

D38 provides computers



Above: On March 30, the day before Lewis-Palmer School District 38 students began classes via computer, staff and IT techs distribute Chrome computers to families to enable their children to virtually attend classes during the COVID-19 pandemic and keep up with their education. *Photo by John Howe.*

A fond farewell to Jennifer

Right: Jennifer Kaylor has been a volunteer and leader for *Our Community News* since 2017. She is always ready to brainstorm a problem, report on a local government entity's public meeting, and explain the technical details in layman's terms. In these unprecedented days of uncertainty, she's been hard at work juggling all the variables as we make decisions about how to proceed. These photos were taken on March 6, where Jennifer and many other loyal volunteers counted and tubbed 21,500 papers to take to the post office. **Note:** Newspapers are considered an "essential industry" in the governor's March 26 stay at home order. Write to editor@ocn.

me if you can help on April 30-May 1 mailing day, since many of our regular volunteers must not venture out right now. *Photo by Sharon Williams.*



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.

Community resources available during COVID-19 pandemic

The county's website, www.elpasocountyhealth.org/community-resources-0 has lists to help with: basic needs, behavioral health resources, businesses, childcare resources for children and teens, health and wellness resources, and volunteer opportunities (local and immediate needs). The public health information number is 719-575-8888. It is open 7 days a week.

Silver Key Senior Luncheons

Connections Café sites will have "grab and go" (prepared meals). A \$2.25 donation is requested. Please call 719-884-2300 to reserve your meal. Meals on Wheels and Home Delivered Meals will deliver frozen meals for the week to Monument on Wednesdays. If you qualify but are not yet enrolled for meals, phone 719-884-2300 or visit www.silverkey.org. The Food Pantry is implementing a "pick up only" model for clients. Mon.-Fri., 12-12:30 p.m., Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Reserve & Ride is temporarily limited to essential transportation needs only: strictly medical and food-related trips. Reservations are requested, phone 719-884-2300.

Rocky Mountain Custom Trim now hiring

Help is needed for shop work, shipping and receiving, and delivery. For details, contact 719-488-8344 or office@rmct-co.com. See ad on page 16.

Blood donations needed

Blood donors are needed at the Colorado Springs Blood Donation Center, 3670 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Suite 110; Colo. Springs. Do not donate if you are sick; Vitalant does not test for COVID-19. An appointment is required; book by phone or online: 303-363-2300 or 800-365-0006, opt. 2; www.vitalant.org

Personal protective equipment needed, pickup available

The Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management is accepting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donations every Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4 p.m., at the parking lot for 3755 Mark Dabbling Blvd., Colorado Springs. If donors cannot get to the drop site, pickup is available; contact RobinAdair@elpasoco.com or 719-575-8858. They are accepting the following items: gloves, masks (N95 and surgical),

face shields, gowns, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, Tyvek suits.

Local grocery stores offer senior shopping hours, ages 60+

During the COVID-19 pandemic, local stores have made some changes to their schedules: King Soopers is open for seniors only Mon., Wed., & Fri 7-8 a.m.; they close at 8 p.m. Safeway opens for seniors Tue. & Thu., 7-9 a.m.; they close at 8 p.m. Walmart opens for seniors Tue., 6-7 a.m.; they close at 8:30 p.m.

Silver Key Calls of Reassurance are available for seniors

Extended social isolation and loneliness significantly impact the quality of life and health of older adults. The current public health crisis has increased the need and demand for seniors to receive these critical calls and connection with others. Seniors who self-enroll can be called weekly (1-3 times) to talk with a Silver Key volunteer. They currently offer two types of helpful calls. Social Calls are for seniors who wish to have a weekly, bright, and supportive connection with a well-trained VIP volunteer. Safety Checks are similar to Social Calls but if the senior does not answer after three calls, emergency contacts (maintained on file) will be called, then the police if the emergency contacts cannot be reached. For more details, visit www.silverkey.org.

Can you sew homemade masks? Free mask-sewing kits, drop-off site available

The Sew-In-Tune shop in Monument is providing mask kits for sew-ers to make up to 1,000 masks (each kit makes 5 masks). Email your request to hello@sewintuneservicing.com or leave a message at 719-203-5642. Include your name, contact info, number of kits requested, and what day you would like to pick up or if you would like them delivered. Sew-in-Tune has many more detailed instructions about how to make, package, and label the masks, so even if you are not using their kits but using your own materials instead, please email them for all the specifics they can share. To find out more, call 719-203-5642 or visit facebook.com/sewintuneservicing.

