

- **Chess Nuts**, Tue., **Feb. 23**, 5-9 p.m., Silver Alliance Senior Center, across the street from the YMCA. Any age, any skill. Learners welcome. Drop in and leave when you want. Bring your own board and pieces if you have them. Meets 2nd & 4th Tue. each month. Info: www.TriLakesSeniors.org/chess.
- **Senior Social, all in person AARP activities are canceled through the first quarter of 2021**, Wed., **Feb. 24**, 1-4 p.m., 12455 Black Forest Rd. Meets 4th Wed. each month except Nov. & Dec. Info: aarpchapter-1100blackforest.weebly.com.
- **Friends of Fox Run Park, Zoom meeting**, Thu., **Feb. 25**, 6-7:30 p.m., Email friendsoffoxrunpark@gmail.com and they will email you the link the day of the meeting. Join the growing group to learn about volunteering and supporting the park for safety, trails, trees, education, more. Meets 4th Thu. each month. Info: marlenebrown@ocn.me.
- **Foot Care Clinic**, Fri., **Feb. 26**, Silver Alliance Senior Center located across the street from the Tri-Lakes YMCA, on the Lewis-Palmer High School campus. A registered nurse examines feet and provides foot care advice, toenail trimming. Cost: \$35 for a 30-min. visit. Meets 2nd Wed., 3rd and last Fri. each month, by appointment only. Info & appointments: call the Visiting Nurse Association, 719-577-4448.
- **Group of Artists (GOA) Meetings at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA), SUSPENDED**, Sat., **Mar. 6**, 10 a.m.-noon, 304 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Lively discussions about art topics, general studies on creativity. Meets 1st Sat. each month. Info: 481-0475, info@trilakesarts.org, www.trilakesarts.org.
- **Lupus Support Group**. If you suffer with an autoimmune disease and want to connect with others, you are welcome to join this group. Info: dmbandle@hotmail.com.
- **Myasthenia Gravis Association** of Colorado Support Group. Location varies. Info: Carolyn, 488-3620, www.4-mga.org, 303-360-7080, 4mga@4-mga.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Palmer Lake Winterfest**, Sat., **Feb. 6**, noon-3 p.m. Hot chocolate and broom ball, bring your own broom. Winterfest hoodies for purchase, \$15, to benefit Palmer Lakes Parks Commission's continued efforts to maintain local parks. Info: www.townofpalmerlake.com.
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Family-to-Family online class**, begins Wed., **Feb. 10**, 6-8:30 p.m. NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, evidence-based program for family, friends and partners of adults with mental health conditions. Find out the latest information on depressive disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and other illnesses, and learn practical skills for coping and advocacy. Teachers are trained peers whose loved ones live with a mental illness. Formerly a 12-week course, it now lasts just eight weeks. Registration required. To register, and/or find out about monthly and weekly online support groups, call 719-473-8477, or visit www.namicoloradosprings.org.
- **ZOOMobile with Cheyenne Mountain Zoo @ppld.org Online**, Thu., **Feb. 11** (repeats Sat., **Mar. 6**, 1 p.m.). Join PPLD and the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo for a virtual ZOOMobile. Meet five different animal ambassadors and have a live conversation with a keeper. This virtual program will feature appearances by a mammal, amphibian, bird, lizard, and a turtle or tortoise. Info: Heidi Buljung, 719-531-6333 ext. 6034, hbuljung@ppld.org.
- **Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) Speakers' Bureau Monthly Lecture (online)**, Mon., **Feb. 15**. Info: 719-488-0880, www.wmmi.org.
- **Genealogy Basics @PPLD.org Online**, Sat., **Feb. 20**,

10-11 a.m. This class provides an introduction to basic genealogy research strategies. Space is limited, so register in advance. There's no cost to participate; all registrants will receive a Zoom link and instructions (via email) in advance. Info: Cara Ramsey, 719- 531-6333 ext. 6035, cramsey@ppld.org.

