

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.

- **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.
- **A Taste of Tri-Lakes Cares**, Wed., **May 9**, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Wildfire Workshop: Are You Ready?**, Sat., **May 12**
- **Wescott Annual Safety Fair & Blood Drive**, Sat., **May 12**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility**, Sat., **May 12**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **NEPCO Meeting**, Sat., **May 12**, 10 a.m.-noon. HOA legal issues.
- **Random Acts of Kindness**, Sat., **May 12**, 1-4 p.m.
- **I-25 Public Hearings**, Mon., **May 14** & Wed., **May 16**, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society**, Thu., **May 17**, 7 p.m.
- **Art Hop is back!** Thu., **May 17**, 5-8 p.m.
- **Bonfils Blood Center Community Blood Drive**, Sat., **May 26**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- **Monument Memorial Day Ceremony**, Mon., **May 28**, 10-11 a.m.
- **Color Splash, Annual Fine Art Exhibit Opening Reception**, Fri., **Jun. 1**, 6-8 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Half Marathon/10K**, Sat., **Jun. 2**, 7:30 a.m.
- **Kids Fishing Derby**, Sat., **Jun. 2**, 8-11:30 a.m.
- **Hooked on Palmer Lake**, Sat., **Jun. 2**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. ■

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Above: Red Rock Ranch residents, spurred on by homeowners' association President Beth Lonquist, are taking action against wildfire hazards. The community, tucked up against Raspberry Mountain, bordered by Pike National Forest, and midway between Monument and Palmer Lake, now is an official Firewise USA community. A Firewise Committee is working with residents on wildfire preparedness. Committee member Dave Pheteplace, alias "Mr. Chipper," summed up their approach: "It's all about saving lives and property from wildfire by creating defensible spaces around homes and mitigating dense stands of scrub oak." Residents have initiated a multi-year, community-wide wildfire risk reduction project, and on April 22, Limestone Road residents including Thom Owens, shown here wearing protective gear, slaved away trimming and cutting slash in preparation for a major Firewise chipping day on April 28. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield. Caption by Dave Betzler.*

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, April 19

Brofft contract extended; Sampayo censured, resigns

By Harriet Halbig

Board Secretary Sarah Sampayo resigned her position and Superintendent Karen Brofft's contract was extended during the April 19 meeting of the Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education. The board also voted to confirm CRP Architects as the designer of the proposed new school.

Sampayo did not attend this meeting.

Board Treasurer Chris Taylor stated during board members' comments that, although he has enjoyed his tenure on the board, there is a partisan split that is divisive and inappropriate.

Later in the meeting, Taylor said that he and board Vice President Tiffney Upchurch were invited by Sampayo to attend a meeting at the office of Paul Lundeen, a Republican state representative, where they were approached by attorneys and others of the Republican Party and asked to support that party's preferences in their capacity as board members and essentially "take over" the board. Lundeen left the room before the discussion began. The meeting was held after the election but before the swearing in of the new members.

Board President Matthew Clawson and Director Mark Pfoff were not invited to the meeting.

Taylor said that the meeting made him very uncomfortable, because he understood the board of education to

be a nonpartisan body and that, once elected, members would serve independently, basing their actions on facts only. He decided at that point not to support Sampayo as the new board president. Upchurch agreed that the gathering was inappropriate.

When Sampayo later asked Taylor why he had a change of heart, he said that he was elected to serve the entire community and felt that Sampayo had surrendered her independent judgment to a special interest group.

Although not yet sworn members of the board, if three elected members were present in such a meeting, the meeting should be announced and open to the public, Taylor said.

At a second meeting a week later, Taylor said that he intended to serve independently according to the code of ethics in board policy BCA-E1.

Taylor also cited a number of other policies such as BAA, under which the board and superintendent would share a positive approach in discussions and have an open and cooperative atmosphere in their interactions, not publically criticize one another.

Further, the code of ethics requires that the board function as a board only in public sessions and no single member may take action that would compromise the board. Board members are also required to attend all meetings.

D38 (cont. on page 2)

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, April 12

Board moves ahead with new well

By James Howald

On April 12, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) developed plans for a new well to serve district customers, discussed transitioning the district to a four-day work week, accepted an application from a resident interested in filing the open board seat, considered a request from two customers to waive fees related to ponds on their properties, and heard operational reports from district staff.

Well 21 to be drilled in Misty Acres

After a presentation from consultant Dan Niemela of Bishop Brogden Associates Inc., the WWSD board voted to proceed with the drilling of a new well at Alexandria Drive and Hammock Oaks Court in the Misty Acres subdivision.

District Manager Jessie Shaffer told the board that it had been 10 years since the district last drilled a well.

Niemela said the new well, Well 21, would be drilled into the Arapahoe aquifer, since it is the most productive water source, and that his calculations showed that the district could expect the well to provide 250 to 300 gallons per minute when completed, if all goes well. He said the well would be drilled to a depth of 2,300 feet.

Niemela told the board that overall, water levels are declining while demand continues to increase, and that with the district's current wells, demand will likely exceed supply in 2019. Wells 11 and 12 have been in operation for almost 30 years and are less productive than when they were first

WWSD (cont. on page 13)

Fire districts to hold May 8 polling place elections

To identify your fire district, see fire protection district maps at www.ocn.me/fireprotectiondistricts.pdf.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection district residents who wish to vote must personally visit the Wescott polling place at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive, Colorado Springs. See DWFPD candidate statements posted at www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#dwfpdcandidates.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District residents who wish to vote must personally visit the district office, 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 103, Monument. See TLMFPD candidate statements posted at www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#tlmfpd-candidates.

On May 8, the polling place hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for both districts.

See pages 10-13 for this month's fire district board articles. ■