

even stop," Vincent said.

- The most important zone to clear of fuel is the first 30 feet from the home.
- Remove scrub oak because of its flammable oils and the way it steals water from other trees and plants.
- Get rid of all the "ladder" fuels that can bring the fire close to the house and ignite taller trees.
- Get rid of junipers; firefighters call them "gas cans on a stick."
- Thin out pine trees so there is 10 feet of clear space from the end of one branch to the branch on the next tree. This lets each tree get enough water so it is not stressed and weak, and good spacing helps slow crown fires.

An ember storm is like "the worst blizzard you've even been in, but all those snowflakes are cherry-hot embers," Humes said. Residents can "harden" the home against embers:

- Replace cedar shake roofs and cedar siding.
- Clear pine needles from the roof and 15 feet from the

house.

- Use metal window screens and put 1/8-inch metal screens across attic vents to prevent embers from blowing in and igniting a fire.
- Remove wooden fences that can act like a fuse leading fire to the home.
- Lawn furniture or a propane tank on a wooden deck is fuel for a fire.

Vincent asked residents to think about alternate routes out of their neighborhood in case the usual exit routes are closed off. "There are only four ways out of North Wood-

moor, and only two ways out of Palmer Lake," he said. If there is an evacuation imminent, he said, "Leave early! Give us a chance to work."

Humes told homeowners to "take bites out of this (fire mitigation) elephant; you won't get it done in one year, but take a whack out of it a bit at a time."

For more information on defensible space, evacuation planning, and home hardening, see <http://www.wescottfire.org> and <http://www.tri-lakesfire.com> or call local fire protection districts.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, May 21

Wescott to discuss "relationships" with Black Forest district

By Lisa Hatfield

At the May 21 Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board meeting, the directors discussed how to proceed after finding out the district was not allowed to make an extra principal payment on the current construction loan and named members to a joint committee with Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District to discuss "future relationships."

The absences of Chairman Scott Campbell and Director Joyce Hartung were excused. Director Greg Gent chaired the meeting.

Black Forest joint committee

The board entered an executive session after the regular meeting to "determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators."

In an email to OCN on May 22, Administrative Assistant Cheryl Marshall wrote, "After the executive session, there was a motion made by Bo McAllister to appoint two Board Members and the executive staff (Chief [Vinny Burns] and Assistant Chief [Scott Ridings]) from Wescott Fire to form a committee with Black Forest Fire for the purpose of discussing future relationships. Harland Baker seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to move forward with the joint committee and named Bo McAllister and Joyce Hartung as the committee members from Wescott."

Glitch for extra loan payment

Burns and Marshall explained to the directors that the

extra \$185,000 principal payment on the construction loan that the board approved in April could not be made, because the loan structure does not allow extra payments. The whole loan balance can be paid off early, but this would not reduce the fixed minimum amount of overall interest that must be paid to the lender.

Director Harland Baker asked if it were possible to refinance into a new loan that could be paid off early in order to reduce district debt. The directors discussed their concerns about the cost of refinancing and the possibility of using the rollover fund money for other projects. For example, Burns mentioned that the district's self-contained breathing apparatus will need to be replaced next year at a cost of \$136,000.

The board asked Marshall to invite Wells Fargo and Integrity Bank to the June board meeting to give competitive quotes on refinancing the construction loan.

Chief's report

Assistant Chief Scott Ridings reported that the total of 166 calls in April was 5 percent less than the 175 calls in April 2012. No fire loss was reported in April; the only fire was a mutual aid call to a garage fire in Black Forest.

Ridings invited local residents to the Summer Safety Fair on June 1 and to stop by Station 2 on Highway 83 anytime to see the new fuel break. He said there was good participation in the Pleasant View Chipping Day on May 4. (See photo on page 29). Ridings estimated that Pleasant View homeowners have done 20 acres of

TRI-LAKES REFORMED CHURCH
(RPCNA)
Woodmoor Community Center
1691 Woodmoor Drive
Monument, CO 80132
Sunday Worship 9:45 A.M.
www.trilakesreformed.org

PRESCOTT'S WAYGU BEEF FOR SALE Spring Special!
Sensational Hamburger Package
WAYGU, all-natural, grass-fed hamburger patties.
Forty eight -1/3 lb patties per box, 16 lbs, Net
Off season Price only \$124.95
prescotttranchbeef.com
Prescott Ranches LLC
(719) 541-5024



MLS  **The Raspberry Mountain Team**

Tri-Lakes Terrific Buys!
Top Selling Agent
New Homes* Lots* Resale* Repo's

Just Listed!



360 Peaceful Pond Lane
Ideal Woodmoor location, walk to trails & open space, brand new roof, open ranch style floor plan for single level living plus walk out lower level, soapstone countertops and newer appliances, large laundry room, 3 car garage, mature trees, private deck. \$374,000

Under Contract in 2 Days!



19440 Draco Drive
Wakonda Hills beauty, 1+ acre lot, private setting with stunning views, main level living with walk out basement, 3 car garage, Sunsetter awnings over deck and rear patio, hot tub, newer paint and kitchen appliances. \$360,000
www.19440DracoDr.com


Kathy Allen Broker
(719) 661-9863
www.kathyallen.net
www.bestrealestateincoloradosprings.com




LUXURY HOME PROFESSIONAL

INTERNATIONAL STONWORKS, LLC




GRANITE COUNTERTOPS

SLAB COUNTERTOPS

- KITCHENS
- BATHROOMS
- WETBARS
- WALLS
- FIREPLACES
- FURNITURE
- OUTDOOR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

CUSTOM

- GRANITE
- MARBLE
- TRAVERTINE
- QUARTZ

Starting at \$36/sq. ft. installed • Call for your FREE Quote Today!

CNC & WATERJET TECHNOLOGY
(719) 488-3180
FABRICATION & INSTALLATION
200 COUNTY LINE ROAD • PALMER LAKE, CO 80133
(located just 2 miles west of 1-25's exit 163 in Palmer Lake)
iswrocks.com
Since 1997 • residential • commercial

