

## Woodmoor Improvement Association Annual Membership Meeting, Jan. 28

# Fire safety a priority for 2013

By Harriet Halbig

The subject of fire safety was a frequent theme at the Jan. 28 Annual Membership Meeting of the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA).

WIA President Jim Hale said that the community continues to be in danger of wildfires and that residents should protect themselves and their property. He thanked Forestry Director Eric Gross and Firewise Chairman Jim Woodman for their efforts to inform residents about services such as free lot evaluations, providing a chipping day for disposal of slash, and arranging a presentation by the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District's fire marshal with an emphasis on Woodmoor.

Gross said during his committee report that over 200 residents requested lot evaluations in 2012 and that the committee is seeking grant funding to help defray the cost of mitigation. He said that the Forestry Department has been active in mitigation on common areas and that the Firewise Committee has been meeting weekly to develop a newsletter to keep residents informed. He also said that DVDs of the fire marshal's presentation are available in the WIA office.

In his president's report, Hale said that the board is proud of the fact that 2012 was the third year in which WIA had a balanced budget. The website has been made more user-friendly, and efforts continue to use social media to keep in touch with residents. The board is also actively seeking to hold open meetings with fewer executive sessions.

Hale thanked outgoing Treasurer Nick Oakley and Public Safety Director Paul Lambert for their service.

### Goals for 2013

The goals for 2013 include Firewise activity, ratification of governing documents, and final approval of the Design Standards Manual (DSM). The DSM must be updated to include multifamily units and attention to fire-resistant materials.

Hale said that a developer had recently purchased the remaining land around Lake Woodmoor. Some of this land is zoned commercial and some multifamily. The DSM was last updated several years ago when the Wood-

moor Park townhomes in South Woodmoor were built.

Reporting for Oakley, Hale said that the association was over budget in revenue in 2012 due to complete rental of the offices in the Barn and other rentals for the use of the facility. Expenditures were below budget by about 7 percent. Hale said that the surplus revenue will go back into reserves, because there were several emergency expenditures in 2012 due to a ruptured gas line near the barn.

Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) Chief Kevin Nielsen reported on the services of his department, which included almost 17,000 vacation checks, 13,700 hours of patrol and 1,609 calls for service. He explained that residents may call for service for help jump-starting a car or towing from a ditch. He stressed that the county is responsible for the condition of Woodmoor roads.

There was increased vandalism in 2012, especially of mailboxes. He urged residents to report such events to WPS and the Sheriff's Office.

Common Area Director W. Lee Murray reported on noxious weed treatment, repair of fences, mowing activities, and the repairs and improvements at the barn.

Architectural Control Director Anne Stevens-Gountis reminded that her committee approves tree removal, landscaping, construction and modification. Such routine issues as paint color and roofing can be approved in the WIA office. Architectural Control reviewed almost 350 projects in 2012.

Covenant Director Darren Rouse encouraged residents to speak to their neighbors before reporting complaints to the board. He said that the number of complaints declined in 2012 due to a resident education plan through the association newsletter.

### Awards announced

The Vincent Elorie Award for outstanding citizenship was awarded to Beth Coureau, an active volunteer for the Lewis-Palmer School District and Tri-Lakes Cares and a former president of the Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations. Coureau currently serves on the board of the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District.

Hale announced two President's Awards to be presented to Jim Woodman for his fire prevention activities and Craig Gaydos for his work on the association newsletter.

WIA Manager Matt Beseau announced five Good Neighbor Awards to be presented to Dave and Wendy Reineke, Charles Simmons, W. Lee Murray, Lisa Hatfield, and Leslie Weiss. These individuals were nominated by their neighbors.

Ballots were received for the three vacancies on the Board of Directors. The ballots will be counted by representatives of the League of Women Voters.

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Above: Beth Coureau receives the Vincent Elorie Award from WIA President Jim Hale. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

## Tri-Lakes Economic Development Corp., Jan. 9

# Medical tourism industry incentives proposed

By Candice Hitt

On Jan. 9, the Tri-Lakes Economic Development Corp. (TLEDC) and the Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance (the surviving organization of the Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corp. merger) met with representatives of local businesses, land owners, developers, and commercial real estate brokers to discuss the TLEDC vision for attracting primary employers to the area. Discussions centered on developing a collaborative plan to specifically target medical device companies and healthcare organizations, as well as entities that would support medical tourism such as specialty medical care centers, surgery centers, and rehabilitation facilities.

The collaborative plan also would support a regional effort for marketing the I-25 corridor from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs to the Denver Tech Center as an Innovation Health Corridor.

Participants provided a number of suggestions in support of the TLEDC's vision, including that the TLEDC work with local employers to help them grow and develop their interstate commerce capabilities, survey companies to identify what the roadblocks area companies are facing, and educate employers on available resources and business opportunities.

The TLEDC serves as a liaison between prospective or existing businesses and the area's government entities, helping to remove hurdles to attracting employers to the

Tri-Lakes region, in order to provide jobs that sustain the area's residents.

The TLEDC also announced the launch of its new website: [www.trilakesedc.com](http://www.trilakesedc.com). The site provides information on the Tri-Lakes community and business resources.

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The next regular TLEDC meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at Serrano's Coffee Co., 582 Highway 105, Monument. Information: [www.trilakesedc.com](http://www.trilakesedc.com).

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## January Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

January was a month of extremes around the region. We started off with an arctic chill, quickly flipped to record warmth, and then tumbled again to end the month. For the month as a whole, temperatures were slightly below normal, and once again precipitation was well below normal.

The new year started off cold, with morning lows below zero on the first three days of the month and high temperatures not reaching the freezing mark until the afternoon of the 4th. We were dry for the most part, with just a dusting of snow right after New Year's Eve. Sunshine was the rule the rest of the first week of January, with just a few high clouds at times. Temperatures continued to moderate, reaching well into the 30s on the 4th and right around freezing on the 5th.

A mild start to the second week of January ended with

very cold air and some light snow. Temperatures started the week about 5 to 10 degrees warmer than normal, in the mid- to upper 40s from the 7th through the 10th. Lots of sunshine mixed with high and mid-level clouds at times resulted in an overall very quiet weather. Changes began to take shape on Friday as a deep trough moved on the West Coast and through the Intermountain West. This combined with an arctic air mass to bring some cold air to the region starting Friday afternoon. Light snow fell but didn't amount to much.

Cold air continued to be reinforced through the weekend, with highs only reaching the upper teens on the 12th and low teens on the 13th. Overnight lows dipped below zero each morning as well. Unfortunately, moisture was lacking with this cold air mass, so only light snow fell at times. Over the weekend, most of us accumulated around a half-inch of new snow.

It was cold and a little snowy to start the second full week of the month. Temperatures started off the week 20 to 30 degrees below normal, as highs barely reached the low teens on the 14th. That morning started off well below zero. The next morning was even colder, with many areas dropping to the teens below zero. Even though there wasn't much moisture to work with, the very cold air was efficient at squeezing out every snowflake. We picked up a fluffy half-inch on the 14th, but that was the last measurable moisture for the remainder of the week. Temperatures began to moderate slowly, reaching the 20s on the afternoon of the 15th, and finally broke above freezing by late morning on the 16th. Mild and dry air continued to move into the region from the west under a very strong ridge of high pressure over the remainder of the week. Highs reached in the 40s and low 50s by the 18th, staying above normal through the weekend. Sunshine was com-