

Woodmoor Improvement Association, June 24

Board discusses ash disposal, expanding trails, and awards

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on June 24 for the first time since February in a socially distanced layout with optional masks. The board voted to make a rule on ash disposal permanent, heard residents support for more trails, and announced awards and scholarships.

Ash disposal

Board President Brian Bush stated that the board had adopted an immediate rule change a month ago to prohibit the disposal of ash. It seemed to him to be common sense that hot ash constitutes an extreme fire hazard and he asked the board to ratify that decision.

The board unanimously voted to modify the Rules and Regulations document found at <https://www.woodmoor.org/governance/> to include the following sentence at the end of section F. OPEN FIRES: Ashes must be disposed of in a non-combustible container once completely cooled and must not be disposed of on any portion of the property.

The word "ash" was also added in section R. REFUSE AND RUBBISH to indicate that it must be disposed of in a sanitary manner, kept in a clean container with a secure lid, and may not remain exposed and visible on the property.

Support for trails

Resident Brian Hum, who started the Facebook group Woodmoor 2020, spoke to raise awareness and support for more trails in Woodmoor. He has been homebound during the pandemic and has been walking the streets. He is aware of existing trails in the open spaces and the plans for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) trail that is under way but would like to see more connecting trails. He has spoken with board member Rich Wretschko and common area administrator Bob Pearsall and is waiting to see the map of the bridle trail easements to learn where they connect.

Bush indicated that WIA is always looking for ways to improve and that expanding trails is one of the things they would like to do. He indicated that School District 38 is in charge of the SRTS project. WIA has committed funds to that project. He also noted that WIA had hoped to work on trails in the Walters Open Space area before it was sold. Putting trails along streets would be hard, because those roads are owned by El Paso County, so the preference is to work with land controlled by WIA.

Board member Peter Bille suggested Hum form an

executive committee and noted that easements may not be in a convenient location and require homeowners' permission to use.

Awards and scholarships

In 1995, WIA created an award to honor Vincent Elorie, a former chief of Woodmoor Police, for his outstanding citizenship. Bush announced that Eddie Bruck is the 2019 recipient of the Vincent Elorie award. Bruck is a forestry volunteer and expert who has given to the community for a substantial number of years. He is always coming up with new ideas to make the community safer from fire. He came up with the idea to offer new residents a Firewise review. The board regards fire as the single biggest danger and is deeply appreciative of anyone who helps.

Director of community engagement Bert Jean announced that WIA has selected five recipients for student scholarships of \$1,000 each. Applicants were reviewed on criteria such as service to Woodmoor, grade point average, acceptance or attendance at a college in fall 2020, and board member recommendations. The money can be used for tuition or books. Winners were expected to be notified by mail by the end of June.

Board highlights

- The WIA office remains closed to the public. Anyone needing to meet with staff should call or email to make an appointment.
- Rules for reserving The Barn have changed to allow a maximum of 50 people and require renters to complete a checklist to have their damage deposit returned.
- Public safety radios have been received and were expected to go live on July 1, allowing direct communication with law enforcement and fire department entities in the area.
- July 1 is also the target date for body cams to be available for all Woodmoor Public Safety officers.
- There has been a nationwide increase in vehicle break-ins including in Woodmoor. Residents are reminded to keep vehicles locked and remove all valuables.
- Red flag warning days are posted on Woodmoor sign holders during hot, dry, windy conditions.
- Fireworks of all types are prohibited in Woodmoor and their use could result in a minimum fine of \$5,000.
- A resident concerned with speeding tractor trail-



Above: On June 24, WIA President Brian Bush presented the Vincent Elorie award to longtime forestry volunteer Eddie Bruck. Photo by Jackie Burhans

ers who were avoiding the weigh station and speeding through the neighborhood was directed to contact the county or the Colorado Department of Transportation to look into solutions.

- A representative of the U.S. Census inquired about the availability of The Barn at no cost for use as a training site. She was directed to send details about her request to the HOA administrator.

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 has been moved to July 22.

The WIA calendar can be found at www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/ once approved and posted.

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June Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

If you just looked at the averages for June as a whole, nothing too exciting would show up. We were slightly warmer and wetter than normal for the month, but of course that doesn't tell the entire story. We of course experienced our typical daily patterns of quiet mornings and afternoon thunderstorms, but the real story was the taste of winter early in the month and severe weather late in the month.

