

Monument Board of Trustees, March 2

## Town manager candidate “meet and greet” March 14

By Lisa Hatfield

At the March 2 Monument Board of Trustees meeting, the trustees discussed the hiring process for new town manager, heard a presentation about the need for renewable water sources for the town, approved four ordinances, and applauded Chief Water Operator Nick Harris.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jeff Kaiser chaired the meeting in the absence of Mayor Rafael Dominguez.

### Town manager hiring process continues

Trustee Jeff Smith asked Town Attorney Gary Shupp to clarify that the process of selecting finalists for the town manager position did follow open meeting laws. Shupp said since it was just an administrative meeting with two trustees, not a committee designated for this process, the posting of the meeting Smith asked about was not necessary.

Town Manager and Interim Town Treasurer Pamela Smith said she received about 50 resumes for the town manager job, but not as many qualified candidates for the treasurer position. Smith said it was decided to hire a new town manager, and she will retain the town treasurer position then.

Residents are invited to a “meet and greet” on March 14 to meet the two finalists for the town manager position. The meeting is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road.

### Renewable water study update

Will Koger of Forsgren Engineering presented informa-

tion about the need for a “prompt” transition from non-renewable groundwater, which the town heavily depends on now, to a renewable supply of water and a regional water supply approach, possibly teaming up with six or seven other water districts to achieve economies of scale on new infrastructure. For more details, see summaries in Donala on page 15 and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation on page 1.

### Four ordinances approved

The trustees unanimously approved the following ordinances:

- Implementing a distance restriction of 500 feet between any licensed liquor establishment and any public or parochial school.
- Revising the Monument Municipal Code regarding public consumption of alcohol so that future town events with special event permits do not violate town ordinances about drinking in the streets.
- Amending the sign ordinance code to make it more concise and understandable.
- Amending the maximum fence height in Planned Industrial Development areas so that it is now 8 feet instead of 6 feet.

### Kudos to Harris

Chief Water Operator Nick Harris received a kudos award from Public Works Director Tom Tharnish for his help in collecting data and background information relevant to the recent water rights change issue with Palmer Lake. Thar-

nish thanked Harris for his “creative solutions that helped solve this case.”

### Town manager’s report

Smith presented the disbursements over \$5,000 at both the Feb. 17 and March 2 meetings:

- Triview Metro District \$2,772
- Lytle Water Solutions LLC \$14,350 for six water projects engineering and consulting fees
- Triview Metro District \$163,194
- Cool Breeze Heating and Air Conditioning \$5,097
- Krassa & Miller LLC \$14,202 for various legal advice on seven water cases
- Trench Shoring Services \$6,618

Smith said she is trying to arrange meetings with CDOT in March with the possibility of coming to an agreement with CDOT about a new location for the bulk fill station currently located on Wagon Gap Trail.

### “Whole community”

Trustee Becki Tooley expressed her gratitude to a “random guy,” Kevin Nelson, who stopped to tow her car and another car out of the snow recently. “That’s the spirit of why I moved here. We’re a whole community. It’s a wonderful thing.”

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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See additional Monument Board of Trustees articles on pages 1-6.

Woodmoor Improvement Associate Board of Directors, Feb. 25

## Board vacancy to be filled; covenants to be revised

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board discussed the resignation of board member Dick Green, a plan to update the covenants, and increased interactions with El Paso County Sheriff’s Office. Treasurer Tom Shoemaker was absent.

### Board vacancy

President Jim Hale reported that new board member Dick Green had resigned after selling his house more quickly than expected. Erik Stensland has stepped into the role of vice president and is temporarily in charge of Forestry until a new director is appointed. Hale wants to get a person with knowledge and experience on the Forestry Committee to come on board and hopes to make an appointment at next month’s meeting.

### Covenants to be revised

Hale proposed establishing an emergency fund of \$100,000.

Vice President Stensland indicated that he wants to rewrite the covenants this year and then move on to the rules and regulations. He will work with Sherrie Storey, Covenants and Forestry administrator, and bring that draft to the board with a proposal to get feedback. Hale indicated he is the only one on the board that was involved with the previous covenant revision process and noted that the board will have to get legal counsel involved and will

need to figure out how to get the changes passed in an affordable and timely way.

