

Our Community News

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



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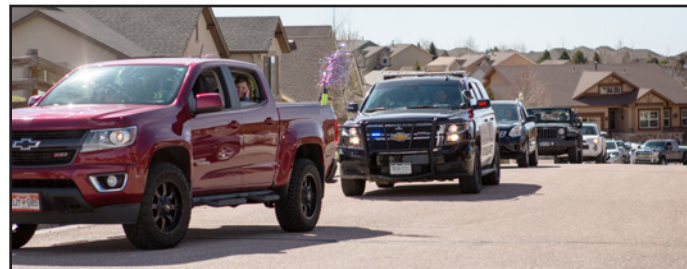
Read, download, and search all the OCN back issues at www.ocn.me.

This issue contains photos of activities that occurred before Gov. Polis' stay-at-home order, which was effective at 6 a.m. March 26 and will last until at least Sat., April 11. OCN encourages full compliance with 6-foot social distancing and the stay-at-home order.

For daily Colorado COVID-19 updates and other information, see <https://covid19.colorado.gov/case-data>. El Paso County's data is at www.elpasocountyhealth.org/services/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19.

Community resources: dial 2-1-1 or visit 211Colorado.org and www.elpasocountyhealth.org/community-resources-0. Health info: 719-575-8888.

Coping with COVID-19



Above: On March 25, Barbara Murray and her kids joined many others in the Bear Creek Elementary School neighborhoods to wave at a caravan of 60-plus teachers in cars who held a parade to honk and wave at their students who have been out of school since March 16 due to the ongoing pandemic. The teachers' parade was greeted by excited kids and emotional parents and included a police escort. Bear Creek families stood in their yards, held signs and drew messages of support in chalk on their sidewalks. *Caption by Jackie Burhans. Photo by Amy Shertzer. See additional coping with COVID-19 photos on 25-28.*

Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education, March 16

Board discusses plans for extended closure, approves bus purchase

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education discussed plans for an extended closure and approved the purchase of several new buses during its meeting on March 16. Because the schools were closed due to concerns about the coronavirus, the meeting was relatively brief.

Board Treasurer Ron Schwarz attended by phone.

In their individual comments, members of the board said that they appreciated the leadership of Superintendent K.C. Somers and acknowledged that the decision to close schools was a difficult one. It was noted that the present situation is unprecedented. The capability for online learning by students was praised.

Somers read a statement that the decision to close was difficult, and he was aware of the disruption it causes in households. He said that in developing the remote learning process, the staff was challenged to innovate.

Somers said he is exploring the possibility of providing Chromebooks and hotspots to students who do not have computers and internet access at home. District staff will be paid during the closure.

Somers said the administration will be constantly monitoring the situation and encouraged all to use this as an opportunity to model resilience and exercise compassion and patience. He expressed hope that this will slow the spread of the virus and thanked all for their support.

Policy discussions

The board heard a first reading of a number of policies, some of which were recently altered in response to suggestions by the Colorado Department of Education. One such policy, regarding the administration of medication during school hours, prompted a question from board Secretary Tiffney Upchurch, who was concerned that the definition, which includes over-the-counter, homeopathic and herbal materials, and nutritional supplements is unnecessarily broad. In all cases, medication may only be administered at school when it is not administered at home. The individual administering the medication must be trained by a registered nurse, and the medication must be in its original packaging. The packaging on prescription medication must include dosage and frequency of dosage information, and the student may only have one day's dosage with them. The medications will be kept by the school. Upchurch suggested altering the wording to say simply prescription or over the counter rather than the further alternatives.

No action was taken on this first reading.

There was a brief discussion of policy IHCD regarding concurrent enrollment allowing students in the middle and high schools to concurrently attend college-level classes for high school and college credit.

Students must apply for such classes 60 days ahead of time and must

D38 (Cont. on 2)

Triview Metropolitan District, March 18

New NMCI role explored; COVID-19 addressed

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Triview Metropolitan District Board of Directors conducted its March 18 meeting via conference call. All directors were able to connect and participate. President Mark Melville established a roll call procedure for all votes taken during the meeting. District Manager Jim McGrady presented an opportunity to support the progress of the U.S. Air Force Academy Visitor Center construction. Staff provided project updates and reported on how operations were affected by the coronavirus or COVID-19.

Triview is a Title 32 special district within Monument that provides road, landscaping, and open space maintenance, and water and wastewater services to Jackson Creek, Promontory Pointe, Sanctuary Pointe, and several commercial areas.

The March 18 board packet may be accessed via www.triviewmetro.com/boardDocuments.

Potential partnership with USAFA explained

McGrady announced that he had signed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Participation Agreement which, upon all participants signing, initiates the feasibility and environmental impact study of building a 10-mile wastewater pipeline between Colorado Springs Utilities' (CSU) existing wastewater collection system called the J. D. Phillips Water Resource Recovery Facility and the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility. See www.ocn.me/v20n2.htm#dwsd for more information. This proposed pipeline, called the Northern Monument Creek Inter-

TRIVIEW (Cont. on 5)

Local Events

Almost all local events have been canceled, suspended, or are being conducted on-line or by conference call. See pages 28-31 for details.

The unpredictability of the COVID-19 situation presents scheduling challenges for area governance entities and other organizations. Because OCN is a monthly publication, readers should assume that information published in this issue is subject to change and event information should be confirmed a day or two before the event by calling the information number or checking the organization's website.

Dates are shown for events even though the event has been canceled or suspended. The date indicates when the event was planned to be held or when it would normally have been held.

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OCN needs you! Please contact editor@ocn.me if you could work a few hours April 30 or May 1 to help us get the papers counted and prepared for the post office. Many of our regular, wonderful volunteers are not able to venture out right now, and we need your help to keep getting objective news out to our community.