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Ridings said the station is used for high fire danger days, when extra officers are positioned there. During the pandemic, leadership has considered using it as a quarantine location so that responders would live there and only respond to coronavirus-related calls. A committee will be formed composed of the fire chiefs, a firefighter, and a board mem-

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ber to further the discus-

Public comments

Resident Mary Gunderman thanked the fire district for helping her neighbor Glenn Scott, when his wife fell and broke her hip in their driveway.

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

The next Donald Wescott fire district meeting is sched-

Fast One Hour Dry Time

Safe for Children

uled for May 19. During the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings will either be at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr., or be virtual meetings. They are usually

on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. For information, call Executive Administrator Stacey Popovich at 488-8680 or see www.wescottfire.

org.
Allison Robenstein
can be reached at
allisonrobenstein@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, April 22

Election, land purchase, and COVID-19 insight

By Natalie Barszcz

On April 22, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board met virtually via Zoom to discuss the May 5 board election, a land acquisition, and the many protocol changes implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board member election

TLMFPD will hold an election for four board positions on May 5 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the designated polling place: 16055 Old Forest Point Suite 103, Monument.

Nominated as director for a three-year term are Jason Buckingham, Harold Goldback, Terri Hayes, Roger Lance, Eric Nappo, and Thomas Tharnish. Biographies of the candidates can be found at www.tlmfire.org.

Social distancing precautions will be maintained during the election process and voters are asked to wear

Land purchaseFire Chief Chris Truty asked

the board to approve Resolution 2020-02 authorizing the purchase of about 15 acres of property known as the Vollmer properties, next to Station 1. Truty said the property will allow for expansion at Station 1 and possibly provide the premium training site for northern El Paso County.

The purchase price for the property is \$390,000 and is already annexed into the Town of Monument. *See www.ocn. me/v20n3.htm#tlmfpd.* The board unanimously approved the purchase.

Truty said the Station 1 remodel is postponed for 30-60 days while a redesign is explored. An addition to the east side is now feasible, leaving the drive-through bays open. The planned renovation for Station 1 had been approved in August. See www.ocn.me/v19n9.htm#tlmfpd.

COVID-19 insight

Truty provided an insight into the TLMFPD response during the COVID-19 pandemic. "We started to pay attention in mid-February" when Kirkland, WA firefighters began quarantining people. By the end of February, TLMFPD began receiving emails from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) regarding how to approach COVID-19.

By mid-March it was evident that a crisis was developing, and President John Hildebrandt signed a State of Emergency for TLMFPD and the district administration office was closed to the public. For two weeks, staff met daily for COVID-19 meetings lasting 1-1.5 hours to discuss procedures pertaining to COVID-19. Throughout, all staff mem-

bers have coordinated with the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (OEM), CDPHE, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the governor's office, the state fire chiefs, area hospitals, colleges and school districts, and utility companies via teleconference.

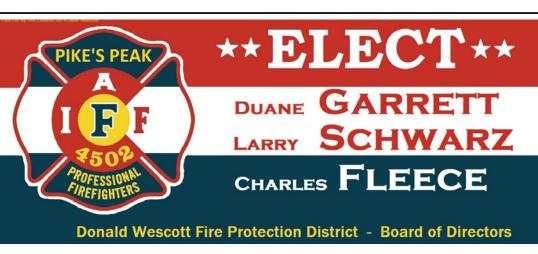
Truty said after receiving welcome feedback from community residents, he plans to continue his bi-weekly blog providing a calming voice to the community. The community letter can be found at www.tlmfire.org/COVID-19.

A statewide burn ban will remain in effect for six months, Truty said.

Deputy Chief Randy Trost said many aspects of daily procedures were changed in early March, and the staff and crews were kept up to date with daily situation reports. All staff and crews made a tremendous team effort to adapt and implement new operational procedures and, at times, protocols were changing hourly. During calls, a balance in protecting staff and maintaining levels of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) was achieved by pre-screening for COVID-19 patients and using distancing measures. All staff members continue to be monitored for temperature, symptoms, and exposure.

Battalion Chief of Training Jonathan Bradley gave an overview of the medical direction TLMFPD received from early March on the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidelines have been issued to determine treatment criteria-based refusal for suspected cardiac arrest patients who are also COVID-19 positive in an EMS situation.

Once disinfection guide-





LARRY SCHWARZ

As a retired Battalion Chief with over 30 years' experience with the Colorado Springs Fire Department, I understand emergency services. I am convinced that together we have an opportunity to enhance the emergency services for our community. My responsibility as a board member is to steward the resources entrusted to the Donald Wescott Fire District by you the citizens of Gleneagle and surrounding communities.



CHARLES FLEECE

The Board of Directors has a tremendous amount of influence regarding public safety and the future of the Fire District. Safety for our community is key; From the people who work in the area to the residents living here. As a younger family in the community, I see the importance of well managed emergency services and wish to continue setting up the fire district for success, for future generations.



DUANE GARRETT

I understand the challenges this community and fire department face, and the budgetary limitations that force them to make difficult decisions. Through thoughtful consideration and sound decision-making we can balance between the needs of the community and the needs of the fire department. My experience can provide the leadership and fiduciary competence required to be an effective member of the Donald Wescott Fire District Board of Directors.

ELECTION DAY

<u>May</u> <u>5th</u>

Tuesday May 5th. Voters must vote in person at Wescott Fire Station #1. Clerk and recorder will have election judges on staff for voting. Voting is open from 7am – 7pm.

15415 Gleneagle Dr. Colorado Springs, 80921

Wescott Firefighters are asking for your support, by electing community members to the Board of Directors who share a vision for the future and protection of our community. Visit us on Facebook @ Citizens for a Safer Wescott



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