### WPS reports and Sheriff’s Office

Per Suhr, director of Public Safety, after the latest revision of the Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) database, said we believe everyone is happy with it; residents are getting the information they are used to and it still tracks the activities of WPS. Suhr noted that WPS has been logging patrol checks of Woodmoor Park and the YMCA as business customers and have been asked by the chief to discontinue this because the two entities are part of Woodmoor and pay their assessments just like other residents.

Suhr relayed that the patrol commander of the county Sheriff’s Office has asked the board for permission to let the deputies use the WPS office to access the computer for phone follow-up. WPS Chief Nielsen said they could have a separate login or bring their own laptops and leverage the WIA Wi-Fi or use their data cards and have a place to sit. Hale indicated it would be great opportunity, if they are up in this part of the county, to interact with them and discuss local issues. Chief Nielsen noted that, under Sheriff Elder, there has been a significant increase in traffic stops, patrols, and communication.

### Other business

Highlights from the board member reports include:

- The board has decided on a 2015 Jeep Cherokee to re-

place an older vehicle. A motion was made to approve the purchase of the new vehicle and was seconded and unanimously approved.

- Hale talked to the owner of the new Magnum Shooting Range about the possibility of WPS using the facility to shoot and qualify locally. Hale suggested that he, Chief Nielsen, and Officer Les Milligan should discuss this with the owner.
- Vice President Stensland reported for Forestry that meetings would be started shortly to organize so that the new director will have something to start with.
- Director of Common Areas Alan Bassett reported that four people had signed up to volunteer for the ad hoc common area committee.
- The board discussed a variety of projects including possible community events, a pavilion in front of the Barn, and improvements to parking near Toboggan Hill.

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The Board of Directors of the WIA usually meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. Due to holidays, the next meeting will be on March 25. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at: <http://www.woodmoor.org/content/admin-bod-meeting-minutes.html> once approved.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at [jackieburhans@ocn.me](mailto:jackieburhans@ocn.me).

## February 2015 Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

It was quite a roller coaster ride during February, as we saw an extended period of warmth during the first half of the month, then an extended period of cold and snow during the last third of the month. Overall, temperatures during the month were warmer than normal, and snowfall was well above normal. That’s a good sign as we head into spring and need that moisture to get the season off to a good start.

The first day of the month was cooler than normal, with 1-2 inches of snow falling. High temperatures were held in the mid- to upper 20s that afternoon. But this was the last day with below average temperatures until the 16th. Highs were around normal to slightly warmer than normal over the next few days, as quiet and generally dry weather moved in from the 2nd through the 4th. Then, a strong ridge of high pressure, which had been dominating the weather pattern along the West Coast of the United States most of the winter, moved a little farther east. This

allowed very mild and dry air to move into Colorado. Our temperatures soared over the next couple of days.

Record warmth occurred around the region as our January thaw occurred a little late this year. Temperatures warmed into the upper 50s on the 5th, about 15 degrees warmer than normal, and continued to climb over the next couple of days. Highs reached the low to mid-60s each day from the 6th through the 8th as a warm ridge of high pressure built in from the southwest. Of course, on the other side of this high pressure, the air was blowing straight out of Canada into the Midwest and East Coast, so that while we were seeing sun and warmth, they were getting cold and snow. Daily record highs were set at many locations on the afternoon of the 6th and 7th all along the Front Range and Eastern Plains of Colorado. No precipitation fell during this time as well, giving the region a nice feel of spring. Of course, it’s easy to forget our snowiest time of the year is still ahead, with March and April being our two snowiest month of the year

Unsettled conditions briefly returned for most of the week of the 9th, but not before one more day of near record warmth. Highs reached the low 60s on the 9th as the high pressure that had been keeping us warm and dry for most of the month held on for one last day. Moisture began to move in the next day, and with the mild air mass in place, we actually had a few sprinkles fall during the afternoon of the 10th. It was a very rare occurrence in February. This did change to snow that evening and continued into the next morning. Most of us picked up 1-3 inches of snow and temperatures were held to below normal levels on the 11th. Mild air quickly moved back in ahead of the next system, with temperatures reaching back into the mid-50s on the 12th through the 14th. The next storm began to affect the region as the storm track shifted just enough back to the west to allow a couple of disturbances to move through starting on the 15th.

The pattern finally began to make a significant change with the reinforcing shot of cold and snow on the 16th as