

A busy November for the TLWC

The Tri-Lakes Women's Club (TLWC) offered its time, talent, and treasure throughout November. A group of 12 women traveled to East Dale Street in Colorado Springs to paint the interiors of two homes under construction by Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity on Nov. 9 (see pikespeakhabitat.org for more information about PPHfH). The following Wednesday, the TLWC garden group helped Jackson Creek Senior Living (JCSL) memory care residents plant two indoor herb gardens. Chefs at JCSL will use the mint, rosemary, thyme, basil, sage, and cilantro in their cooking and to flavor drinking water. On Friday, Nov. 15, the group hosted Maasai speakers Leonard Mpaayo and Nelly Lasoi who described life in the remote, poverty-stricken area of Amboseli Kenya. TLWC member Shari Young and Mpaayo are co-directors of the Amboseli Children's Fund which directs 100% of donations to educating Amboseli children and breaking the cycle of poverty. An auction after the speakers' presentations raised \$670 (see www.AmboseliChildrensFund.com for more information).

Left: TLWC Garden Group member Melanie Helton and JCSL resident Hildy Wade plant sage as part of the donated herb garden; **Right:** Leonard Mpaayo describes growing up as Maasai in hopeless poverty in an Amboseli region of Kenya. More information about TLWC is available at www.tlwc.net/. Photos by Pamela Perry and Jennifer Kaylor.



Friends of Fox Run Park, Nov. 16



Above: On November 16, the groups Friends of Fox Run Park and Black Girls Hike Global joined for a mindful meditation walk to learn about forest health benefits, fire mitigation, the park's winter forest ecology, and culturally modified trees (CMT). The Friends of Fox Run Park holds such walks as well as volunteer workdays for park fire mitigation and wood collection in strategic areas. The park asks all visitors to stay on trails to protect its fragile plant ecosystem. A plethora of historic CMT are visible from the official trails. Photo by Marlene Brown

Harley's Hope, Nov. 17



Above: On November 17, the Harley's Hope Foundation held a fundraiser at Black Forest Community Center complete with homemade holiday treats for people and pets, gifts to buy and free live music. The purpose of Harley's Hope Foundation is to ensure low income pet parents and their companions or service animals remain together when issues arise. The goal is to prevent at-risk animals from being surrendered or put to sleep for treatable conditions and behaviors. Photo by Janet Sellers

Bomb threat at Wal-Mart, Dec. 5



Above: On Dec. 5, a bomb threat was reported at the Monument Wal-Mart. A department manager told OCN they lost an estimated \$75,000 in sales, not to mention the costs of bomb sniffing dogs and emergency services that searched the store for over three hours. The store and parking lot were evacuated during the investigation. Photo by Natalie Barszcz.

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.

LEAP—Help for heating bills

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally-funded program that provides cash assistance to help families and individuals pay a portion of winter home heating costs. The eligibility period for LEAP runs **Nov. 1-April 30**. Application packets will automatically be mailed to residents who received LEAP assistance last year at the address where they were living at that time. To find out if you qualify for LEAP, call 1-866 HEAT-HELP (866-432-8435) or visit www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap.

Toy donations needed for Santa on Patrol, drop off by Dec. 10, 3 p.m.

Santa will team with the Monument Police Department, EPSO, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, and the Palmer Lake Police Department to deliver toys and good cheer to many children in the Tri-Lakes area from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Dec. 14**. New, unwrapped toys and gift cards may be dropped off by **Dec. 10, 3 p.m.** For a list of drop-off locations, visit www.townofmonument.org. For more information, contact Officer Romano, 719-481-3253, aromano@tomgov.org.

Christmas Unlimited Toy Drive for Wescott's Santa Patrol, drop off by Dec. 20

Santa and Wescott firefighters will deliver toys to their area **Dec. 21, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** New, unwrapped toys may be dropped off by **Dec. 20** at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. For more information, phone 719-488-8680 or visit www.wescottfire.org (click on ALL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS).

