

the board, along with Common Areas administrator Bob Pearsall, are embarking on a five-year trails and open space improvement plan. They will be building out trails in open spaces that currently do not have them and adding amenities such as benches and pet stations. WIA will start by improving the current social trail in The Marsh.

Jean requested a budget augmentation of \$8,500 to install pet waste stations and contract to have the waste removed and bags replaced on a weekly basis for one year. President Brian Bush explained that this augmentation did not change the overall budget and that the money will come from other line-item savings. The board unanimously approved the request.

Grant for Woodmoor Drive defensible corridor

Director Tom Smith announced that the WIA has received a \$245,000 grant to do mitigation on Woodmoor Drive. The grant was written with the Colorado State Forestry Service (CSFS), which will help to execute the grant. The goal is to create a fuel break by mitigating lots along the east-west portion of Woodmoor Drive. WIA has started training on how to do lot evaluations for this grant. The lot owner would pay up front for the mitigation and receive up to 50% payment in return upon completion of the process.

WIA will be reaching out to eligible lot owners after CSFS has completed the administrative planning phase. Contact Matthew Nelson, covenants and forestry administrator, at 488-2694 ext. 4 or matthew@woodmoor.org with any questions.

Safe Routes to School trail underway

Woodmoor Public Safety chief Kevin Nielsen reported that work has begun on the Safe Routes to School trail

for which Lewis-Palmer D38 and WIA were previously awarded a grant. See more information at <https://www.ocn.me/v18n5.htm#wia>.

The JR Engineering firm has begun the design work and is staking out the location of the trail, with surveying work starting shortly. The design is expected to be completed this fall, after which actual construction will begin as soon as possible, depending on the winter weather.

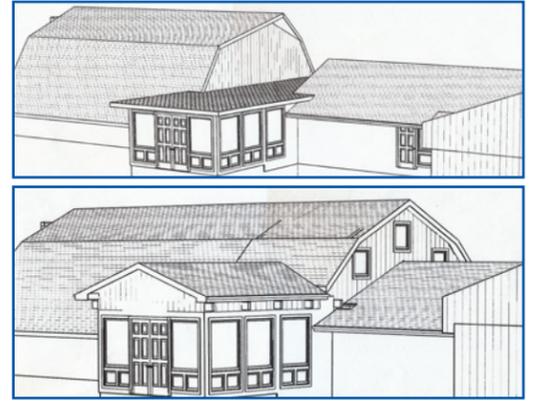
Board highlights

- The Barn will be unavailable from Oct. 29 to Nov. 6 because it will be used as a Voter Service and Polling Center for the general election. In-person voting will be available on Friday, Oct. 30 and Saturday, Oct. 31 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Monday, Nov. 2 and Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Ballots may also be dropped off at the drop box in the Park and Ride lot on Woodmoor Drive and Highway 105 or at the drop box at Monument Town Hall at 645 Beacon Lite Road.
- Director Peter Bille reported that he is working in consultation with staff on updating the website and will be looking at bids for a new system in the spring.
- Nominations for WIA Board of Directors are due by Nov. 16. There are three open positions for the election, which takes place in January at the annual meeting. Each director serves a three-year term. More information along with the nomination form can be found at <https://www.woodmoor.org/board-of-directors/>.
- The project to replace the flat roof connecting the Barn to the administrative offices is in the engineering and permitting phase. Materials are expected to arrive by early October.

The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting will be on Oct. 28.

The WIA calendar can be found at www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/ once approved and posted.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.



Above: These drawings show the current roof on the Barn (top) and the new roofline after the project to replace the flat portion is completed. This project is expected to address leaking issues as well as provide architectural consistency. Drawings courtesy of the Woodmoor Improvement Association.

September Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

September was month of extremes. The month was a testament to the incredible variety and swings we often see as we transition between seasons. This, of course, is a function of our location in the center of the continent, away from large bodies of water which moderate the climate, and high elevation. Extreme changes in temperature are not unheard of for us, but the weather pattern during the first two weeks of the month set some all-time records.

Some of the more interesting records included 10-15 inches of snow in the San Luis Valley from Alamosa westward to Monte Vista and Del Norte. Not only were the snowfall totals extreme (among the top 10 all-time for any snowstorm there) but they were also the earliest recorded measurable snowfall by nine days!

There were many other amazing records set from the wild swing from all-time highs to record cold and snow. The most intriguing was a record for the entire U.S. just to our east at the COOP station in northwestern Kansas. At that location, they were 100F on the 6th, then recorded 0.3 inches of snow on the 9th, then hit 100F again on the 25th and 26th. As far as anyone could tell (from the NWS office in Goodland, Kan.), this is the only known time that temperatures reached 100F after the first measurable snow of the season in the U.S.

Closer to home, this included monthly record highs for many locations along the Front Range, including the latest record 100F temperature in Denver and an extremely rare 90F for us on top of the Palmer Divide on the 6th. In fact, high temperatures from the 1st through the 7th were 80F or above on five days. We were dry the entire period as well.

