

Our Community Notices

By Judy Barnes, Events Editor

Although we strive for accuracy in these listings, dates or times are often changed after publication. Please double-check the time and place of any event you wish to attend by calling the information number for that event.

County issues Stage I Fire Restrictions

Continued dry conditions and the National Weather Service forecast for continued dry and warmer-than-normal conditions have resulted in very high to extreme fire danger ratings. Stage I Fire Restrictions are now in effect for all the unincorporated areas of El Paso County, effective immediately. See the article on page 1 for details of the restrictions.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month CDOT study: 89 percent admit to driving distracted

Distracted driving is the act of driving while engaged in anything—texting, looking after children or pets, talking on the phone or to a passenger, watching videos, eating, or reading—that takes a driver's focus away from the road. In Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) 2017 annual mail survey of Colorado drivers, 89 percent of participants reported driving distracted in the past seven days; 40 percent of drivers admitted to reading a message on their phones, 25 percent had sent a message while driving, 53 percent had talked on a handheld cell phone, and 54 percent had talked on a hands-free phone. In 2016, distracted driving was a contributing factor in 16 percent of all fatal and injury crashes in Colorado.

CDOT has joined in a national effort to recognize April as National Distracted Driving Awareness Month to bring attention to the threat distracted drivers pose. To minimize distractions from cell phones, drivers can download a safe driving app that limits phone functions while driving. For more information about these apps and CDOT's Drop The Distraction campaign, visit www.distraction.codot.gov.

Upcoming elections

Make sure your voter registration is up to date at www.govotecolorado.com. Also be aware that some local elections are polling place elections where no mailed ballots are sent out, except to overseas voters, and voters must go to those locations in person to cast a ballot. For example, on **May 8** both Donald Wescott Fire Protection District and Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District will hold polling place elections. For details, see related candidate summaries for both fire districts on pages 13 and 15.

Volunteers needed for Citizen Outreach Group, apply by April 9

The El Paso Board of County Commissioners is seeking community-minded citizen volunteers to serve on the Citizen Outreach Group. Applications are due by **April 9**. The volunteer application is located at www.elpasoco.com. Click on the "Volunteer Boards" link. For more information, call 520-6436 or visit www.elpasoco.com.

Volunteers needed for Innovation and Technology Committee, apply by April 13

The El Paso Board of County Commissioners is seeking community-minded citizen volunteers to serve on the Innovation and Technology Committee. Applications are due by **April 13**. The volunteer application is located at www.elpasoco.com. Click on the "Volunteer Boards" link. For more information, call 520-6436 or visit www.elpasoco.com.

Town of Monument Summer Youth Job Program, apply by April 13

Young people ages 16-21 can join the Public Works Department June 4-Aug. 3, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The position involves work outside on erosion control, park improvements, trash

pickup around town, storm water system maintenance, weed control, and fire mitigation projects. The pay rate will depend on experience. For more information, contact Steve Sheffield, 487-9291, or visit www.townofmonument.org/Jobs.aspx.

Free income tax help, ends April 17

Through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, Pikes Peak United Way, in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), provides free income tax preparation assistance to individuals and families with a household income of \$54,000 a year or less. To find out if you qualify or to schedule an appointment, call 2-1-1 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; or text VITANOW to 85511 for an appointment.

Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) available, comment by April 25

The EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the replacement of the Cadet Area 5 sewer line within an existing right-of-way and adjacent to an existing line, which will be abandoned in place at the U.S. Air Force Academy. See the draft EA online at www.usafa.af.mil/Units/Mission-Support-Group/Civil-Engineering-Squadron/Environmental-Management/ or view a hard copy at Monument Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument; or USAFA Base Library, 5136 Redtail Dr., Suite H103.

Lewis-Palmer School District Hall of Fame, nominations accepted through April 27

The community is invited to nominate a person who has made significant, ongoing contributions to the excellence of D-38 schools. More information and nomination forms are posted at www.lewispalmer.org under the Community tab. See ad on page 9.