Can you volunteer today?

Links to local organizations with immediate need for volunteers are listed on the county's website, www.elpasocountyhealth.org/community-resources-0 for groups like Care and Share, Crossfire Ministries, Citizen's Project (email joy@citizensproject.org for virtual opportunities to help with Census 2020), donate blood, Early Connections (volunteer from home opportunity), foster an animal, Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso County, Salvation Army, Silver Key,

United Way (ongoing opportunities).

Tri-Lakes Cares needs us now more than ever

Tri-Lakes Cares is the only food pantry and human services organization located in and serving northern El Paso County through emergency, self-sufficiency, and relief programs. The community-based, volunteer-supported center is a critical resource for our neighbors in need. The best way for us to help support Tri-Lakes Cares is to make a financial donation. For more information about Tri-Lakes Cares or how you can help, contact Brendan Rhoades, TLC's Community Engagement Manager: 719-481-4864, ext. 111; communityengagementmanager@tri-lakecares.org; or visit www.tri-lakescares.org.

YMCA offers critical child care

The YMCA offers critical childcare to medical professionals, first responders, and other parents who need to work during this time. For more information, please visit ppymca.org/coronavirus. Care will be offered Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. for ages 5 -12 at their Garden Ranch and Tri-Lakes YMCAs. Financial scholarships are available. For more information, visit ppymca.org/childcare.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Teleconference Family Support Group

NAMI offers teleconference support the first and third Tuesdays of every month, 7-8:30 p.m. Pre-registration for each teleconference support group meeting is required. To pre-register, contact NAMI Colorado Springs at 719-473-8477, 719-482-0918 or info@namicos.org. For more information, contact Ethel Leslie 970-527-3284, eleslie15@gmail.com.

County parks, trails, and open spaces remain open for drop-in use

Bear Creek and Fountain Creek Nature Centers, park headquarters, and county fairgrounds are temporarily closed to public access to combat COVID-19. Also closed are playgrounds, picnic pavilions, and park restrooms. County parks, trails, and open spaces remain open for drop-in use. Please enjoy the outdoors during this challenging time, but practice social distancing. For more information, phone 719-520-7529, email to parks@elpasoco.com, or visit elpasoco.com.

Clerk & Recorder offices closed; some services available

Residents can renew their motor vehicle registration online at mydmv.colorado.gov, by phone 520-6240, by mail, or by self-service kiosks at King Soopers or at the North Motor Vehicle Office at 8830 N. Union Blvd.

(24/7 kiosk). Additionally, marriage licenses can be obtained by appointment. For more information phone 520-6200. See ad on page 8.

Sixth Annual Pikes Peak Birding and Nature Festival, register now

Registration for the festival (May 15-17) begins Apr. 4, 10 a.m. The festival offers numerous activities and field trips including geology exploration in the restricted-access portion of the Paint Mines Interpretive Park. Some events fill up fast, so register early for discounted festival cost and a spot in your preferred workshops and trips. For details, visit www.pikespeakbirdingandnaturefestival.org.

Monument Hill Kiwanis grants, apply by May 15

The Monument Hill Foundation, the charitable arm of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club, has an annual granting program. 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 through May 15. The grant application is available at monumenthillfoundation.org (select "Apply for a Grant").

MVEA board nominations open

The board election will take place during the annual meeting June 4. 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 13.

MA is expanding; enroll now

Monument Academy is a free public school of choice and features academic excellence, award-winning programs, and more. Its new east campus will open this fall. Learn about this growing school; schedule a tour at 481-1950 ext. 1710, www.monumentacademy.net. See ad on page 11.

St. Peter Catholic School now enrolling

Preschool through eighth grade features academics, athletics, and faith formation. For more information, call 719-481-1855 or visit petertherockschool.org. See ad on page 2.

Emptier roads can still be dangerous if you don't drive safely

The Colorado Department of Transportation reminds drivers that less traffic on the roads does not mean less danger, especially when some choose to abandon safe driving practices. Several multi-car pileups, in addition to significant additional crashes, have caused road closures and injuries throughout Colorado. At a time when medical facilities are already stretched, drivers can #DoYourPartCO and move responsibly. Your trip and the health and safety of your