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The next NEPCO general membership meeting will take place at 10 a.m. March 8 at the Monument Town Hall. The speaker sai will be Colorado HOA Informa-

tion Officer Gary Kujawski, who said he is particularly interested in hearing from HOA members

who are dealing with dictatorial boards. NEPCO members and nonmembers are welcome to

attend.

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### Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Jan. 22 Fire mitigation, mail thefts reviewed

#### By Harriet Halbig

The Board of Directors of the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) discussed fire mitigation, mail thefts, and other topics at its Jan. 22 meeting.

Board President Jim Hale thanked outgoing board members W. Lee Murray, Kristin Reimann, and Anne Stevens-Gountanis for their service. He said that Murray is considering serving as a Common Area captain to continue his involvement with the association.

#### NEPCO meeting

Hale reported that he had attended a meeting of the Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Organizations (NEPCO) and learned that there is a reverse 211 service for individuals who might need help in the event of an evacuation. He suggested mentioning it in an upcoming WIA newsletter.

Other subjects discussed at the NEPCO meeting were strategies an association may use during the rebuilding of a community after a disaster and the necessity of removing trees that might make evacuation difficult or impossible in the event of fire.

Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) Chief Kevin Nielsen said that his group has made a list of such trees on county property and that the county had declined to remove them. Forestry Director Eric Gross said that in Woodmoor, property lines extend to the pavement, so property owners are responsible for the vegetation. He said that the easement next to the road exists only in the event that pipes or wires need to be dug up for repairs.

Nielsen commented that in the past the county has sometimes removed trees within the easement.

Hale said that he mentioned at the NEPCO meeting that he was concerned about increased traffic and crime if Palmer Lake approves the sale of recreational marijuana in the town.

Homeowners Association manager Matt Beseau reported that there is a bill in the state House regarding administrative fees from homeowners associations.

Beseau said that Wi-Fi is now available for WIA employees in the Barn and he is inquiring as to whether it could be used during committee meetings in the building.

Treasurer Tom Schoemaker reported that the association ended the year 0.5 percent under budget.

#### More mail thefts

Nielsen reported that there have been two more incidents of mail theft, both on Silver Horn Lane in the northern area of Woodmoor. He has reported the incidents to the sheriff and the Postal Service. He said the only absolute solution to the problem is the use of locking mailboxes. Installing cluster mailboxes is prohibitively expensive and can only be done with 100 percent participation. Hale suggested that WPS might follow a postal vehicle occasionally as a deterrent.

Architectural Control Director Darren Rouse reported that the Project Design Standards Manual has been approved and published following board and membership review.

#### Fire mitigation

Gross reported that the Forestry Committee has distributed the remaining fire mitigation grant funds for 2013 and is now seeking a new source of funding. Among the 2014 events planned by the committee are a Do It Yourself Fire Mitigation tour of firewise homes in the community. Several chipping days, a Firewise Community Day and a possible panel discussion of causes of the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest Fires are also planned.

Murray reported that the broken fountain in front of the Barn will be replaced at the expense of the person who broke it. He also reported that some additional furniture has been purchased for the deck of the

Woodmoor Improvement Association Annual Meeting, Jan. 27

# Fire prevention, emergency response among priorities

*By Harriet Halbig* Outgoing board President Jim Hale spoke of the Woodmoor Improvement Association's (WIA) accomplishments in 2013 and its goals for this year at the annual membership meeting and board election on Jan. 27. He said the WIA has given continued attention to fire prevention and the creation of an emergency

Three candidates were elected to the board: current board Vice President Kirstin Reimann, Mark Ponti, and Erik Stensland.

The Vincent Elorie Award to an outstanding citizen of Woodmoor was presented to Anne Stevens-Gountanis for her years of service on the Architectural Control Committee, on the Board of Directors, and as a WIA representative to NEPCO. President's Awards were presented to Mark Ponti and Lisa Hatfield for their contributions in 2013 and to Craig Gaydos and Jim Woodman for their contributions in 2012.

Good Neighbor Awards were presented to Dick and Karen Green and David and Wendy Reineke.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me. Barn and other public areas.

Secretary Jeff Gerhart reported that enough ballots have been received to constitute a quorum in advance of the annual membership meeting. He also said that three members of the League of Women Voters will oversee the sign-in process and accept or alter ballots from members during the meeting on Jan. 27.

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



## Thinking of buying or selling...



response plan.

Hale also spoke briefly about plans for development along Woodmoor Drive between the fire station and Moorwood. This area would be called the Dunes at Woodmoor and would contain 56 single-family homes by several builders. Additional development will take place north of the Barn.

Candidates for the board mentioned concerns about the cost of water and the viability of the Monument Hill Country Club, which is located within Woodmoor's boundaries but not owned by the community. There are fears that, should the club cease to operate the golf course, the land will be used for development, lowering property values.



**Above:** Anne Stevens-Gountanis, left, and WIA President Jim Hale. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.* 



give Ken a call and start Packing!