However, Mother Nature had a big surprise in store for us. Just to keep us humble and remind us that summer wasn't going to last forever. Right on the heels of the record warmth on the 6th and 7th, a powerful storm system was dropping through the northern Rockies. Associated with this storm was a record cold air mass. The first signs of change pushed through just after 9 p.m. on the 7th with the initial frontal passage. Low clouds and drizzle quickly filled in behind this front as the winds turned from the north to northeast. This produced upslope conditions for us and helped enhance the clouds and precipitation formation. At the same time the storm and cold air aloft was moving over the Colorado/Utah border, setting the stage for more cold air and moisture to be drawn into the Front Range.

Temperatures continued to tumble through the evening and into the next morning, reaching below freezing around 4 a.m. This changed the drizzle to snow and turned us from record heat to record cold in a matter of 12 hours. Light snow to snow along with gusty winds continued off and on through the day. The continued slow movement of the storm to our west allowed cold air to continue to rush into the region. This combined with the clouds kept temperatures at or below freezing the entire day on the 9th. This set a record for the lowest high temperature so early in the season and allowed snow to accumulate, especially on grasses and elevated surfaces, to several inches. Fortunately, all

the record heat the previous days meant the roads were able to retain a significant amount of heat so that snow never was able to accumulate. Snow showers and cold temperatures lingered through the 10th before the storm finally moved out of the region and allowed more normal conditions to return.

The remainder of the month was generally dry and quiet, with temperatures returning to well above normal levels from the 14th through the 26th. Unfortunately, we weren't able to enjoy this "Indian Summer" weather to its fullest because of all the smoke in the air. Unlike the smoky conditions in August, which were caused by forest fires in Colorado, the majority of the smoke in September was the result of the fires along the West Coast.

We did get one final reminder that winter isn't too far away at the end of the month, with a quick-moving cold front during the mid-morning hours of the 27th. Low clouds filled in quickly behind the front with drizzle off and on by late afternoon and evening. A few snowflakes mixed in as well that evening. Then as skies cleared that night, temperatures fell to the upper 20s. The next day had a strong feel of fall, with clear skies and chilly temperatures. Quiet and mild conditions rounded out the last two days of the month, leaving us to wonder what "fun" weather is headed our way for October.

A look ahead

October can be an active weather month for the region with our first snowy conditions often experienced during the month. Most years, we seem to get a good snowfall around Halloween, and after a warm and dry

September, we could use a wet and cold storm this year. Snow can be heavy at times during any part of October as when over 20 inches of snow fell from October 9-10th in 2005, and 2006 saw over 24 inches of snow fall in less than 24 hours on October 26th. Of course, the big storm some of us remember occurred during October 1997, when nearly 4 feet of snow and blizzard conditions shut everything down for several days. But we are just as likely to get mild and sunny conditions, so enjoy those sunny days when you can.

September 2020 Weather Statistics

Average High	72.5° (+1.6)
100-year return frequency value max	77.5° min 63.5°
Average Low	41.9° (+0.7)
100-year return frequency value max	46.7° min 36.1°
Monthly Precipitation	0.78" (-1.02")
100-year return frequency value max	4.34" min 0.40"
Monthly Snowfall	5.2" (+4.7")
Highest Temperature	90° on the 6th
Lowest Temperature	24° on the 9th
Season to Date Snow	5.2"
	(+4.7", 90% above normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	3.86"
	(-4.21", 48% below normal)
	(the precip season is from October 1 to September 30)
Heating Degree Days	248 (+11)
Cooling Degree Days	14 (+7)

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters are on page 31.

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

The choices we face

In all aspects of our lives, we continually face choices. Some are easy—what to eat, wear, read, and watch. Some choices are hard to make and have an even greater impact than we would have imagined. Examples include the effort we put into our education, what skills we purposely develop, and where in the country we call home. In no other time in my memory have the choices Americans will face this November presented such a dark difference in what type of culture we will soon have and what values we will leave to the next generation.

Our societal norms have largely been obliterated by the events of the past several months. What used to be considered "wrong" is now called "just" by some, and the order we used to enjoy is now called complacency. Our laissez faire economy is now deemed unfair to some members, and the orderly process of political choice is being replaced by a "get out of my way" approach to decision making. I'm worried—not for myself but for my kids—and for yours.

What can we do to return our country to the stabil-

ity we have counted on for the past 240 years? First, we all need to openly and thankfully support the organizations and people who bring our country the structure we depend on when we need it—police, fire medical and military personnel come to mind. Secondly, we need to stop and think about the society we really want and not fall into current trend traps. Finally, we need to vote our deepest informed values—not our political parties.

There are good and bad actors on both sides. So, let's choose carefully who we really want making the decision which will affect our lives. It matters.

Chris Amenson

Palmer Lake trustee endorsements

There are six candidates running for four trustee positions. The town has faced many issues—the lake, reservoir trails, roads, water, town personnel, saving our fire department, all of which are of great importance to its citizens.

Several candidates have regularly attended council meetings and have been deeply involved with town issues and are actively pursuing solutions for them. The three candidates who I think would be great Palmer Lake Town Council trustees are Karen Stuth, Shana Ball, and Kit Bromfield. I do not discount the other three candidates; I just do not know them as well.

Karen's involvement includes a master plan, citi-