

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.

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

Fireworks banned in El Paso County

Details on page 28

Local Events

The COVID-19 situation continues to present scheduling challenges for area governance entities and other organizations. 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. 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.

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

- Kids Fishing Derby, Sat. June 5, 8-11:30 a.m.
- Woodmoor Chipping Day, Sat. June 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- WMMI Family Day, Sat. June 12, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Downtown Monument Art Hop, Thu., June 17, 5-8 p.m.
- PLHS Annual Father's Day Ice Cream Social, Sun., June 20, 2-4 p.m.
- Woodmoor Neighborhood Garage Sale, Fri.-Sat., June 25-26, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Jackson Creek Community-wide Garage Sale, Fri.-Sat., June 25-26, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Front Range Maker's Market, Sat, June 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- July 3 events:
 - Pancake Breakfast, 6:30 a.m.
 - 4-mile Fun Run, 7 a.m.
 - Children's Parade, 9:30 a.m.
 - Main Parade, 10 a.m.
 - Street Fair & Beer Garden, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Festival on the Fourth at Palmer Lake, Sun. July 4, 1 p.m.-8 p.m.

In this issue

Due to snow in April, many of the governmental meetings we would have customarily covered in our May issue were postponed to this June issue.

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Downtown Monument Art Hop is back!



Above: Monument Art Hop started up again May 20. At Bliss Studios, the music of Leo and the Lark (Kiera Lynn and Michael Edmiston) rocked the studio gallery courtyard. For more info, see www.leoandthelark.com. Art Hop is held the third Thursdays, May through Sep. The next Art Hop is Thu., June 17, 5 - 8 p.m. See www.downtownmonument.org. Photo by Janet Sellers.

Monument Board of Trustees, May 3

Monument will hold Independence Day festivities

By Allison Robenstein

On May 3, the Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) approved requests to hold the annual July 4 parade, street fair, and beer garden on July 3. Also, the board reluctantly approved a request by Classic Homes to add houses in Sanctuary Pointe despite numerous homeowner requests for a denial.

Independence Day celebrations to be held July 3

The board approved an event permit from the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club for the Independence Day parade to be held Saturday, July 3 from 9 a.m. to noon. The club expects 100 entries with 1,500 participants. In years past, the parade has brought tens of thousands of visitors to town.

Despite Town Clerk Laura Hogan's concerns about the emergency services and security plans provided by the club, Police Chief Sean Hemingway signed off on the arrangements.

The Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development and Visitor Center applied for a permit to hold the street fair and beer garden along Second Street from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The events will also be held July 3.

Director Terri Hayes said she has seen an interest in vendor tents although she said to expect fewer than in past years. "People are really anxious to get out," she said. Hayes confirmed the vendor tents will be adequately distanced from one another to make everyone feel comfortable.

A discussion popped up among the board members regarding parade cancellations at the state level. Trustee Laurie Clark asked if the board could approve a sanctuary declaration "to protect the town from future or current executive

orders coming from the state level." The board decided to discuss such a declaration at the June 7 meeting.

Both requests were passed unanimously.

Sanctuary Pointe Phase 1 PD Site Plan amendment/Sketch Plan amendment

Classic Homes asked to increase the residential density of Sanctuary Pointe by 12 additional homes. Residents were originally told the 5.11-acre parcel along Sanctuary Rim Drive was to be a church. Instead, Classic Homes wants to build 12 single-family homes on lots that range from 8,351 to 15,243 square feet.

Andrea Barlow of NES represented Classic homes, saying now that the church won't be built, the Sunday traffic it would have generated, an additional 1,700 additional trips, would now be considerably reduced.

There were many public comments against the requests including concerns about trees being cut down for the new homes. Several people said they use a trail to access their mailboxes along the main road, but Lauren Moreland, project manager for the development, said the trail is just a sewer outfall that will be eliminated.

Several residents, including Dr. Sarah Pramanik, were told in writing there would only be eight to 10 homes built on the parcel. A resident of Cat Nap Lane said, "we the residents of Monument have been bullied throughout this process," with a few even calling this a bait-and-switch tactic. Moreland said none of his sales team would ever make such a claim, but did confirm, "I know there are five sides to every truth."

El Paso County Planning Commission Master Plan adoption hearing, May 5 and 26

New county Master Plan approved

By Helen Walklett

After a special hearing over two days in May, the El Paso County Planning Commission voted to approve the county's new Master Plan, which will guide development in the county for the next 20 to 30 years.

At the May 5 hearing, Craig Dossey, executive director, Planning and Community Development, said the work to update the plan had been a very thorough process and that the county would now have a comprehensive plan instead of a number of disparate small area plans, some of which were very dated. He said he hoped to update the plan every five years if the budget were available.

John Houseal of consultants Houseal Lavigne Associates (HLA) told the commissioners, "The level of effort has been nothing short of herculean by your staff and advisory committee." He described the Master Plan as a foundation for decision-making and a more coordinated approach to planning across the county and noted the extensive community engagement. He said close to 4,000 people had participated in the process, stating the plan had been heavily viewed and heavily vetted by residents and stakeholders. Commissioner Grace Blea-Nunez asked Houseal how the county had compared with others in terms of community engagement. He said he thought they had done very well with feedback being thorough, thoughtful, very specific, and very detailed.

Commissioner Tom Bailey said he was aware of remarks that not all of the

MONUMENT (Cont. on 6)

EPC PLAN (Cont. on 2)