- **Covered Treasures Bookstore Booksigning**, Sat., **Feb. 20**, 1-3 p.m., 105 Second St., Monument. Debut author Diane Campbell will sign her mystery, *Point Blank*. Free, open to all, please wear a mask. Info: 481-2665, www.coveredtreasures.com.
- **Virtual Wine Tasting**, Sat., **Feb. 20**, 7 p.m., at your home. Stay safe at home and enjoy this special virtual wine tasting event. The wine package includes three Colorado wines, wine tasting sheets, handouts, and color guide. An expert panel will conduct the event on Zoom. You can pick up your wine package at the Wine Seller in Monument, or have it hand-delivered Feb. 19. All proceeds will go to the Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers, a 501(c)3 organization that supports environmental education programs in El Paso County. Info & online registration: <https://communityservices.elpasoco.com/virtual-wine-tasting/>.
- **Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) Exhibit Museum Member Launch Party: The Mining Heritage of Colorado Springs and Mining in America**, Thu., **Feb. 25**, 225 North Gate Blvd. The first exhibit, which runs through August, highlights the coal industry, the gold ore processing mills, and the railroads that serviced them. Mining in America features an interactive map of 27 mining sites in the U.S. that shows the importance of mining to the growth of America. Public grand opening is Mar. 1. Info: 719-488-0880, www.wmmi.org.
- **Wildfire Risk Reduction Program Kickoff**, Sat., **Feb. 27**, 10-11:30 a.m. Learn how to make your neighborhood more resistant to wildfires in a local class from a local, national award-winning organization. This free program features online seminars on organizing and implementing your program and concludes with a demonstration project. Lessons follow Fire-wise techniques. On-site assistance will be provided to each Neighborhood Ambassador leading a neighborhood through its own mitigation program. For more information and Zoom link, call 719-339-7831 or email epg@tlumc.org.
- **Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) Spring Break STEM Camp**, Mon.-Fri., **Mar. 22-26**, 225 North Gate Blvd. Full or half day, ages 8-12. Hands-on activities, daily guest speakers, and more. RSVP & Info: 719-488-0880, www.wmmi.org.

Our community calendar carries listings on a

Content

Articles in Our Community News focus on the deliberations of Tri-Lakes area governmental bodies such as the Monument Board of Trustees, Palmer Lake Town Council, and many of the local water, sanitation, fire, and school district boards.

Unlike papers that try to figure out what the “story” is and then get quotes on each side to presumably lead the reader to conclude what the “truth” is, OCN’s role is to report in detail on public meetings of local governmental entities. We report what was talked about and what was decided. By reading OCN, you can find out what you might have learned if you had attended those public meetings. In this context, “truth” is that the articles accurately represent what transpired at the meetings.

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Contact John Heiser, Publisher, at johnheiser@ocn.me or (719) 488-3455 with any questions.

Support Our Community. Volunteer with OCN!

Please join us today! Meet a group of interesting and committed people. Learn new skills—use your enthusiasm and creativity to benefit our community and celebrate unfiltered information. Please call John Heiser, Publisher, at (719) 488-3455, or email johnheiser@ocn.me to see how you can contribute. Contact us today!

space-available basis for Tri-Lakes events that are sponsored by local governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations. We include events that are open to the general public and are not religious or self-promotional in nature. If space is available, complimentary calendar listings are included, when requested, for events advertised in the current issue. To have your event listed at no charge in Our Community Calendar, please call (719) 339-7831 or send the information to calendar@ocn.me or Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132.

Letters to Our Community

Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest to readers in the Tri-Lakes area. We do not knowingly print letters that are substantially the same as letters that have been submitted to other publications. To ensure that OCN contains a variety of viewpoints, each letter writer is limited to a maximum of one (1) letter per issue and six (6) letters within a twelve (12) month period. To submit a letter, please:

- Email your letter, preferably as an attached Microsoft Word document, to editor@ocn.me or mail a copy to **Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, CO 80132-1742**.
- Identify your submission as a letter to the editor and confirm that it has not been submitted to any other publication.
- Include a suggested headline or title that summarizes the topic you are addressing.
- Limit your letter to no more than 300 words including your suggested headline and closing.
- Include your full name, home address, phone numbers, and email address, if you have one. Only your name will be published.
- Submit your letter so we receive it no later than midnight, Friday, two weeks prior to the publication date.

If you have not received an acknowledgement two days after your email submission or one week after you mailed your letter, please contact Jennifer Kaylor, Managing Editor, at (719) 488-3455 or editor@ocn.me. At OCN's sole discretion, we may ask you for clarification of your statements. Include references, such as website links, in your letter for any facts and figures you cite. OCN does not guarantee every letter will appear in print or on-line and does not guarantee a publication date. Depending on the space available, the number of letters printed in an issue may be limited to the first 12 received. Letters containing personal attacks or endorsements for or complaints about individually-named commercial products or services will not be published.

Look for our next issue
Saturday, Mar. 6

Ad space reservations due: **Fri., Feb. 12**
Finished ad artwork due: **Fri., Feb. 19**
Letters to the editor due: **Fri., Feb. 19**
Calendar items due: **Fri., Feb. 26**

Visit our website to read, download, and search all the back issues at **WWW.OCN.ME**



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Our Community News (OCN), with a circulation of over 21,600, is a unique all-volunteer monthly newspaper mailed FREE to every resident and business in the Tri-Lakes area. OCN is a primary source for Tri-Lakes area news that gives advertising preference to Tri-Lakes and Black Forest businesses. OCN's contract-free low ad rates and monthly publication schedule help stretch your ad budget while supporting an important Tri-Lakes-focused effort to present factual, comprehensive news to all Tri-Lakes area residents and business owners.

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