MVEA Christmas Light Roundup

Mountain View Electric Association (MVEA) wants to help you make the energy efficiency switch this holiday season! Between now and Jan. 30, drop off your incandescent C7 and C9 light strands at an MVEA office and receive a \$5 per strand bill credit. The Monument MVEA office is at 15706 Jackson Creek Parkway, Ste. 100. For more information, phone 800-388-9881. See ad on page 32.

MVEA Scholarships, apply by Jan. 15

Each year, MVEA awards \$1,000 scholarships to 14 gradu-

ating high school seniors. Applications are due by **Jan. 15, 2020**. Apply online at www.mvea.coop/scholarships.

Kiwanis Holiday Bell Ringing volunteers needed, through Dec. 24

Look for Kiwanis members and volunteers ringing the holiday bell for Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. All proceeds go to Salvation Army in El Paso County. To volunteer or for more information about Kiwanis, visit www.MHKiwanis.org. See ad on page 11.

Christmas crafts at the Monastery, through Dec. 15

Shop holiday gifts through **Dec. 15** at the Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery, 3190 Benet Lane, Colorado Springs. The hours are Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sundays after 10:15 mass. For more information, call 719-633-0655. See ad on page 10.

Call for artists, enter by Jan. 17

Palmer Lake Art Group's winter show exhibition dates are Jan. 29-Feb. 22, at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts. See eligibility criteria and terms of submission at www.palmerlakeartgroup.com.

Become a CASA volunteer

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) offers a volunteer opportunity like no other. As appointed representatives of the court, CASA volunteers are empowered to make a lifelong difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. To learn more, contact Uriko Stout, 447-9898 ext. 1060, urikos@casappr.org; or visit www.casappr.org.

Officiate high school basketball

Make the right call and become a high school basketball official. Email the Colorado Springs Basketball Officials Association, csboa.areadirector@gmail.com, for information on training and certification.

St. Peter Catholic School now enrolling

The school offers academics, athletics, and faith formation for preschool-eighth grade. Call or visit: 124 First St., Monument; 481-1855; www.petertherock.org. See ad on page 2.

Home-delivered meals 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.

Sisters' Thrift & Boutique

The Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery have a shop full of gen-

tly used treasures at 8674 N. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs. Store hours are Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The phone number is 719-282-0316.

County seeks citizen input: Master Plan Survey now online

El Paso County continues to seek citizen input in an online survey as it creates the new county master plan. To complete the survey, go online to planningdevelopment.elpasoco.com. For more information, phone 719-520-6300.

Volunteer drivers needed for seniors' transportation service

Mountain Community Senior Services is a nonprofit, grant-funded organization that provides free transportation to Tri-Lakes seniors 60 and older. The program needs volunteer drivers. For more information, visit the website, coloradoseniorhelp.com, email info@coloradoseniorhelp.com, or call the hotline, 488-0076.

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.

Free transportation and handyman services

Mountain Community Senior Services offers free transportation and handyman services to Tri-Lakes seniors. If you need a ride to a medical appointment, grocery shopping, or the local senior lunches, a volunteer driver will be happy to help you. Call 488-0076 to leave a message for the dispatcher. If you need grab bars in the bathroom, a ramp to your door, or repair of stairs or railings, please call Cindy Rush, 488-0076, and leave a message or visit www.coloradoseniorhelp.com.

Senior Beat newsletter—subscribe for free

Each monthly *Senior Beat* newsletter is full of information for local seniors, including the daily menu of the senior lunches offered Monday through Friday at the Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Highway 105, Palmer Lake. It also contains the schedule of the classes and events for the month at the Senior Citizens Center and senior-friendly library programs. To subscribe, send an email with your name and mailing address to SeniorBeat@TriLakesSeniors.org. *Senior Beat* can also be viewed online at www.TriLakesSeniors.org. ■