

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District special meeting, Dec. 12

Battalion Chief Jack named interim fire chief

By Bernard Minetti

The Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board named Battalion Chief Bryan Jack as interim fire chief at special meeting Dec. 12.

Before the appointment, the board discussed leadership models, where the interim chief should come from, and the muted leadership that occurred with the three battalion chiefs in charge but no one individual solely responsible or accountable.

The focus of the discussion concerned the need for an interim person to be in charge and where this person would come from. Bringing in an "outsider" who would be immune from district history was the original focus, but there was considerable opposition by the citizen and fire personnel attendees who noted that this was a great training opportunity for one of the district's battalion chiefs. It would also create a need for an interim battalion chief, which would require that a firefighter be moved up to that position.

The board transitioned to executive session to discuss

"Appointment of an interim fire chief which ... involves an employee who has not requested an open meeting."

Following an approximately 45-minute executive session, board President Jacob Shirk announced that Battalion Chief Bryan Jack had been unanimously selected as interim fire chief and that he had accepted that position.

The next regular meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 23, in the Administration Center at 166 Second St. in Monument. For further information regarding this meeting, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911.

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Above: Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board President Jacob Shirk, left, congratulates Battalion Chief Bryan Jack for his unanimous selection as interim fire chief. This assignment could last as long as six months during the selection process for the permanent chief. Photo by Bernard Minetti.

Woodmoor Improvement Association, Nov. 28 and Dec. 19

Arrests made in break-ins

By Harriet Halbig

The Board of Directors of the Woodmoor Improvement Association discussed security matters and property improvements at its Nov. 28 meeting.

Woodmoor Public Safety chief Kevin Nielsen reported two arrests in connection with a string of break-ins in Woodmoor and the Red Rocks Ranch area. There have been no further break-ins since the arrests.

Nielsen said that 150 residents attended a special meeting at the Barn regarding security. He said that he hopes to form neighborhood watch groups in all neighborhoods and is awaiting materials from the county to accomplish this.

Woodmoor Public Safety welcomes any input from residents.

Common Areas Director W. Lee Murray reported that the area in front of the Barn had been landscaped and repaved. Bids are being sought for repairs on the deck and for the clearing of cattails and silt from the Twin Ponds area.

Murray said that the work on the ponds had been ap-

proved by the state Department of Agriculture. The board approved the use of reserves not to exceed \$23,000 for the excavation of the ponds.

The nominating committee reported it has four candidates for the three positions open for election at the January general meeting of the membership.

Forestry Director Eric Gross reported that the committee had received requests for forestry evaluations. He reminds homeowners to continue to reduce fuels on their properties and stressed that it is important to water trees and shrubs during the winter.

Treasurer Nick Oakley reported that expenditures for 2012 were 13.6 percent under budget, largely due to improved rentals in the Barn.

The Dec. 19 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The Woodmoor Improvement Association board meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the association's Barn, 1691 Woodmoor Dr., Monument.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

December Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

It was a very dry and mild start to December, as high temperatures reached to above normal levels each afternoon from the 1st through the 4th. High temperatures reached the upper 50s to low 60s on the 1st and 2nd, before more seasonal temperatures returned on the 3rd and 4th. Winds also kicked up pretty well during the evening of the 2nd and morning of the 3rd, with gusts over 40 mph. As was the case for most of November, no precipitation fell. The only exception was a brief flurry at just before 3 p.m. on the 3rd, but if you blinked you probably missed it.

Winter finally made an appearance just in time for the second weekend of the month. Temperatures were well above average to start the week, reaching near record levels in the low 60s on the afternoon of the 5th. Slightly cooler air worked in over the next two days, dropping temperatures back to normal levels in the low to mid-40s. But, again we stayed dry with plenty of high and mid-level clouds but no precipitation.

Finally, on the 8th after a month-long period of record dry and warm weather, a storm system moved through from a preferred location. This area of low pressure from the Southwest combined with a strong cold front to bring our first measureable precipitation since Nov. 11. This storm first brought snow and blowing snow to the high country. Cold air then began to work into the Palmer Divide region during the late afternoon and early evening. As the jet stream moved closer to us and cold air continued to pour in, snow developed around 10 p.m.

Temperatures continued to fall through the night as snow accumulated through the next morning. Temperatures were in the mid-teens at midnight on the 9th, then fell to single digits during morning and afternoon. Snow began to wind down by noon, with 3 to 5 inches accumulating for most of us. As skies cleared that afternoon, temperatures plummeted, with most of us dipping well below zero before midnight.

The second week of December started chilly, with some lingering light snow at times on the 10th and 11th. High temperatures were chilly both days as well, holding below freezing each afternoon, after morning lows right around 0° F. Warmer air moved in on the 12th and 13th, with highs jumping back into the 40s. Cooler and unsettled conditions moved back in to end the week and through the weekend as a series of strong Pacific storms moved into the Southwest and eventually Colorado. Unfortunately, there was no accompanying cold front or upslope flow along the Front Range, and therefore the low levels remained very dry. What this meant for us was that we only received some very brief flurries and snow showers at times. However, in the mountains it was a different story. Heavy snow fell in the high country, which was a blessing after an extremely dry November. We have now pushed the mountain snowpack up to normal levels.

It was a rollercoaster ride in the weather department for the week of the 17th around the region. We were visited by wintry weather to start the week, then mild conditions to end things. A quick, but powerful storm

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