The first week of June was very typical, with mostly clear skies starting each day, then clouds building first over the mountains by late morning and early afternoon. These clouds continued to build through early afternoon, and with the help of winds generally from the west to the east, were blown over the Front Range. As they continued to grow and encounter more moisture, thunderstorms and brief rain showers developed. The energy and moisture were then used up as the storms developed and moved through, with generally quiet conditions returning each evening. This pattern produced light rainfall accumulations at various locations around the region but nothing dramatic.

While this typical June pattern was occurring over us, a strong and cold system was moving through the Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies. This storm was moving south toward Colorado on the 8th and picking up more moisture and energy as it developed further over the region. The storm made its presence felt along the Palmer Divide during the mid-evening, with a strong frontal passage around 8:30 p.m. Strong winds and colder air continued to rush in that evening while the atmosphere moistened up.

As clouds continued to fill in, drizzle developed, and temperatures tumbled. Heavy, wet snow soon developed around 2 to 3 a.m. the next morning. The wind-driven, heavy wet snow continued to fall through morning until finally winding down around 9:30 a.m. on the 9th. Of course, this being June, we were right on the edge of rain versus snow and elevation played a key role in

that process. Areas above about 7,300 feet were all snow with 1-3 inches accumulating, while areas below 7,000 saw some snowfall but no accumulation. But no matter your elevation, everyone around the region was wet and cold on the 9th.

Once this late season blast of winter moved out, a slow and steady return to warmth began. High temperatures pushed through the upper 60s on the 10th, to the mid-70s on the 11th, and to the 80s from the 12th through the 17th. During this warm and dry period, smoky skies were common, not from forest fires along the Front Range but instead from large fires around the Four Corners region.

This warm and dry period was interrupted by another cold front during the evening of the 17th. This one didn't have quite as much cold air to work with, so instead of another June snow, we received some cold rain with temperatures in the 50s and 60s. After this storm departed, we fell back into the normal diurnal pattern of quiet mornings and afternoon thunderstorms. Most of the storms were well behaved with one exception on the afternoon of the 26th.

That day started off warm with higher than normal levels of moisture. Unlike most days, the low-level flow held the moisture in place along the Front Range instead of the typical pattern where winds push the moisture farther east by afternoon. This meant that once the storm started to form over the higher terrain to our west and move out into our region, it encountered a very unstable and moisture-rich environment. This led to the explosive development of one of the storms first over Jefferson and Douglas counties. This storm then traveled east/southeast into northern El Paso County.

As the storm continue to tap into abundant energy and moisture right over the region, heavy rain, strong winds, and hail formed. These were all of course accompanied by frequent lightning. The storm became severe and exhibited significant rotation at times. Fortunately, no tornadoes formed, but that didn't mean there wasn't

damage. Hail fell off and on for almost an hour, hitting areas along and east of the I-25 corridor from northern Colorado Springs through southern Douglas county the hardest. Torrential rains fell, with 12 inches accumulating in less than an hour. This led to flash flooding, catching many drivers off-guard in some of the low areas where the water rushed over roadways.

A look ahead

July can be an active weather month around the region as the Southwest Monsoon season gets going. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms are a common occurrence, and when they are able to tap into higher levels of moisture, flash flooding can result. Hot, stagnant weather can also take hold for a few days at time, with highs hitting the 90s on the warmest days.

June 2020 Weather Statistics

Average High	78.5° (+1.1°)
100-year return frequency value max	82.5° min 66.3°
Average Low	47.3° (+2.9°)
100-year return frequency value max	50.7° min 40.2°
Highest Temperature	88°F on the 5th
Lowest Temperature	32°F on the 9th
Monthly Precipitation	3.20"
	(+1.25" 40% above normal)
100-year return frequency value max	6.94" min 0.15"
Monthly Snowfall	2.1"
	(+2.0" 400% above normal)
Season to Date Snow	138.5"
	(+16.0" 12% above normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30))
Season to Date Precip	13.38"
	(+2.36" 18% above normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	98 (+3)
Cooling Degree Days	37 (+9)

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