

an update on a live fire incident investigation. Kovacs said the following:

- A live fire training exercise with BFFRPD had resulted in a “near miss” during the training.
- Thankfully, no one was hurt but some equipment was damaged during the incident.
- Safety practices are now being independently evaluated to make sure it does not happen again.
- Interviews are being conducted, and the district is working with BFFRPD.
- The report will be concluded at the end of February.

Note: Live fire training is a critical part of the instruction and certification process for firefighters and involves a live fire in a controlled setting.

Chief's report

Kovacs said the 100-day plan continues and he also noted the following:

- A monthly fire chiefs' meeting has been established and could include: PLFD, Wescott, Larkspur Fire Protection District, BFFRPD, CSFD, and FFPD.
- Monthly command staff-level meetings with the Monument Police Department have been requested.
- An internal succession planning survey resulted in 100% participation and action items and the results will be shared with the board in March.
- The district is translating the 2019 Emergency Services International Master Plan and will implement a five-year plan in 2022. An internal survey will be conducted followed by a local community survey of business owners and residents.

Petition for inclusion

Kovacs said the district received a request for property inclusion from the homeowners at 756 Forest View

Way, Monument. He recommended the board assign the hearing date on the petition for inclusion at the March board meeting.

Future meeting location

For the months May through October, the location of TLMFPD board meetings will change to the Chamber of Commerce Building located at 166 Second St. in downtown Monument due to the Station 1 renovation project.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. March 24 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. Staff and the public are encouraged to attend the meeting via Zoom to comply with social distancing. Zoom meeting: 886-8850-7523 Password: 187219. For upcoming agendas and minutes, visit www.tlmfire.org/board or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

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Royal named Colorado Springs fire chief

By Marlene Brown

Randy Royal, a 1975 Lewis-Palmer High School graduate, has been named Colorado Springs fire chief. Chief Royal has served in the Colorado Springs Fire Department for over 34 years. After a nationwide search and consideration of 37 candidates, the mayor's selection panel named Royal the new chief. Royal was president of the 1975 class and was considered to be destined for leadership and great public service. His leadership role during the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest Fires deemed him highly qualified and experienced for this position. He was involved with Young Life in high school and continues to work with Young Life youths. Chief Royal will oversee 22 fire stations and over 500 service personnel. “I am honored to have been chosen by the mayor to fill the position of the fire chief for CSFD and proud to call Colorado Springs my home for over 40 years,” said Royal.

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El Paso Board of County Commissioners, Feb. 9 and 16

County Master Plan nears completion; progress at three Tri-lakes area developments

By Helen Walklett

During February, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) received an update on the new county Master Plan. The commissioners also made decisions relating to three developments in the Tri-lakes area.

New county master plan

Speaking at the Feb. 9 BOCC meeting, Craig Dossey, executive director, Planning and Community Development, told the commissioners that work to create the new county Master Plan was almost complete. Describing it as having been a very in-depth process

with a very involved advisory committee, he stated it will have taken 2 1/2 years to complete. Dossey said, “We’re really looking forward to being done with it and starting to use it.”

The draft plan will be released for public review and comment in March and will be accompanied by a video setting out why the plan is important and why people should be interested in it. Both will be available on the county's website at <https://elpaso-hlplanning.hub.arcgis.com/>

Following revisions in April, Dossey hopes to bring the draft plan to the county Planning Commis-

sion for adoption in May or early June.

County adopts streets at two developments

The commissioners approved the adoption of streets at the Forest Lakes and Gleneagle Golf Course developments into the county's road maintenance system at their Feb. 9 meeting. They also approved the preliminary release of checks for \$178,759 for subdivision improvements at the Settlers Ranch Filing 2C. This followed the completion and satisfactory inspection of all the required improvements.

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Woodmoor Improvement Association, Feb. 24

Board hears certified election results, reviews finances

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) met on Feb. 24 to hear certified election results and get an update on finances. Board members Connie Brown and Bert Jean were absent.

Election results

President Brian Bush reported that he had received and certified election results on Jan. 28, the day after the previous meeting. Although there were write-in candidates, the community re-elected Bert Jean, Peter Bille, and Ed Miller to their board positions.

Finance

Bush reported that it looks like the WIA is getting revenue from new construction and it has received 36% of its budget. Revenues are expected to be down from Barn and office rental fees. He congratulated staff for holding down expenses.

All but 164 people have paid their annual dues for

2021. Bush said the WIA board appreciates the vast majority of people who pay their dues on time and would appreciate it if everyone would so the board would not have to place liens or send bills to collections.

Board highlights

- Vice President Bille noted that new computers have been ordered and are being set up. Homeowners Association (HOA) administrator Denise Cagliari confirmed that old computers would be wiped and recycled.
- In January, 26 projects were submitted and all were approved. The board unanimously confirmed three new members to the Architectural Control Committee.
- The Barn window and entrance roof replacement projects are completed; both projects came in within the approved budget.

- The mitigation grant focused on Woodmoor Drive is going well with 16 lots in process and an initial reimbursement package submitted for \$6,000.
- There were 13 confirmed homeowners association (HOA) violations in January and two unfounded complaints. There were 20 HOA checks.

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 is scheduled for March 24.

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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February Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

Winter finally arrived in full force during February, producing our first above-normal monthly snowfall since September. Temperatures were well below normal, with daily and some monthly record lows set when the Arctic air settled in during middle of the month.

The first three days of the month started with temperatures well above normal, as highs reached the low and mid-50s each afternoon from the 1st through the 3rd. However, this quiet start to the month was quickly interrupted by a fast-moving storm. After a mild day on the 3rd, skies became cloudy by that evening and the temperature fell, with snow developing around

mid-evening. Snow, heavy at times, along with gusty winds created blowing snow and hazardous driving conditions through early the next morning. Within about six hours, 4-8 inches of new snow had fallen. The fresh snow kept temperatures below normal the next day, with highs just touching the freezing mark.

Conditions were relatively quiet the next few