

Wescott Safety Fair, May 12



Above: At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Safety Fair and Blood Drive on May 12, residents participated in hands-on activities and received safety information while exploring Station 1 in Gleneagle. Attendees experienced an Army medevac Blackhawk helicopter and Flight For Life Colorado landings at Antelope Trails Elementary School. Many children met Smokey the Bear, participated in 911 drills, and obtained a cycling proficiency and safety test certification. Photo shows Callen Steppenbacker receiving instruction from EMT Cory Trottier on how to use a fire extinguisher in the 911 Mobile classroom. *Photo and caption by Natalie Barszcz.*

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, May 29 Three new firefighters, four board members sworn in



Above: Donald Wescott Fire Protection District's new board as of May 29: From left, Director Gary Rusnak, Director Larry Schwarz, Secretary Mark Gunderman, Chief Vinny Burns (standing), Treasurer Joyce Hartung, and Chairman William "Bo" McAllister. *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

By Lisa Hatfield

Three new career Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) firefighters were sworn in on May 29 by outgoing Chairman Greg Gent. This hiring was approved in April, using the savings from paying off the Station 2 loan early to pay salaries and benefits. See www.ocn.me/v18n5.htm#dwfpd.

Chief Vinny Burns presented Gent and outgoing Secretary Harland Baker with appreciation awards. Outgoing Director Rachel Dunn did not attend the meeting.

Then, the newly-elected board members were sworn in. Treasurer Joyce Hartung won re-election, but Mark Gunderman, Gary Rusnak, and Larry Schwarz unseated Baker, Gent, and Dunn in the May 8 election. Election results should be posted on wescottfire.org.

Rusnak accused DWFPD of making errors in its 2018 budget and spend-

ing more money than it has, but Burns said he has never operated under deficit spending, and the consensus was to discuss it more at the next board meeting.

Two other concerns that Rusnak hoped the board would discuss soon included when public comments are allowed at meetings and how to consolidate the district into one single district with one tax rate.

The meeting lasted almost two hours and then went into executive session to consult with DWFPD's attorney, Matt Court, but no announcements or votes were made afterwards.

Since this meeting happened so late in May, more details about the rest of this extensive meeting discussion will be included with the June 19 meeting article in the July issue of OCN.

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

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