

Why advertise in OCN?

- **OCN is mailed FREE to every resident and business in the Tri-Lakes area.** We mail more than 20,700 copies every month and put another 700 copies in stacks throughout the area. OCN has the largest mailed circulation and the third-largest circulation among local newspapers in El Paso County after *The Gazette* and *The Colorado Springs Independent*. We put copies of OCN into the hands of those people most likely to buy your products or services: local residents and businesses.
- **OCN is a primary source for Tri-Lakes area news.** Since its founding in 2001, OCN has been presenting unbiased, detailed coverage of Tri-Lakes area governmental entities and their deliberations and actions. Credibility is key. Advertising in a credible medium typically rubs off on the advertisers in that media.
- **OCN gives preference to Tri-Lakes area businesses.** As part of OCN's long-standing commitment to encouraging the economic health of the Tri-Lakes area, we offer a significantly discounted ad rate to Tri-Lakes area businesses as a way to help local businesses like yours succeed.
- **OCN's low ad rates and monthly publication schedule help stretch your ad budget.** OCN has one of the lowest ad costs per printed copy of any local publication. Since OCN is a monthly publication, your ad is out there for a month—more than four times longer than other local papers. Many of our advertisers tell us they're still getting calls in the third and fourth week of the month.
- **OCN doesn't use contracts.** You aren't tied down. Adjust your advertising month-to-month to meet your changing needs. Our advertisers advertise with us because they see benefit in it, not because they're bound by a contract they signed months before. To reward frequent advertisers, OCN has a Frequent Advertiser Bonus (FAB) rewards program. You earn up to 10% of your ad cost as a reward you can use to reduce the cost of future OCN advertising. The more you advertise with OCN, the more you save. Thanks to our FAB rewards program, OCN advertisers have saved more than \$78,300!
- **You are supporting a good thing.** Your advertising dollars support a unique all-volunteer, Tri-Lakes-focused effort to present factual, comprehensive news to all Tri-Lakes area residents and businesses.

And the best reason of all: It works!

Jennifer Cunningham, Gallery 132 - "OCN is the only print publication where I've seen consistent results in engagement for my business."

Randi and Dale Sehestedt, Woodmoor Handyman and Snow Plowing - "OCN is the only paper we advertise in and it consistently brings us plenty of good local customers. Great paper and great people to work with."

Melissa Riesling, LPC - "Advertising with the OCN has been terrific! I have so many people tell me 'I saw your ad!' The OCN is a very affordable way to promote your business in the community."

Kerri Bohler, The Villa Restaurant - "Thanks for all you have done for us. Our ad with OCN was the best thing we ever did for advertising. It outshines all the rest."

Mary Sue Hafey, Fringe Benefits Custom Interiors - "Since I started advertising with OCN years ago, it has helped brand my company while consistently increasing my exposure and sales!"

Elba D'Asaro, Spa Medica - "OCN ads work!"

Sarah Groh, Sarah Groh Music Studio - "Your paper has been the best press I have ever had. Thanks to the OCN ads my plate is full and I don't think I could take on any more clients right now."

Cathy Thompson, Johan Hair Studio - "OCN is my paper of choice for advertising. The ads John has helped me design have provided a constant stream of new clients. My ads have paid for themselves many times over! Thanks John!"

Mike Reaster, Guitar Lessons - "Ads in OCN work great for me. I tried other local papers and got no response. Thanks to my ads in OCN, I can work from home and make a decent living. All my work comes from my ads in OCN."

For more information on advertising, go to www.ocn.me/advertise.htm or contact John Heiser at (719) 488-3455 or ads@ocn.me.

money be used to purchase goods from local vendors to help stimulate the local economy. The club has been serving the Tri-Lakes community for over 44 years. To learn more about this charitable organization, please visit the website, www.tlwc.net.

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 2.

Pikes Peak Birding and Nature Festival canceled

To combat the COVID-19 virus, the festival committee canceled the 2020 festival. While it is eager to celebrate spring bird migration and our wonderful outdoors in the Pikes Peak Region, it is better done on your own while practicing safe physical distancing and restrictions. Next year's festival is scheduled for May 21-23, 2021. For more information, visit www.pikespeakbirdingandnaturefestival.org.

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 (one to three times) to talk with a Silver Key volunteer. It offers 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.

Jewish Family Service offers virtual counseling for all

Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Colorado's virtual counseling services are available to anyone throughout the state who is feeling overwhelmed or in crisis at this time. JFS supports everyone, not just those of the Jewish faith. With stay-at-home orders and the number of coronavirus cases continuing to rise, it is expected that the number of people struggling with mental health issues will increase as well. According to JFS therapists, the biggest concerns for clients are heightened anxiety and fear, intensified trauma symptoms triggered by current fear regarding COVID-19, confusion about the coronavirus situation due to language barriers, isolation, and daily anxiety about how to pay rent and other bills. Mental health services are available to adults and youth, including students who normally receive mental health counseling at school through JFS's KidSuccess program. In addition, JFS provides mental health services for underserved refugees and is the region's only agency that provides mental health care for the Russian-speaking immigrant population in their native language. JFS accepts private insurance, self-pay, Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and offers a sliding-fee schedule for those with limited financial resources and will not turn away anyone in crisis. To find out more about virtual counseling and the various services JFS offers, phone 303-597-5000 or visit the website, www.jewishfamilyservice.org.

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.

Help protect firefighters and yourselves

Hundreds of firefighters across the country have COVID-19. Even with personal protective equipment and strong infection control

procedures, hundreds of firefighters are sick. Some have died. Here are some steps you can take to make it safer for firefighters and others on the front lines of the COVID-19 battle, such as police officers, nurses, and doctors. (1) Stay home and practice social distancing. (2) Call 911 for emergencies only. If you need assistance, firefighters, paramedics and EMTs will be there. (3) If you do need to call 911, alert the call-taker if anyone in your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has experienced any symptoms such as cough or fever so that firefighters can take the precautions needed to ensure they can keep doing their job throughout this pandemic. The 911 call-taker will likely ask additional questions. (4) Make a list of all medications being taken by each member of your household, along with a medical history. Do it now and keep it handy, just in case. New rules in many communities will prevent relatives and friends from riding in the ambulance or even entering the hospital. (5) Collect a few things a loved one might need if they must go to the hospital. A phone charger, eyeglasses, wallet, ID, and insurance card(s) are great things to include. Follow your local fire department and emergency management agency on social media. They'll have additional COVID-19 safety tips and keep you updated on changing procedures and policies.

El Paso County services for veterans

During the COVID-19 crisis, if you or someone you know needs food, housing, transportation, behavioral health counseling, or employment support, Mt. Carmel continues to be a beacon of support for those who served. Please call 719-772-7000 or email frontdesk@mtcarmelcenter.org to be connected to a member of the Mt. Carmel team. For more information, visit www.veteranscenter.org.

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 10.

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 five masks). Email 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 its 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), blood donations, 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

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 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@trilakecares.org; or visit www.tri-lakecares.org.

Annual Jackson Creek Community Garage Sale coming in June
This is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors, spring clean, and of course