

and tended plants as needed. A letter and gift card were sent to the two residents.

The meeting ended with a round of questions and answers on topics including regulations for propane fireplaces, short-term rentals, disposal of firewood, size of the association, construction impact, an excess rabbit population, and family events.

Board reorganization

At the Feb. 23 meeting, the board provided certified election results which re-elected two members and added a new member. The board re-instated and reorganized to the following roles:

- Brian Bush, President
- Peter Billie, Vice President
- Rick DePaiva, Secretary and Community Outreach
- Connie Brown, Treasurer
- Per Suhr, Architectural Control
- Brad Gleason, Public Safety
- Steve Cutler, Common Areas
- Cindy Thrush, Covenant Control
- Ed Miller, Forestry

Open fire regulation updated

Bush said that a recent covenant hearing revealed that the existing rules on open fires were lacking.

Gleason summarized the proposed new wording for section F of the Rules & Regulations document with an expanded section. The new section will clearly define “open fires,” which are not allowed in Woodmoor under any circumstances and can result in a \$5,000 fine. It will further define “recreational fires,” which are allowed under specific conditions, which include the presence of a spark arrester and may require approval by the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District fire marshal. Recreational fires not permitted during Red Flag warnings and burns must be a minimum distance from combustible structures, must have clearance from combustible vegetation, must be constantly attended by an adult, and must have at least one extinguisher present. The WIA Rules & Regulations document can be found at <https://woodmoor.org/governance/> with more details on open fires in Section F of Part I Use of Property. The board unanimously approved a motion to adopt the new rules.

Board highlights

- The board voted unanimously to meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. following a 6 p.m. executive session. The November and December meetings will be moved to the week earlier due to holidays.

- The board also set its covenant hearing dates and appointed committee members.
- The board authorized the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) administrator to approve certain projects, handle compliance fee refunds with review, and handle routine change orders for all projects.
- The board authorized the director of forestry to review and approve tree removal requests and Firewise lot evaluations and appoint forestry committee members. Bush thanked Forestry Director Ed Miller for taking over this position given the increased interest due to the mitigation grant and the recent Marshall Fire.

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 March 23.

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.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

February Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

Winter made its presence known during February as temperatures were well below normal for the month and snowfall was above normal. The additional snowfall was much needed after the very dry fall and early winter. Two strong Arctic air masses visited the region and brought very cold air, but just as important for the below-normal temperatures was the fact that we didn't have any extended periods of mild weather or Chinook winds. This meant temperatures were almost always normal or below for the month with the exception of a few days.

Cold and snow started the month as an Arctic front moved into the region during the evening of the 1st. Snow developed as this cold air moved in and continued through the next day. Five to 10 inches of new snow accumulated during the first two days of the month. This was our largest snowfall of the season so far, but more important were the cold temperatures. The “high” on the 2nd of 11F was reached at midnight with daytime temperatures holding in the single digits during the day.

Temperatures continued to cool during the day, falling below zero before midnight and continuing to plummet by the next morning, reaching as low as minus 20F. The slow warmup began on the 3rd with temperatures reaching the upper teens, then upper 20s to low 30s on the 4th and finally above freezing on the 5th. This was an extended period of cold conditions, with about 108 hours of temperatures continuously below freezing.

The warmup on the 5th was interrupted by a quick-moving cold front that produced a couple inches of snow during the early hours of the 6th. After this quick shot of snow, quiet conditions moved in with highs reaching the 40s from the 7th through the 9th and low 50s on the 10th. Each day saw plenty of sunshine as well. The next quick-moving cold front moved through during the morning of the 11th and again produced a couple inches of snow and blowing

snow.

Once again, clear skies quickly returned behind this departing storm and temperatures responded nicely, rebounding into the low 50s during the afternoon of the 13th. As high pressure continued to build in from the west, the warmest conditions of the month occurred, with mid- to upper 50s for highs on the 15th. However, the next in the line of quick-moving cold fronts made its way into the region the next day, with snow developing by mid-afternoon and temperatures quickly dropping back below normal. Another 4-8 inches of snow accumulated from the afternoon of the 16th through the morning of the 17th.

