



Above: Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Fire Marshal John Vincent gave a presentation to the Monument Board of Trustees on lessons learned during the Waldo Canyon Fire about fire mitigation. He showed pictures of numerous examples of burnt and excess trees, particularly scrub oaks, and vegetation around homes on wooded lots. Vincent has given this presentation to several homeowners associations in the Tri-Lakes region. You can invite Tri-Lakes firefighters to your home for a wildfire mitigation evaluation by contacting Tri-Lakes Office Manager Jennifer Martin at 484-0911. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

- the things that cannot be replaced—baby pictures and items from chests in the bedroom and the junk drawer in the kitchen where the check book is kept.
- Gambel/scrub oak is an invasive species that is not native to Colorado and only appeared within the last 80 years, and it is typically clustered around houses.
- Scrub oak “burns, burns, burns, like a son-of-a-gun” due to the oil that accumulates internally during a drought, burning with incredible heat.
- Scrub oak recovers when burnt, unless it’s cut down repeatedly, while adjacent burnt pine trees cannot recover.
- Gambel oak needs to go away.
- Pick the trees on your lot that are winners and losers in the struggle for survival—“Drop the losers for firewood.”
- Don’t store firewood under your wooden deck.
- Nylon screens melt when embers hit them, the embers then collect on plastic window sills, explode the windows, and you have fire in your house—use metal screens.
- Plan your evacuation routes in more than one direction in case your primary/preferred route is blocked—particularly if you live on the west side of the railroad tracks.
- The Waldo Canyon trail will not be opened for five to 10 years due to continuously falling burned trees because cutting down the dead trees is unaffordable.
- Naturally recovering areas look healthier than areas that have been replanted by humans.

Two special event permits approved

The board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the tem-

porary closing of Lincoln Street from North Jefferson Street west to the alley west of Washington Street from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 29 and the issuance of a special event permit for conducting the St. Peter Catholic School Fall Festival.

The board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the temporary closing of Front Street from Second Street south to the entrance to the Mountain View Medical Group building at 192 Front St. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 15 and the issuance of a special event permit for conducting the annual Historic Monument Merchants Association Chili Cook-off.

Second Street tree installation contract approved

The board unanimously approved a resolution awarding a contract for \$100,000 to Timberline Landscaping Inc. work on the Second Street Streetscape project to install pine trees on both sides of the street from the Beacon Lite Road intersection east to Highway 105.

Tom Kassawara, director of Development Services, said five contractors attended the pre-bid meeting on July 16. However, only Timberline submitted a bid, for \$92,143. Kassawara added a contingency of \$7,856., rounding the total contract amount up to \$100,000. Because this exceeds the \$75,000 in the 2012 budget, an additional \$25,000 of unused funding from other budget lines must be reappropriated to this line item in the next 2012 budget restatement. Timberline has performed lots of other work for Public Works over the years.

Kassawara noted that the proposed contract calls for a landscape design allowing the bottom branches of the trees touch each other when they have matured. Vincent advised against this close spacing. He also recommended that the bottom three feet of branches be removed.

Kassawara said he would amend the contract with Timberline again after noting that the spacing between the trees had already been substantially increased to 25 feet for cost containment, due to the landscape engineer underestimating the cost for electrical wiring. He added that the contract needed to be initiated as soon as possible so it can be completed before the end of planting season.

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish said staff had already opened a trench across the full width of Second Street and installed the following to further contain the cost overrun for this project:

- The tree irrigation system water tap connected to the town’s large water main that runs along Second Street.
- The primary water service line that runs under the asphalt to provide irrigation water to each of the trees on the other side of the road.
- The water metering pit.
- The electrical conduit sleeves in the new water pipe trench that also now run under the asphalt and will hold the electrical wiring that will be installed to provide electrical power to the other half of the street to power the other half of the irrigation control system and the other half of the individual outlets for each tree for Christmas season lighting.

The Public Works staff also repaved the trench cut into the Second Street asphalt. The Timberline contract calls for an electrical subcontractor to install the wiring and controls for the irrigation control systems and the Christmas lighting outlets for each tree, at an unexpectedly high cost of \$35,000 (including \$10,000 for the individual tree outlets), causing the overrun above the \$75,000 budget for this project.

Four liquor licenses approved

The board unanimously approved a special event liquor license from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on

Sept. 29 for the gym area inside the St. Peter Catholic School at 124 First St. during the school’s Fall Festival. Liquor sales servic-