Lillian's Second Annual Cinderella Fairy Godmother Project, donate by April 30

Lillian's of Monument will accept donations of gently-used, ready-to-wear prom dresses, shoes, and accessories (no more than 5 years old) to give to teen girls for prom. You may drop off your donations through **April 30** at 251 Front St. Suite 4, Monument. For more information, phone 488-3550.

Monument Hill Foundation Call for Grants, apply by May 15

The Monument Hill Foundation is the granting arm of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club. The foundation provides funds in support of the club's mission to support youth and the community, with a focus on the Tri-Lakes community. Grants are awarded to charities as defined by the IRS, to various qualifying youth activities, and to schools for various educational activities and scholarships. Applications will be accepted until **May 15**. The grant application is available at www.monumenthillkiwanis.org/forms/mhf_grants.

Art gallery show seeks entries, due by May 19

Palmer Lake Art Group seeks new submissions for its upcoming Color Splash show at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts in Palmer Lake. All artwork must be produced by exhibiting artists and not have been showcased at this gallery in the last two years. Entries must be submitted by May 19. For more information, email jrsawatzki@icloud.com or visit the website, www.palmerlakeartgroup.com.

Mountain View Electric Association board nominations now open

The board election will take place during the annual meeting **June 7**. If you are interested in being a candidate, find

application details at www.mvea.coop. For more information, phone 719-494-2528 or email candidate@mvea.org. See ad on page 14.

Slash-Mulch season begins May 5

The El Paso County Black Forest Slash and Mulch program will accept slash (tree and brush debris only) **May 5-Sept. 9**. Mulch will be available **May 19-Sept. 8** or when mulch runs out. Hours of operation are: Saturdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5-7:30 p.m. The mulch loader schedule is Saturdays only, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. The cost for slash is \$2 per load. The mulch loader fee is \$5 per bucket, about 2 cubic yards. The slash and mulch site is located at the southeast corner of Shoup and Herring Roads in the Black Forest area. For more information, visit www.bfslash.org or phone Carolyn, 495-3127; Chuck, 495-8675; Jeff, 495-8024; or the County Environmental Division, 520-7878.

Tri-Lakes Meals on Wheels needs drivers

Meals on Wheels in the Tri-Lakes area needs regular and substitute drivers to deliver meals Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week. Volunteers will have to complete an application with Silver Key and then undergo a background check. For more information, phone Sue Cliatt, 481-3175.

Meals on Wheels by Silver Key

If you're a homebound senior age 60 or older, you might qualify to receive meals delivered to your home through Silver Key. To register or volunteer, call 884-2370. See ad on page 5.

Free Services for Black Forest Seniors, FYI

Did you know that Silver Key will provide transportation to and from medical appointments for Black Forest area residents? Call 719-884-2380 for appointments. Did you know that Silver Key will provide Meals on Wheels to Black Forest area residents over age 60? Call 884-2370. Did you know that Silver Key will provide case management guidance and other services to residents in the Black Forest area? For more information about Silver Key and their services, visit www.silverkey.org or call 719-884-2350.

Host families needed

Become a host family for only one month this summer. Host a student from Europe in June/July. Family will receive a stipend to support activities. For more information, phone 481-4412 or visit www.xploreUSA.org. See ad on page 4.

Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Thrift Store needs volunteers

Volunteers are needed for various tasks. The store is located at 755 Highway 105, Suite N, in the West End Center and is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. To volunteer, call 488-3495.

Air Force Academy construction project at South Gate Bridge, through June 2019

The New Santa Fe Regional Trail will remain open through the construction site; all trail users must use the metal connex box tunnel. All bicycle and horseback riders must dismount before entering the tunnel. Periodic trail closures at the South Gate Bridge will be scheduled and posted in advance. When a scheduled trail closure is in place, the trail will be blocked and closed only at the South Gate Bridge. Trail users are encouraged to check the Northgate Trailhead and Ice Lake Trailhead for information regarding construction and closure information and updates. For questions regarding the project and trail closures, contact Construction Superintendent Fred Langan, 719-213-1332 or Fred.langan@Tepa.com; or El Paso County Project Manager Jason Meyer, 520-6985 or jasonmeyer@elpasoco.com.