Temperatures again began their slow march back to above normal over the next couple of days, again topping out in the mid- to upper 50s on the 20th. Once again, however, cold air was pooling to our north and working its way toward the Front Range. Like the beginning of the month, this airmass originated from high in the Arctic regions and unlike the previous cold front was able to remain in place for several days. This was courtesy of an area of low pressure to our west that anchored the high to our north in place and allowed for a continuous easterly flow into the region.

The first signs of this cold air arrived during the afternoon of the 21st as temperatures quickly dropped from the 40s to the teens in a matter of an hour. Temperatures continued to fall over the next few days, with highs barely breaking above zero on the 22nd and 23rd. Nights were cold too, with teens below zero common on the 23rd and 24th. High temperatures stayed in the 20s on the 24th and 25th before finally touching just above freezing on the 26th.

For the period, we were continuously below freezing for almost six days. Again, this is unusual for the Front Range as cold air normally has a hard time staying in place for more than a couple days. During this Arctic air outbreak, 2-4 inches of snow accumulated with light snowfall occurring each day from the 21st through the 24th. The relatively low amount of snow

isn't unusual as the very cold airmasses are generally moisture starved, unless they can interact with moisture from the south. This feed from the south didn't occur with this system, and therefore only light snow accumulated.

Once the cold air retreated over the last couple days of the month, mild conditions quickly returned. High temperatures reached to the low 50s on the last two days of the month and the stronger late February sunshine went to work on thawing things out.

A look ahead

March is known for a wide range of weather conditions in the region. We can see 70° temperatures one afternoon and blizzard conditions the next. Many of us remember the blizzard of March 2003 when we received 30-50 inches of snowfall that shut down the region. However, snow that does fall begins to melt quickly this time of the year, providing beneficial moisture for our plants as we head into spring.

February 2022 Weather Statistics

Average High	35.7° (-4.0°)
100-year return frequency value max	51.9° min 32.8°
Average Low	8.0° (-4.8°)
100-year return frequency value max	21.9° min 3.7°
Highest Temperature	56° on the 20th
Lowest Temperature	-19° on the 3rd
Monthly Precipitation	1.05"
	(+0.11" 11% above normal)
100-year return frequency value max	2.10" min 0.02"
Monthly Snowfall	22.8"
	(+5.1", 22% above normal)
Season to Date Snow	46.7"
	(-21.8", 32% below normal)
Season to Date Precip.	3.14"
	(-1.94", 39% below normal)
Heating Degree Days	1184 (+146)
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 are on page 31.

Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community are the responsibility of the letter writers and should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer. The letters are arranged in alphabetical order by the authors' last names.

True democracies do not build fences

Recently, Congress installed permanent fences around the U.S. Capitol building. Why would a democratic republic need fences? Who are they trying to keep out? The word democracy comes from two Greek words, demos = people and kratos = rule: “people rule.” If the people rule, then the leaders must listen to them.

Western countries have only a façade of democracy. Trudeau, Biden, Macron, and other Western leaders decry, “We must save democracy” as they violate, trounce, and lock up their citizens who simply aired their grievances and peacefully protested.

Western leaders have hollowed out democracy to such an extent that they hold their citizens in contempt. No protests, no petition, no grievances. Just shut up and obey. Yet, they need the consent of the governed to solidify their legitimacy. We no longer have divine-right monarchs. They have been supposedly replaced by the ballot box-elected leaders. However, “democratic elections” are only a tool to confer legitimacy our leaders need to justify their tyrannical rule.

During the pandemic, both Republicans and Democrats placed the interests of Big Pharma over the health of their constituents. Unwelcomed and

unwanted mask and vaccine mandates were put in place. Effective treatments were banned in favor of neither safe nor effective vaccines. In D.C., our elites suspended habeas corpus for the Jan. 6 political prisoners. In Canada, Trudeau refused to meet with or listen to the truckers. Instead, he declared a national emergency to crush any dissent. In Russia, Putin invaded Ukraine against the will of his people. Any Russian protesting against the war risks being arrested and silenced.

These cases exemplify how our leaders use the veneer of democracy to cover their authoritarian rule. Western democracy is a lie. The fences around the Capitol are a testament to that lie.

True democracies do not fear their people. They do not build fences. True democracies listen to and serve the people.

Michael O'Hare