, then touched 70 on the 14th. However, this was ahead of a powerful storm that was moving from the Pacific Northwest and turning the corner through Arizona

and toward the Four Corners region.

As this storm approached the region, it was able to tap into Gulf of Mexico moisture at the same time cooler air was working down from the north. Also, a strong ridge of high pressure was developing upstream (over the Great Lakes). This served to block the storm from being able to continue its track to the east and allowed it to stay nearly stationary over Colorado for a few days. This resulted in heavy snow, blowing snow, and lots of moisture. Snow started late on the 15th, then picked up in intensity during the early morning of the 16th and lasted through the morning of the 17th. After the main part of the storm was finished, most of us had picked up 1-2 feet of snow and nearly 2 inches of liquid equivalent. Temperatures were of course well below normal during the period, with highs only reaching the low 30s on Saturday and Sunday.

All the moisture is very beneficial as we head into spring. Of course, while it was snow and blowing on Saturday, travel wasn't much fun, but if you didn't have to deal with that, it was quite a fun snow storm to watch.

One final wave of energy rotated around the back side of the departing storm, accumulating another 2 inches of snow during the morning of the 19th. Temperatures were held well below normal from the 18th through the 20th, with 30s on the 18th and 40s on the 19th and 20th. As the storm departed, sunshine returned. The warm-up was slowed on the 21st, as most of the energy went into melting snow. Then, warmer, windy, and drier air moved in from the 22nd through the 24th. Temperatures rebounded nicely, reaching the low 70s on the 22nd and 23rd, quickly working to melt the extensive snowpack. With the mild temperatures and residual moisture, afternoon and early evening clouds built each day, even producing a couple of brief showers, signifying that the region is trying to transition from winter to spring.

But of course, that transition never goes smoothly around here, and just as you'd expect another wet and cold system affected the region to end the month. The first leading edge of the storm and its moisture worked into the region on the 26th and 27th with a few brief snow and rain showers and areas of low clouds. But the main storm was

still organizing to our west. The energy and moisture with this part of the storm began to affect the region during the evening of the 28th. Snow began to fall and continued that night.

Snow became heavier the next day, with 6-10 inches accumulating by the evening of the 29th. Winds started to kick in later that day as well, blowing the snow around. However, road conditions remained pretty good until the evening of the 29th, as the strong late April sun and prior warm temperatures meant a lot of the snow on the roads melted during the day. Snow continued and combined with the gusty winds to make for a raw day around the region to end the month. Highs held right at the freezing mark nearly 30 degrees cooler than normal.

A look ahead

May often brings a wide variety of weather conditions in the region, from warm, sunny days to severe thunderstorms and hail, and even some snowfall. May 2007 was a snowy May, with over 20 inches accumulating for the month, while the last couple of years recorded just a few inches. However, we can usually expect warmer conditions to finally settle in, with temperatures reaching above 80°F on several afternoons.

April 2016 Weather Statistics

Average High	54.2° (-2.3°)
Average Low	29.5° (+2.1°)
Highest Temperature	66° on the 9th
Lowest Temperature	9° on the 1st
Monthly Precipitation	3.15"
	(+0.19", 7% above normal)
Monthly Snowfall	36.2"
	(+9.5", 26% above normal)
Season to Date Snow	155.5"
	(+36.5", 23% above normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	18.28" (+0.94", 5% above normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	696 (+8)
Cooling Degree Days	0

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

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31.

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

We pay massive taxes yet my kids' school is getting nothing?

We have three girls at Monument Academy. My husband has owned commercial property with his business in Monument since 2004. He pays enormous taxes (three times that of Colorado Springs), and I was disheartened

to learn that none of those taxes pulled for the 1999 MLO were going to my children's school. That is ridiculous!

One of our daughters has received reading assistance at MA. We worried when she fell behind in recognizing her letters and sounds. She needed help fast. The amazing teachers (SPED included) spent one-on-one time every week working with her. By the end of first grade, she was at benchmark. She now has amazing confidence and loves to read!! These teachers need to be rewarded for changing our daughter's life.

Our family has been so blessed to be able to attend



Clip and save these important phone numbers.

Woodmoor Public Safety

Mobile (24/7): 719-499-9771
Office: 719-488-3600

El Paso County

Snow Removal and Road Repair:
719-520-6891
Sheriff's Office (non-emergency):
719-390-5555
Sheriff's Office (emergency): 911