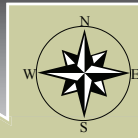


Our Community News

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



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Issue #228 — Volume 20 Number 2 — Saturday, February 1, 2020

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Read, download, and search all the OCN back issues at www.ocn.me.

Local Events

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

- Winter Fun at Fox Run, Sat., Feb. 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Benet Hill Human Trafficking: "Connecting the Dots," Mon., Feb. 3, 6:30-8:15 p.m.,
- D-38 Community Collaboration: "What's next for D38?" Tue., Feb. 4, 6:30-8 p.m. repeats Feb. 11, 13, and 20.
- Wildfire Preparedness Meeting, Tue., Feb. 4, 10 a.m.,
- Tri-Lakes Chamber Monthly Education Series: Search Engine Optimization, Tue., Feb. 4, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.,
- Dion Pride: A Tribute to Charley Pride TLCA, Fri., Feb. 7, 7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Winterfest, Sat., Feb. 8, noon-3 p.m.
- High Altitude Gardening, Tue., Feb. 11, 5-6:30 p.m. repeats Feb. 18
- Black Rose Acoustic Society: Train Station, Fri., Feb. 14, 7 p.m.
- Hazel Miller & the Collective at TLCA, Fri., Feb. 15, 7 p.m.
- CERT, Tue.-Sat., Feb. 18-22
- Palmer Lake Historical Society, Thu., Feb. 20, 7 p.m., Radio pioneers.
- Landscape Design Principles, Tue., Feb. 21, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Free D-38 Chess Tournament, Sat., Feb. 22, 8:15 a.m.
- WMMI: Science Writing, Sat., Feb. 22, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Benet Hill - Colin McAllister, Classical Guitar, Sun., Feb. 23, 2:30-4 p.m.
- Water-wise Gardening, Tue., Feb. 25, 10-11:30 a.m. repeats Mar. 5 and 13
- LPHS Band Free Concert, Tue., Feb. 25, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Black Rose Acoustic Society: The Colorado College Bluegrass Ensemble, Fri., Feb. 28, 7 p.m.
- Wildfire Preparedness Meeting, Tue., Mar. 3, 10 a.m.,
- Songwriters in the Round at TLCA, Sat., Feb. 29, 7 p.m.

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Circulation

Print Run: 21,630
Mail Delivery: 20,765
Stacks: 865

Our free circulation area now includes over 1,600 mailboxes in Black Forest!

Pedestrian bridge installed in Palmer Lake



Above: On January 7, SEMA Construction Inc. installed the two sections of the bridge manufactured by Big R Bridge Manufacturing. The funding for the bridge came from Awake Palmer Lake and its related events, a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant, and matching funds from the Town of Palmer Lake. See additional photos on pages 24-25. To make a part of the bridge a permanent memorial for your business, your family, or your loved ones' memory, see the ad on page 2. *Photo by David Futey.*

Black Forest Fire Rescue/Protection District, Jan. 15

Operations captain hired; county fire code enforcement falls short

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) board meeting on Jan. 15, the recently hired district operations captain was introduced to the board. Board members also heard a discussion on the implementation of new fire codes and updates on the district operations.

Director Nate Dowden was excused.

Operations captain hired

Interim Fire Chief PJ Langmaid introduced Capt. Bill Kraus, the new operations captain for the district, tasked in the new position to develop a master plan and strategic plan. Langmaid said, "Once measurable goals for operations have been developed, we will present the proposed standards to measure the effectiveness of the department for adoption by the board."

County ignoring fire codes, chief says

Langmaid said the Land Development Code is not being enforced by the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) as it approves new developments. He was concerned about another request from Flying Horse North that he felt was "piecemealing" the planning.

Langmaid also said the following regarding fire code enforcement and impact fees:

- We need to maintain good relationships with property developers and homebuilders.
- Impact fees to fire districts were never ratified by the BOCC and so are not being collected for new construction even though Classic Homes had agreed to pay BFFRPD \$450 per home in Flying Horse North.
- Reasonable conversations with homebuilders regarding safety will be necessary for the safety of the public and firefighters.
- Local television media may be doing a story on this bigger issue.

Treasurer Jack Hinton said, "One board member from BFFRPD needs to be present at each BOCC meeting, it is extremely important that fire codes are enforced, it is more important than spending money and I have no intention of losing a firefighter through stupidity." Hinton added, "The fire codes have not been enforced at Flying Horse North and they should not have been given a permit to begin building."

Langmaid said Deputy Chief Jim Rebitski, in conjunction with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, is developing a draft resolution for the county to adopt the 2015 International Fire Code, and the district will seek a resolution to enforce the codes.

BFFRPD (Cont. on 3)

An important message for our readers

Our Community News needs your help!

OCN's unbiased reporting, favorable advertising opportunities, platform for expressing opinions, and spotlight on community events in the Tri-Lakes area appear in over 20,000 area mailboxes every month due to volunteer time and energy. If you can spare a little—or a lot—of time, here are some vital jobs that can help you build skills and enjoy the camaraderie of new friends:

Volunteer coordinator

Location: Work from home or meet new volunteers at a variety of places in the community. This role requires great listening skills and a heart for people. OCN would love to have one or two people who are available to help new volunteers feel welcome and assimilate into their perfect OCN "job." Volunteers in this role would connect new volunteers with the appropriate person for training and gather feedback for ways that OCN may improve. If you enjoy establishing and maintaining relationships with people, whether over the phone or email, or meeting for coffee, this is the role for you. This role is new with an estimation of 10 hours per week.

Ads coordinator

Location: Work from home. This role involves significant phone and email

OCN (Cont. on 2)