



**Above:** The Woodmoor Improvement Association's annual meeting filled the Lewis-Palmer Middle School auditorium with residents, candidates, board members, and staff. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*



**Above:** From left are board members Rich Wretschko, Robert Benjamin, Ed Miller, Kayla Dixon, Lee Hanson, Brian Bush, Peter Bille, Per Suhr, and Brad Gleason, followed by Homeowners Association staff Denise Cagliaro and Amy Mast. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

ed free Firewise evaluations, pursued grant opportunities, organized chipping days, and educating hundreds of residents on mountain pine beetles, dwarf mistletoe, and slash piles.

**Board election and reorganization**

Vice President Brian Bush recapped election procedures and confirmed that a quorum had been achieved. He noted that proxies would have been used only if needed to reach a quorum and not to change election results. Four candidates were given three minutes each to speak about their background and interest in serving on the board. No nominations were submitted from the floor.

Ballots were received by mail and at the meeting by League of Women Voters representatives who counted and provided totals to the board on the day after the annual meeting. On Jan. 31, the board held a short meeting to certify the election results and elect officers and designate board directors as follows:

- Brian Bush, President
- Peter Bille, Vice-president
- Kayla Dixon, Secretary and Director of Community Outreach
- Lee Hanson, Treasurer
- Robert Benjamin, Director of Architectural Control

- Rich Wretschko, Director of Common Areas
- Per Suhr, Director of Covenant Control
- Ed Miller, Director of Forestry
- Brad Gleason, Director of Public Safety

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The WIA Annual Meeting is held each year in January at the Lewis-Palmer Middle School. The WIA calendar can be found at: <https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/>. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at: <https://www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/> once approved and posted.

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## February Weather Wrap

*By Bill Kappel*

February was slightly cooler than normal and again drier than normal. The drier than normal conditions have now plagued the region since early fall, with every month receiving below-average precipitation. Let's hope the unsettled, cooler conditions we saw during the second half of February are a sign that the rest of the spring season will be wet and cool.

The first day of February was right at average, but warmer weather quickly moved in, with temperatures ranging between 5 to 20 degrees above normal from the 2nd through the 9th. Highs reached the low 50s on the 2nd and 3rd and the 7th and 8th, with 40s in between. No precipitation fell during this period, except for the 5th and 6th when some light freezing drizzle and flurries occurred as a layer of low clouds blanketed the area.

A significant pattern change finally occurred starting with a strong frontal passage in the late afternoon on the 9th. Temperatures fell quickly and stayed cold the next day. Highs on the 10th only reached the mid-teens with light snow. Most areas received 2-4 inches of new snow by that evening. Clear skies and fresh snow allowed temperatures to cool well below zero by the morning of the 11th. But plenty of sunshine the next few days allowed temperatures to warm back to the 30s each afternoon.

The cool air mass was quickly ushered out on the 13th as winds from the west/southwest brought

warmer and dry air into the region. Temperatures responded quickly, rising into the 50s from the 13th through the 15th. This was ahead of the next system that pushed a cold front through around 5 p.m. on the 15th. Temperatures cooled quickly with light snow again falling that evening into early the next morning. This system only produced 1-2 inches for most of us. Temperatures were in the 30s on the 16th then low 40s on the 17th. Stronger west/southwest winds kicked in the day and temperatures warmed to their highest levels of the month, reaching the mid- and upper 50s.

Again, this was ahead of the next cold front. A strong frontal passage occurred around 10:30 p.m. that evening, dropping temperatures by about 30 degrees in an hour. This air mass and the weather pattern associated with it stuck around for the rest of the month, with several impulses of energy moving through and producing snowfall. Around 3-6 inches of snow accumulated from the 19th-20th, then snow showers put down just enough to make roads slippery on the 22nd and 23rd.

Another unusual aspect with this air mass was that temperatures were held below freezing from just after the frontal passage on the 18th through the early afternoon on the 23rd. That's a pretty long stretch of cold air for late February on the Palmer Divide.

**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 and limited inconvenience for us.

**February 2018 Weather Statistics**

Average High	<b>38.7°</b> (-1.3°)
100-year return frequency value max	<b>51.9°</b> min <b>32.8°</b>
Average Low	<b>13.3°</b> (+0.3°)
100-year return frequency value max	<b>21.9°</b> min <b>3.7°</b>
Highest Temperature	<b>57° on the 18th</b>
Lowest Temperature	<b>-5° on the 21st</b>
Monthly Precipitation	<b>0.46"</b>
	(-0.48" 50% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	<b>2.10"</b> min <b>0.02"</b>
Monthly Snowfall	<b>8.6"</b>
	(-9.1", 55% below normal)
Season to Date Snow	<b>31.1"</b>
	(-49.8", 54% below normal)
	<i>(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)</i>
Season to Date Precip.	<b>2.10"</b>
	(-2.98", 59% below normal)
	<i>(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)</i>
Heating Degree Days	<b>1066</b> (-30)
Cooling Degree Days	<b>0</b>

*Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at [billkappel@ocn.me](mailto:billkappel@ocn.me).*

## Letters to Our Community

*Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31.*

**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

**Thanks to OCN volunteers**

I'd like to express my gratitude to the dedicated community volunteers who have been producing Our Community News for so many years. The OCN has consistently supplied us with balanced information on the functioning of our community at all levels, with added features and activity listings that benefit us all.

Thanks to all of you for the behind-the-scenes nitty-gritty work of counting, delivering, copy-editing etc., as well as the more "glamorous" job of reporting on long governmental/utility/school board etc. meet-

ings! Information helps us participate in the workings of our community and connects us. In addition, as someone who has had a small business in the Monument area for many years, I appreciate the OCN as an opportunity for reasonably-priced advertising.

I'd like to especially mention the well-written and researched monthly columns by Elizabeth Hacker (birds) and Janet Sellers (art and gardening). They have both worked for many years to enhance our understanding and enjoyment of the unique and beautiful Palmer Divide.

*Raleigh Dove*

**Cut spending if you lower taxes**

The Laffer Curve first came to life when economist Arthur Laffer was discussing his theory of supply-side

economics in 1974. Laffer was later President Reagan's Economic Policy Advisory Board and his theory has become important to many conservatives.

The theory is pretty simple. Think of a curve where on the left you have zero taxes (meaning there are no police or fire departments, roads, bridges, military—or we're back to the stone age, which most people would have some issue with) and at the other end is 100 percent tax (meaning that there would be no incentive to work or produce anything), which would also destroy civilization as we know it.

The theory suggests that governments should find the sweet spot, where the most amount of revenue will be generated with a particular tax rate. Those that currently believe in the Laffer Curve have, more or less, skipped past looking for the "sweet spot" and