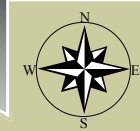


Our Community News

Volunteers reporting on community issues in Monument, Palmer Lake, and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area



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Local Events

See pages 27-31 for details of these and many other local events.

- Black Forest Arts & Crafts Spring Show & Sale, Thu.-Sun., May 4-7
- Neighborhood Wildfire Leadership Summit, Sat., May 6, 9 a.m.-noon
- Tri-Lakes Community Celebration, Sat., May 6, 6-9 p.m.
- RMMA: Works for Violin, Oboe, & Piano, Sat., May 6, 7 p.m.
- 41st Annual Pine Forest Spring Show & Sale, Sat.-Sun., May 6-7
- Pack for the Platte Pack Test Fundraiser, Sun., May 7, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Billy Bob Thornton & the Boxmasters at TLCA, Tue., May 9, 7 p.m.
- WMMI Antique Machinery Days, Fri.-Sun., May 12-14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- CPR/AED Class, Sat., May 13, 9 a.m.
- NEPCO Meeting, Sat., May 13, 10 a.m.-noon. HOA legal issues.
- Wescott Annual Safety Fair & Blood Drive, Sat., May 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- A Tea for All Ages, Sat., May 13, 1-3 p.m.
- Epiphany 3 Concert at TLCA, Sat., May 13, 7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake's 2nd Annual Glow Run, Sat., May 13, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Community/Centura Blood Drive, Tue., May 16, 2:30-7 p.m.
- Non-Profit Council, Wed., May 17, 9 a.m.
- Art Hop, Thu., May 18, 5-8 p.m.
- PLHS: *Charles Goodnight in Colorado*, Thu., May 18, 7 p.m.
- Free Workshop: Be a Senior Smarty, Fri., May 19, 9 a.m.-noon
- Springtime in Monument Festival, Sat., May 20, 9:30 a.m.
- WMMI Picnic-N-Planes, Wed., May 24, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Bonfils Blood Center Blood Drive, Sat., May 27, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Spirits of Spring: *Wine and Food Tasting with auctions*, Sat., May 27, 6-9 p.m.
- Monument Memorial Day Ceremony, Mon., May 29, 10 a.m.
- Kids Fishing Derby, Sat., Jun. 3, 8-11:30 a.m.
- Tri-Lakes Women's Club *Pre-Harvesting Hope Jewelry Sale*, Sat., Jun. 3, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ■

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Above: On Saturday, April 15, the Ascent Church hosted its annual community Easter egg hunt at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. On the sunny spring day, hundreds of children had fun looking for eggs or playing in the bouncy house. *Photo by Lauren Jones.*

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, April 19

Consultant, resident propose differing mill levy options

By Jennifer Kaylor and Jim Kendrick

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD), in addition to addressing regular board business April 19, revealed the 15-mill levy increase proposal prepared by Pinnacle Consulting Group Inc., appointed a new director to the district board to fill a seat vacant since February, and assessed DWFPD's role within the community. A Wescott taxpayer proposed a different option, a 7-mill levy increase, at the end of the meeting during public comments. Three board members were present. Director Harland Baker's absence was excused. Attorney Dino Ross of Ireland Stapleton Pryor and Pascoe PC also attended.

Amanda Castle, assistant director of Finance and Accounting for Pinnacle, stated that Pinnacle specializes in accounting and management for special districts. Castle added that she has 11 years of accounting experience, most of which have been for local governments and fire districts. Castle's stated position was that a mill levy increase is necessary. The four DWFPD directors voted unanimously to sign the \$13,600 con-

tract with Pinnacle Consulting at the Feb. 21 meeting. (ocn.me/v17n3.htm#dwfpd)

Background

The City of Colorado Springs annexed the southern half of Wescott in January 2004, and 12 years later the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) opened CSFD Fire Station 22 at 711 Copper Center Parkway off Voyager Parkway. A court decision allowed DWFPD to continue collecting full property taxes from the city's annexed area due to the city not providing a staffed local CSFD fire station until April 4, 2016, when CSFD Station 22 was opened. The Oct. 18, 2016 intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between DWFPD and the city covers the exclusion of the portion of the DWFPD service area now annexed into the city from Interquest Parkway north to Old Northgate Road. All of Flying Horse Ranch was annexed, as was the Northgate Highlands subdivision at the north end of Voyager Parkway. (www.ocn.me/v17n2.htm#dwfpd)

The overall effect will be to reduce the size of the district's service area by half of its

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Palmer Lake Town Council, April 13 and 27

Council reopens hiking trail, sets stiff fines

By James Howald

In April, the Palmer Lake Town Council met twice, on April 13 and 27. The first meeting began with a presentation from Michelle Connelly, a forester with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, who spoke about fire conditions in Palmer Lake. This meeting was attended by 60 or more

residents, most of whom were there to try to persuade the council to reverse its decision to close the hiking trail that runs beside the two reservoirs that provide the bulk of the town's water supply.

The comments at times grew heated, and led to the council reversing its previous

(Continued on page 7)

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, April 26

Board hears about increase in area crime

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on April 26 to hear about an increase in burglaries of cars in the Monument area, to hear a resident's concern about bed and breakfast (B&B) businesses, and to receive reports.

Monument sees crime increase

Director of Woodmoor Public Safety Brad Gleason reported the Monument area has seen an increase in crime recently. There have been at least 17 thefts from motor vehicles, five stolen vehicles, and a number of burglaries. Woodmoor has seen a single residential burglary and a couple of the thefts from motor vehicles. The thieves have used garage door openers found in a vehicle to enter homes—once while the homeowners were present where they took the keys and stole the car. Three arrests have been made.

There was a fire in the Twin Ponds common area that is believed to have been set by someone. The Sheriff's Office is investigating. Graduation season means gifts and cards will be arriving, and residents should check their mail frequently to avoid mail theft. Please see related El Paso County Sheriff report on page 23.

Bed and breakfast business not allowed

Resident Liz Miller raised the issue of homeowners running B&B businesses in Woodmoor. Citing the Covenant documents, she noted that Article V, Section 10 states that "no commercial or business trade shall be carried on upon any tract, except that professional offices such as that of a lawyer, doctor, dentist, or engineer may be maintained within the main dwelling upon specific approval by the Architectural Control Committee..." Yet she came across a website for bed and breakfasts and to her surprise found one in Woodmoor on the Airbnb website. She wanted to know how this came to be.

The board explained that the former homeowners' association (HOA) director and a former president had approved the business over a year ago without bringing it to the Architectural Control Committee (ACC). Although this was found to be contrary to the covenants, the board cannot easily rescind this approval unless the business violates any additional covenants such as nuisance, too many vehicles, etc. This is an issue the current board is aware of and wants to address. They noted that they would not be approving any future requests for bed and breakfasts. Miller noted that a similar situation had occurred previously when incorrect fencing had been approved but could only be required to change when ownership changed.

Note: The board each year for the past three years has made a motion for in-home business applications to go to Covenants, as opposed to the ACC, as there are more concerns for covenant violations to be involved in a potential business. A former Covenants Director and a former President approved the Airbnb businesses, with the caveat that

(Continued on page 2)