

Force Academy Cadet Squadron 32. He also thanked the United Congregational Church for paying for breakfast for veterans, families, and other citizens who attended a three-hour Memorial Day breakfast at the Depot Restaurant, which is the home of American Legion Post 911. The cleanup will become an annual tradition.

Hoover met with Rebecca Duke and members of the Palmer Lake Community Group on May 26 and June 10 to discuss their volunteer efforts for Town Hall.

The gate below the town's south reservoir will be replaced by the end of June.

Police Trustee Bob Grado reported that 27 summons and 34 warnings were issued in May.

Fire Trustee Rich Kuehster reported 29 response calls for the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department and 132 calls for the year. Seven new volunteers are completing their qualifications. An open house was held at the station on June 23.

Kuehster said the department would like to work with the council on a ballot initiative to raise the current Palmer Lake sales tax for the department from the current half-cent to 1 cent.

Fire departments nationwide will have to buy new radios again due to new restrictions on available emergency

service bandwidth.

Roads Trustee Jerry Davis gave an update on summer upgrades that have been performed on local streets. Grado asked Davis to have the Roads Department restripe the interior intersections to the south of the intersection of Spring Street and Highway 105 and improve on the signage to increase traffic safety.

Town accountant Linda Ousnamer reported that all departments other than police were operating within the constraints of their revenues and 2012 budgets. Overall the town's expenditures were 2.35 percent over budget. Ousnamer thanked Grado for meeting with her on the police budget and invited the other trustees to discuss their budgets with her. The 2011 audit should be completed before the July regular council meeting on July 12.

Community planter project tabled

There was a lengthy, and occasionally emotional, discussion about the four blue planters located at the southeast end of the town parking lot, adjacent to the historic jail building. The plan for these planters was for an edible garden—rather than a vegetable garden. The Palmer Lake Community Group planters are being funded by an ingenuity grant. Group director Pam Cooley said the boxes need more than 120 gallons per week to thrive. Palmer

Lake landscaper Jeff Clibon, who does a lot of volunteer work for the town, also gave suggestions based on the long-range view of volunteer landscaping projects when the number of volunteers inevitably fades.

The board unanimously approved a motion to table consideration of how to support the planter project until February 2013, due to the expected watering ban.

Former volunteer firefighter Jane Garra-brant discussed the need to promote firewise mitigation projects due to the high fire danger. There was consensus to hold a town open house on water and wildfire issues on June 23.

Palmer Lake resident Kurt Stephens pledged a \$2,500 donation after Ron Heard's presentation on the status of the project to upgrade and expand the Medal of Honor memorial for local resident and recipient Master Sgt. Bill Crawford. For more information on this project, see: <http://www.crawfordmemorial.org/>

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. July 12 in Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally the second Thursday of the month. Information: 481-2953.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, June 27

Covenants eased during fire emergency

By Harriet Halbig

At the June 27 meeting of the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA), President Jim Hale suggested that the Waldo Canyon Fire emergency and resulting evacuations justified a lifting of restrictions on the number of vehicles parked in a driveway and the length of time a trailer or RV could be parked in a driveway. This is because a number of residents have offered housing to friends and family under evacuation.

Due to safety concerns, on-street parking is still not permitted.

Hale also expressed concern about law enforcement coverage during the July 4 holiday. Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) will have two patrols at all times that day and evening. Hale suggested that a board member also patrol in the third WPS vehicle and report any violations by radio to the officers. Each WPS vehicle will carry a fire extinguisher.

Evacuation plan considered

The board briefly discussed the feasibility of an evacuation plan for Woodmoor. Forestry Director Eric Gross said that the local fire marshal considered formulating a plan. WPS Chief Kevin Nielsen said that the Sheriff's Office would administer any evacuation, but that the Waldo Canyon Fire is federally administered. In the past, the Sheriff's Office declined to specify an evacuation route since it could not be determined from which direction the threat would come.

Nielsen strongly urged citizens to register to reverse 911 notifications by going to www.elpasoteller911.org. This allows citizens to be notified via cell phone as well as landline.

Hale said that he also wishes to improve communications within the community, especially via email. He appointed Vice President Kirsten Reimann to investigate Facebook and other social media as a further way of informing the membership.

Nielsen said he did not know whether WPS would participate in administering an evacuation. Monument and Palmer Lake police would certainly be involved.

Perhaps WPS would aid in directing traffic out of the community, he said.

The Tri-Lakes, Palmer Lake, and Westcott Fire Departments have formed a wildland fire group to discuss wildland fire issues and common response.

Mowing halted because of spark danger

Mowing operations were begun on common properties in Woodmoor, and WIA Manager Matt Beseau said that the fire marshal told him to stop due to danger of sparking from mowing equipment. The board discussed ways in which mowing could safely continue. It was suggested that the mowing contractor could be required to carry fire extinguishing equipment at all times.

Gross also emphasized that homeowners should refrain from using chain saws, weed whackers or other equipment that might spark and start a fire. Although mitigation is encouraged, doing so in these extremely dry conditions is dangerous.

Director of Covenants Darren Rouse reported that the largest number of violations in May were for slash and trash violations. He said that he will write an article for the July newsletter emphasizing the dangers of slash on community properties in these dry conditions.

Nielsen reported that the community is under stage I fire restrictions, and that a first violation would carry a fine of \$600 from the Sheriff's Office plus whatever action the WIA might take. If property damage results from the violation, further court action would follow.

Gross reported that there are an increasing number of lot evaluations as the fire season begins. His committee has evaluated three common areas for dead or damaged trees. The first local mountain pine beetle attack on common property is in the Twin Ponds area. If a dead tree is identified, the property owner (or WIA in the case of common areas) has 30 days to remove it.

Gross said that he will seek bids for the removal of dead branches and brush in common areas.

Beseau reported that the office has purchased an additional laptop computer and that he continues to meet with representatives of Woodmoor Water and Sanitation

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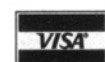
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