

Celebrating 20 Years!

Our Community News

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



PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MONUMENT, CO
PERMIT NO. 32

****ECRWSS****
Postal
Customer

Issue #249 — Volume 21 Number 11 — Saturday, November 6, 2021

Free

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

WHERE TO FIND OFFICIAL COVID INFORMATION
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/>

Local Events

Readers should assume that event information published in this issue is subject to change and information should be confirmed a day or two before the event by calling the information number or checking the organization's website.

See pages 28-31 for event locations and other details of these and many other local events.

- **Bear Creek and Fountain Creek Nature centers 7th annual Bear Run**, Thu., Nov. 11, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- **St. Peter Catholic School, holiday boutique and bake sale**, Sat., Nov. 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- **Friends of Fox Run Park, forest lore guided hike**, Sat., Nov. 13, 1 p.m.
- **Northern Delivery System meeting**, Wed., Nov. 17, 5:30 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society meeting**, Thu., Nov. 18, 7 p.m., Colorado's 10th Mountain Division
- **Joys of the Season Holiday Home Tour**, Fri.-Sat., Nov. 19-20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **YMCA Turkey Trot 5K**, Thu., Nov. 25, tiny tot 8:15 a.m., 5K 9 a.m.
- **Kiwanis Monument Hill Club**, bell ringing for the Salvation Army starts Nov. 26
- **Alpaca Holiday Extravaganza**, Sat., Nov. 27, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Kiwanis Monument Hill Club - North Pole Craft Fair**, Sat., Dec. 4
- **Monument Tree Lighting**, Sat., Dec. 4, 3-5 p.m.
- **Friends of Fox Run Park annual tree "wood cookie" ornament party**, Sat., Dec. 11, 1-3 p.m.

In this issue

School District 38 News 1-8
Monument News 8-10
Palmer Lake News 10-12
Fire District News 12-17
Water & San District News 17-21
County News 21-22
WIA News 22
Weather and columns 22-25
Snapshots 25-28
Notices and Calendar 29-31
OCN Information 31, 32

Circulation

Print Run: 22,120
Mail Delivery: 21,480
Stacks: 640

Teens help clean up the community garden



Above left: On Oct. 30, members of the Palmer Ridge High School honor society helped with Fall preparations of the beds at the Monument Community Garden. From left to right in the back row: Todd Osborn, Talan Terlizzi, Rachel Zarkovacki, Marya Nay, Hannah Miller, Amaya Taylor, Naomi Snyder, Cora Goodwin, and Nicole Day. From left to right in the front row: Emily Miller, Katie Miller, Danielle Day, and Ella Nagaraj. *Photo by Amber Wright.* **Above right:** Snyder, Nay, and Miller hard at work. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

Monument Academy School Board, Oct. 5, 7, and 28

Board negotiates temporary exit to Highway 105

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board held three meetings in October: a workshop on Oct. 5, a regular meeting on Oct. 7, and a special meeting on Oct. 28. A key topic at the regular and special board meetings was loss of access to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' (LDS) west driveway on Highway 105 and the effort to find short- and long-term solutions. The workshop on Oct. 5 sought input on the phase two build-out of MA's east campus, and on Oct. 28 the revised 2021-22 budget and a five-year forecast were discussed.

Highway 105 access

On Oct. 7, Megghan St. Aubyn, board vice president and member of the Highway 105 Committee, read a statement saying that MA had been co-operating with El Paso County in an effort to remove MA west campus traffic from Highway 105 and recirculate cars to its own property. See more at <https://www.ocn.me/v21n5.htm#ma>. The county provided conceptual options shown here: <https://epcdev-planreview.com/Public/ProjectDetails/172298>.

St. Aubyn noted that the school had had a reciprocal parking and access agreement with the LDS church next door from 2008 when MA opened until 2018 when the agreement expired. Since 2018 there has been no formal agreement. The board and administration have been dealing with the church lawyers in Salt Lake City who informed MA that the church wished to discontinue the parking agreement and no longer wanted MA staff and parents to use the church's west driveway to access the school. The LDS church set a deadline of Nov. 8. St. Aubyn asked to set up a sub-committee made up of parents, facilities, and administration to brainstorm the best solution for the morning and afternoon carline at MA's west campus.

At the Oct. 28 special meeting, board President Ryan Graham noted that the statement read at the regular meeting was sent to parents. Some expressed disappointment in its tone, he said, but he stood by it as a statement from the Highway 105 Committee, not the whole board. He asked that concerns be directed to him as board president and member of the committee. He noted that the following day

there were upsetting remarks about the LDS church on social media. He does not condone those remarks but has no control over them.

He reported meeting with local LDS representatives in face-to-face meetings and announced that MA and LDS have come to an agreement to keep both MA and LDS seminary students safe while allowing the school to use the driveway until May 2022. He thanked the people who participated in the sub-committee.

St. Aubyn presented a preliminary plan for the carline at the MA west campus. LDS will allow MA to continue to use its west driveway on a temporary basis until May 2022, but it will be a right-turn only exit. This will require rerouting the carline and making schedule and procedure changes. All traffic will enter from Knollwood Drive, drop or pick up students on the left curb from the driver's side, and exit the LDS driveway on Highway 105 and turn right, she said. School start time will be 5 minutes earlier and dismissal will be staggered in groups leaving every 15 minutes by grade, with siblings leaving together.

MA (Cont. on 2)



Above: MA Proposed Carline - Monument Academy is working to finalize an agreement with the Latter-day Saints church next door to continue using the LDS driveway to exit to Highway 105 with a right turn only lane. All traffic to the school would enter on Knollwood Drive at the left of the image. Red arrows indicate turns to and from public roads.

Yellow arrows indicate through traffic. Cars can form two lines after the vision clinic. Blue arrows indicate the student pick-up zone. Green arrows indicate traffic exiting the dirt parking lot. Red circles with a line through them indicate no parking at the LDS church or other businesses on Village Ridge Pt. *Image courtesy of Monument Academy*