Mark Smith retires after 20 years with Woodmoor Public Safety

By Jackie Burhans
The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board, which met on Oct. 26, celebrated the retirement of Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) officer Mark Smith. Smith joined WPS in 1996 and retired from the Army after 20 years of service.

Smith worked in private security in Colorado Springs and attended and graduated from the Pikes Peak Regional Law Enforcement Academy with honors. WPS chief Kevin Nielsen noted that Smith spent his entire 20 years working a graveyard shift and once called the Sheriff’s office to report a suspicious individual that turned out to be related to 54 burglaries in the area. WIA President Eric Stensland noted that Smith is the first officer to retire from WPS, and his tenure represents an important milestone.

In other reports, the board also noted they have board elections coming up with three open positions. The board encouraged residents to come to the Architectural Control Committee for guidance before they start projects to avoid spending a lot of money having to redo work.

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 will be on Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. for the Christmas season. The WIA board meeting minutes can be found at: https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at: https://www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/ once approved and posted. Please vote no on 301. Thank you.

Right: Mark Smith, left, retiring WPS officer, is presented with a plaque by WPS chief Kevin Nielsen. Photo by Jackie Burhans

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 27.
Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

Please vote no on 301
The historic “Pogo” comic strip had a famous line: “We have met the enemy, and he is us.” For Palmer Lake, this seems to be more real than ever as the town goes for its third vote in the past three years concerning the legalization of the retail sale of marijuana.

Some folks believe that the town needs the tax money, indicated by the proponents to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Maybe it could bring in some money. But we have to ask: Is the capability to raise funds the only criteria for this decision? What other factors might we also consider?

How about Palmer Lake breaking federal law, as retail marijuana sales remain illegal according to the Controlled Substances Act of 1970? The classification was reviewed in 2016 at the request of pro-marijuana folks and the U.S. and single digits.

October 2016 Weather Statistics
Average High
66.8° (+7.3°)
100-year return frequency value max 67.7° min 50.7°
Average Low
34.9° (+5.1°)
100-year return frequency value max 36.8° min 26.4°
Monthly Precipitation
0.11" (-1.62")
100-year return frequency value max 4.63" min 0.18"
Monthly Snowfall
0.2" (+10.8°)
Season to Date Precip.
5.63" (-4.17")
Season to Date Snow
0.0 (0)

Please include an e-mail address or phone number for correspondence. The Architectural Control Committee for guidance before they start projects to avoid spending a lot of money having to redo work.

By Bill Kappel
October followed the same general pattern as September, with temperatures well above normal and precipitation below normal. Normally, we have several nights with low temperatures in the teens and at least a few days of accumulating snowfall. Not this year. Low to mid-20s was the best we could do for cold air, and only a few days of snowflakes, which didn’t accumulate. Instead, most days were mild and dry, with many days reaching well into the 70s. For the month, note that this is also the same pattern we saw last year, when September and October 2015 were much drier and warmer than normal. Of course, we made up for it in a hurry last year, with a big snowstorm during the last week of November. This year we are rarely blessed with “normal” conditions. We are most often at one extreme or another (hot cold, warm dry). It’s interesting to note that this is also the same pattern we experienced in the month of October. For the remainder of the month we received no measurable precipitation—very unusual for October. With the exception of four days between Oct. 9th and the 31st, every day was above normal, with some days near record-breaking highs.

Highs reached into the upper 60s to low 70s from the 9th through the 12th. A weak surge of cooler air and upslope flow made a brief intrusion on the region during the overnight hours of the 11th, leaving behind low clouds, fog, and drizzle all day on the 12th. This also dropped high temperatures by about 30°F between the two days. But this intrusion of cool air was very short-lived, as we quickly jumped back to the 70s over the next few days. In fact, we hit upper 70s from the 14th through the 16th, nearly 20°F warmer than normal for mid-October. Overnight lows were mild as well, as a blanket of high clouds and breezy conditions held low temperatures well into the 40s.

Our next brief intrusion of cooler air came on the 18th. Highs were held to about normal levels, in the low to mid-50s. But of course this felt much cooler because we have previously been so warm. Overnight lows were also chilly, bottoming out in the upper teens during the morning hours of the 20th.

However, this was the last cool air we saw during the month, as highs consistently reached the 60s and 70s all the way through Halloween. There were plenty of high and mid-level clouds moving through at times, and gusty winds as well, but the only precipitation we saw from the 13th through the 31st was a brief rain shower during the early evening of the 25th. Given how cold and snowy it can often be around Halloween, I’m sure most trick-or-treaters were happy to have the mild and dry conditions.

A look ahead
November is generally dry and cool around the region. We usually get several light snowfalls interspersed with sunny days. Gusty winds commonly develop on a couple of days in November, so as the jet stream becomes more active and more directly affects Colorado. Our first sub-zero morning low temperatures occur during the month as well. High temperatures average in the upper 40s early in the month to low 40s by the end, with overnight lows often dipping into the teens.