Our Community Calendar

By Judy Barnes, Community Calendar Editor

Although we strive for accuracy in these listings, dates or times are often changed after publication. Please double-check the time and place of any event you wish to attend by calling the info number for that event.

GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

- **Tri-Lakes Wastewater Facility Joint Use Committee Meeting**, Tue., **Apr. 10**, 10 a.m., 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: Bill Burks, 481-4053.
- **Triview Metropolitan District Board Meeting**, Tue., **Apr. 10**, 5 p.m., 15275 Struthers Rd. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: 488-6868, www.colorado.gov/triviewmetro.
- **Palmer Lake Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Apr. 11**, 9 a.m., 120 Middle Glenway. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 481-2732, www.plsd.org.
- **D-38 Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)**, Wed., **Apr. 11**, 6:30 p.m., Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 785-4208, cpetersen@lewispalmer.org.
- **Monument Planning Commission Meeting**, Wed., **Apr. 11**, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Info: 884-8017, www.townofmonument.org.
- **Woodmoor Water & Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Thu., **Apr. 12**, 1 p.m., 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 488-2525, www.woodmoorwater.com.

- **Palmer Lake Roads Department Informational Open House: Douglas Avenue Improvement Project**, Thu., **Apr. 12**, 5 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Info: 481-2953, www.townofpalmerlake.com.
- **Monument Academy School Board Meeting**, Thu., **Apr. 12**, 6 p.m., school library, 1150 Village Ridge Point, Monument. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 481-1950, www.monumentacademy.net/school-board.
- **Palmer Lake Town Council Meeting**, Thu., **Apr. 12**, 7 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 481-2953, www.townofpalmerlake.com.
- **D38 Deliberates: Community Engagement Opportunity**, Mon., **Apr. 16**, 6-8 p.m., 146 N. Jefferson St. Share your thoughts and ideas and learn more about mental health, safety, and security. RSVP & Info: dsimington@lewispalmer.org. See ad on page 9.
- **Monument Board of Trustees Meeting**, Mon., **Apr. 16**, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Normally meets 1st and 3rd Mon. each month. Info: 884-8017, www.townofmonument.org.
- **El Paso County Planning Commission Meeting**, Tue., **Apr. 17**, 9 a.m., 2880 International Circle (off Union Blvd & Printers Pkwy). Meets 1st & 3rd Tue. (if required) each month. Info: 520-6300, <http://adm2.elpasoco.com/planning/agendas/pc/pc-agn.asp>.
- **Wescott Fire Protection District Board Meeting**, Tue., **Apr. 17**, volunteer pension meeting 6:30, regular

- board meeting 7 p.m., Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Normally meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: 488-8680.
- **D-38 Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting**, Tue., **Apr. 17**, 7-8:30 p.m., Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Normally meets 2nd Tue. each month, location varies. Info: 488-4700, www.lewispalmer.org.
- **Monument Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Apr. 18**, 9 a.m., 130 2nd St. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: 481-4886.
- **Academy Water and Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Apr. 18**, 6 p.m., Wescott Fire Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: 481-0711.
- **Donala Water & Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Thu., **Apr. 19**, 1:30 p.m., 15850 Holbein Dr. Meets 3rd Thu. each month. Info: 488-3603, www.donalawater.org.
- **Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Board Meeting**, Thu., **Apr. 19**, 6 p.m., Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Meets 3rd Thu. each month. Info: 488-4700, www.lewispalmer.org.
- **Forest View Acres Water District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Apr. 25**, 6 p.m., Monument Sanitation District board room, 130 Second St. Normally meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: 488-2110, www.fvawd.com.
- **Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Apr. 25**, 6:30 p.m., TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Hwy 105. Meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: Jennifer Martin, 484-0911, www.tlmfire.org.
- **Woodmoor Improvement Association Board Meet-**