

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 28-31 for details of these and many other local events.

- **42nd Annual Pine Forest Spring Show & Sale**, Sat.-Sun., Apr. 7-8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday
- **Sundance Ninja Competition 2018**, Sat., Apr. 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **WMMI Speakers' Bureau Lecture**, Tue., Apr. 10, 7-8 p.m.
- **D38 All-District Choir Concert**, Tue., Apr. 10, 7 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Roads Department Open House: Douglas Avenue Project**, Thu., Apr. 12, 5 p.m.
- **Random Acts of Kindness**, Sat., Apr. 14, 1-4 p.m.,
- **Awake Palmer Lake: Boot Scootin' Boogie**, Sat., Apr. 14, 6-10:30 p.m.,
- **Let the Stars Shine**, Sun., Apr. 15, 7 p.m.-midnight.
- **D38 Deliberates: Community Engagement**, Mon., Apr. 16, 6-8 p.m.
- **Gardening with Kids**, Wed., Apr. 18, 5-6:30 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society Film: Forging the West**, Thu., Apr. 19, 7 p.m.
- **Great American Cleanup**, Sat., Apr. 21, 9 a.m.-noon
- **Tri-Lakes Chamber Monthly Education Series: Proactive Legal Considerations for Small Business**, Wed., Apr. 25, 9-11 a.m.
- **Spirits of Spring: A Wine and Food Tasting with Live and Silent Auctions**, Sat., Apr. 28, 6-9 p.m.
- **Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild 54th Annual Spring Show & Sale**, Thu.-Sun., May 3-6, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Thu.-Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sun.
- **Palmer Lake Free Chipping Day**, Sat., May 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. ■

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Above: Children of all ages enjoyed the dash for Easter eggs on The Village Green for the Palmer Lake Town Hall Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, March 31. The event featured the outdoor egg hunt and hot drinks, donuts, and other treats indoors. The next day on Easter Sunday, the annual Easter Pancake Breakfast was held in the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Both events were sponsored by the Palmer Lake Fire Department. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, March 20 and 27

Preparation for wildfires urged; The Beach at Woodmoor approved

By Helen Walklett and Lisa Hatfield

At its March 20 meeting, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) received an update on the Fort Carson/Midway fire. The commissioners took the opportunity to warn citizens of the danger of wildfires this season and to urge them to be prepared. Commissioner Stan VanderWurf said, "It seems obvious to me. We are headed for a really difficult fire season unless something changes in the weather here soon. I would encourage everybody to do what they can to prepare their homes and to be ready to evacuate just in case that would be necessary."

He pointed out that there is a lot of information and resources on the county website to help citizens. Encouraging everyone to do what they can to reduce fire risk at their homes, he said, "It might save your house. It might save your life." For ideas, see <http://www.elpasoco.com> and search "wildfire."

The unincorporated areas of the county were put under Stage 1 fire restrictions by Deputy Fire Warden John Padgett on March 16. The action was in response to the continued dry conditions and the National Weather Service forecast for continued dry and warmer than normal conditions, resulting in very high to extreme fire danger ratings. The restrictions prohibit the fol-

lowing:

- Open burning, except for fires and campfires within permanently constructed fire grates in developed campgrounds and picnic grounds' charcoal grills and wood burning stoves at private residences in areas cleared of all flammable materials.
- The sale or use of fireworks.
- Public prescribed burning/burn permits.
- Outdoor smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

The Stage 1 restrictions will remain in effect until it is deemed safe to remove them. Should the situation worsen, Stage 2 burn fire restrictions can be implemented that prohibit most outdoor burning.

The Beach at Woodmoor single-family homes approved

At its March 27 meeting, the commissioners approved two applications related to The Beach at Woodmoor, which will include 35 single-family homes costing \$450,000 to \$600,000 along Lake Woodmoor Drive, said Andrea Barlow of NES Inc.

See also related El Paso County Planning Commission article on page 3 with more background and a vicinity

Donala Water and Sanitation District, March 15

CSU's regional collaboration plans for Tri-Lakes area presented

By Jim Kendrick

On March 15, General Manager Kip Petersen briefed the Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD) board on planned proposals by the Colorado Springs Utilities' Utility Policy Advisory Committee (CSU UPAC) and groundwater storage rules that will be discussed by the state Groundwater Commission in May.

Director Bob Denny was unanimously excused from the meeting.

Petersen gave a brief overview of the UPAC's draft whitepaper's recommendations that were finalized at the March 7 CSU UPAC meeting and then presented as a discussion item on March 21 to the CSU Utility Board, which is the Colorado Springs City Council.

The 73-page March 7 UPAC meeting packet included a document titled *Regional Collaboration Assignment Draft Recommendations* that listed the tasks that were assigned for UPAC study by the Utility Board:

- Assignment scope
- Stakeholder input
- Key findings
- Regional collaboration benefits and considerations
- Contract pricing recommendations
- Policy recommendations
- Recommended changes to city code
- Recommendations for outside-city contract implementation

Petersen said that CSU's current multiplier for charges to customers outside the CSU/city service area, like Donala, is 1.5, or 50 percent more than CSU customers currently pay. He noted that UPAC would be recommending that the drinking water multiplier for outside entities be reduced to 1.2 (only 20 percent more), and the corresponding multiplier for wastewater treatment would be reduced to 1.1 (only 10 percent more.)

Petersen added that the model that UPAC had recommended to the CSU Utility Board is very much like the existing intergovernmental agreement between CSU and DWSD for treating Donala's renewable surface water.

This ranch water comes from Donala's Willow Creek Ranch water right near Leadville, is stored in Pueblo Reservoir, and then is pumped north through the CSU Southern Delivery System pipeline to a CSU potable water treatment plant. CSU then pumps Donala's treated water farther north in an existing CSU distribution pipeline to an interconnection with the DWSD distribution system for direct distribution to DWSD's potable water taps.

BOCC (cont. on page 2)

DONALA (cont. on page 6)