

firefighters and the administrative staff, and the findings of the Master Plan conducted by Emergency Services Consulting International in 2019.

The second budget presentation will be in October and is subject to modifications, followed by a public hearing in November, said Kovacs.

Community paramedic proposal

Paramedic Carrie Fuller said she had been trying to implement a community paramedic pilot program over the past

several years. The program would cut down on 911 transports, keep patients safer by avoiding unnecessary emergency room visits, and save money over time. The Colorado Springs Fire Department and South Metro Fire Rescue already have robust programs, and the district calls are 80% fall assistance and 11% mental health.

The district would also introduce a Fall Reduction Program for the two nursing homes in the district where most of the fall assist calls are generated. Home risk assessments could be provided, and the district would mimic the Woodland Park Mental Health program. After the program is underway, additional educational programs could be added. The community paramedic program would not require additional personnel for 2024 and would be filled by the existing staff in dual roles, including an EMS department educator, and could include a contract with a mental health provider, she said.

Kovacs said the district needs to ensure the right resource is sent to each call and avoid sending a \$950,000 engine to assist with a fall or to a toxicology situation. The community paramedic program would relieve some of the burden on the health care system and avoid transporting patients who do not need to be occupying emergency room beds. The current setup is not an effective way of taking care of the problem and creates costly wear and tear on apparatus and high diesel fuel costs, he said.

Staff kudos

Kovacs congratulated Fuller for receiving a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree in Community Health. He also congratulated Battalion Chief of EMS Sean Pearson for representing the district with a presentation on mass casualty incidents at the University of Colorado health trauma conference at the Antlers Hotel.

Chief's report

Kovacs said the following:

- The district received \$3,730 from the Colorado Special Districts Safety Grant. The proceeds will be used to fund a portion of the district's snowplow.
- He thanked the Social Committee of High Forest Ranch Homeowners Association for donating \$1,092 to the district.
- Local 4319 unanimously voted to contribute \$10,000 for campaign materials for the Wescott ballot initiative. See photo with caption.
- The Annual Fill the Boot Campaign for the Muscular Dystrophy Association raised \$8,495.

Staffing update

Division Chief of Operations Jonathan Bradley said Lt. Keith Barker will be the



**Above:** A banner displayed at the corner of Gleneagle Drive and Baptist Road asks residents to vote yes on 6A and 6B in the upcoming November election. The Gleneagle Safety Committee paid for the signs displayed throughout the neighborhood with a unanimous pledge of \$10,000 from the Local 4319 branch of the International Firefighters Association. If both ballot questions pass, the residents will lower the mill levy for fire and EMS services and allow the merger between Donald Wescott Fire Protection District and Monument Fire District to be completed in 2024. The Joint Factual Summary for the Donald Wescott sub-district dissolution process explaining the ballot initiative can be found at [www.monumentfire.org](http://www.monumentfire.org). *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

first to occupy the rotational position of administrative training officer. The district recently lost Firefighter/Paramedic Taylor Neill to the Grand Junction Fire Department, an EMS/Paramedic requested training to become a firefighter, and a trainee recently dropped out of firefighter academy training. The district will have a total of six firefighters entering a Firefighter Training Academy in 2024.

Community Connect signup available

Kovacs said residents and businesses and property managers could create an account on Community Connect via the district website to provide valuable information that can help the Fire Department assist more effectively during an emergency. See [www.monument-fire.org](http://www.monument-fire.org) or visit [www.communityconnect.io/info/co-monument](http://www.communityconnect.io/info/co-monument).

October community events

Visit the local firefighters at Station 4, 15415 Gleneagle Drive on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet Monument Fire, check out the fire engines, and receive free food and goodies for the kids.

The Local 4319 Annual Pumpkin Giveaway event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Monument Clocktower, Jackson Creek Parkway. Free pumpkins, live music, food trucks, and freebies for the kids are included.

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