

discretionary revenue that the BOCC will distribute to provide core services such as public safety and infrastructure. The remainder goes to projects and programs set by state or federal law or other restrictions that the commissioners cannot alter.

The public is encouraged to participate in the budget-setting process. The preliminary balanced budget and all supporting documents can be viewed on the county website at: <https://admin.elpasoco.com/financial-services/budget-finance/county-budget/>

The final budget vote will be held at the BOCC meeting on Dec. 7.

Shiloh Pines

The commissioners unanimously approved an application by John Puskas to rezone 3.94 acres of a 74.46-acre property from RR-5 (rural residential) to RR-2.5 (rural residential) and the remaining acres from RR-5 to A-35 (agricultural) at their Sept. 28 meeting. The property is located at the southwest corner of the Monument Lake Road and Peakview Boulevard intersection, west of Highway 105.

The 3.94-acre parcel has been purchased by neighbors and adjoins their existing property in the Shiloh Pines subdivision, which is zoned RR-2.5. The remaining Puskas property is used for agricultural purposes, which are more in keeping with an agricultural zoning. Puskas is not proposing any changes to the existing uses at this time. The neighbors envision

one day possibly building another house on the property they have acquired.

The item was heard as a consent item, meaning there was no discussion. The request was heard by the county Planning Commission at its Sept. 2 meeting and came to the BOCC with a unanimous recommendation for approval.

Rapson and Bridle Bit Ranch minor subdivision requests

The commissioners unanimously approved two applications to divide existing properties into two single-family lot subdivisions in October. Both requests came to the BOCC with recommendations of approval at the Planning Commission's Oct. 7 meeting. The Rapson application requested approval of a minor subdivision request to create two single-family residential lots on their 19.6-acre property. The property is zoned RR-5 (residential rural) and is located southeast of the intersection of Hardy Road and Black Squirrel Road, about one mile north of Hodgen Road.

The request by Nicole Telle will see the single-family 10.12-acre property in the Bridle Bit Ranch subdivision on the west side of Bridle Bit Road, about a mile east of the Shoup Road and Highway 83 intersection, divided into two lots of just over 5 acres each.

Misty Acres

The commissioners approved the release of bonds, checks, and a letter of credit relating to subdivision

improvements at various filings within the Misty Acres development at their Oct. 19 meeting. The decisions followed the completion and satisfactory inspection of improvements in filings 1, 2, 2C, and 3.

Highway 105 improvements project

At their Oct. 12 meeting, the commissioners approved a contract amendment request from the Department of Public Works relating to its contract with HDR Engineering Inc. for final design and property acquisition services for the Highway 105 Projects A and B at a cost not to exceed \$2.19 million.

Gleneagle North Homeowners Association (HOA) agreement

The commissioners approved a public right-of-way license agreement between the county and the Gleneagle North Homeowners Association (HOA) at their Oct. 26 meeting. This will allow the HOA to install and maintain stop signs and street signposts within the county's right of way.

Note: Starting this month, the BOCC will hear land use items separately from other BOCC business at meetings held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade Ave. Regular meetings will continue to be held every Tuesday at 9 a.m.

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Woodmoor Improvement Association, Oct. 27

Board recognizes Chief Kevin Nielsen for 30 years of service



Above From left are Public Safety Director Brad Gleason, Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) Chief Kevin Nielsen, and board President Brian Bush. Gleason and Bush presented Nielsen with a plaque commemorating his 30 years of service on WPS as an officer, a captain, and chief. Bush said Nielsen was a superb leader and Gleason appreciated his experience and knowledge. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.volunteers.*

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) met on Oct. 27 to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) Chief Kevin Nielsen. The board also explained the most common covenant violations, reviewed fire mitigation, and heard.

Chief celebrates 30 years

Board President Brian Bush opened the meeting by reporting a significant mission failure that neglected to inform the board that one of "our stalwarts" passed 30 years of service on Sept. 7 of 2021 and should have been recognized at the last board meeting. That stalwart is WPS Chief Kevin Nielsen. Nielsen started his WPS career in Woodmoor in 1991 as a police officer,

was promoted to captain in 1995 and chief in 1999.

Bush said Nielsen has done an "absolutely superb job" leading his workforce and making Woodmoor a much better place to live. Director of Public Safety Brad Gleason expressed appreciation for Nielsen's knowledge, expertise, and work in this community. The board presented Nielsen with a commemorative plaque and a gift card to his favorite restaurant.

Nielsen said he wouldn't be here without his co-workers, including the WIA staff and the board. He would not have succeeded without the backing of Woodmoor residents, he said. He noted that he has been asked when he plans to retire but feels too young to give up something he loves.

For more information on WPS, see <https://www.woodmoor.org/woodmoor-public-safety/>.

Fire mitigation

Forestry Director Tom Smith reported seven forestry visits in September. Common Areas Director Steve Cutler noted that Forestry Administrator Matthew Nelson and Smith had mitigated five trees on The Point open space that had been mentioned by a resident at the previous meeting. Cutler also reported accepting bids for fire mitigation in common areas.

Smith reported submitting a second round of reimbursements for about \$7,500 on a 50% cost basis to the Western States Wildland Urban Interface \$245,000 grant program. The grant, which is focused on the Woodmoor Drive corridor, requires a Firewise evaluation before and after mitigation to confirm the work has been done. Smith expects money to be left over in the spring for residents outside the corridor.

Board highlights

- The deadline for nominations for prospective board members is Nov. 16. The form is on the website at: <https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-board-nomination/>. The election will be held at the annual meeting in January 2022.
- Vice President Peter Bille reported that the proposal for updated fees and fines would be available at the November meeting.
- Treasurer Connie Brown said the board will consider and approve the 2022 budget at the next meeting.
- The December board meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 15 due to Christmas.

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 has been moved to Wednesday, Nov. 17 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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.

October Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

October was another month of drier-than-normal conditions and warmer-than-normal temperatures. Most of the month saw quiet conditions with almost no storm activity except for a couple days. One benefit of the mainly sunny skies and clear cool nights was the nice progression of fall colors. This is in contrast to the last few years when early season snow and cold produced a quick end to the fall color season.

The first day of the month saw a few sprinkles and temperatures slightly below normal with highs in the upper 50s, but this was an anomaly over the next two

weeks. Temperatures rose into the 70s from the 3rd through the 8th, with overnight lows holding above freezing during the period. A few brief rain showers fell during the morning of the 9th behind a departing storm that moved just to our north.

This ushered in some slightly cooler air as well, with highs dropping back to normal levels in the upper 50s and low 60s. The cooler air combined with the longer nights to produce several mornings in a row of temperatures in the 20s. Unsettled conditions affected the area on the afternoon of the 12th, with mostly cloudy skies and even a few brief flurries. Another

storm moved by just to our north and west on the afternoon and evening of the 14th. This storm produced our first accumulating snow of the season with a trace to an inch throughout the area above 7,000 feet. The farther north, the more snow there was, as the departing storms moved through just to our north.

Dry and quiet conditions returned over the next two weeks with temperatures ranging from just below normal to above normal between the 15th and the 25th. Skies were generally clear to mostly clear during the period as stronger winds moved across the mountains and produced some gusty conditions at times.