

Happy New Year! from the all-volunteer staff at



Our Community News

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

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Free

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See page 29**

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.

- **Palmer Lake Outdoor Classic youth hockey day**, Fri., Jan. 6, 6 pm face-off, Sat., Jan. 7, 9 am, on Palmer Lake.
- **Palmer Lake Board of Trustees meeting**, Thu., Jan. 12, 5 pm
- **Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO) meeting**, Sat., Jan 14, 10 am-12 pm
- **Monument Board of Trustees meeting**, Mon., Jan. 16, 6:30 pm
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society**, potluck dinner, Thu., Jan. 19, 6:00- 8:00 pm
- **Palmer Lake Board of Trustees meeting**, Thu., Jan. 26, 5 pm
- **Friends of Fox Run Park**, Thu., Jan. 26, Zoom meeting, 7 pm
- **Woodmoor Improvement Association annual meeting**, Mon., Jan. 30, 7 pm
- **Our Community News mailing day**, Thu., Feb. 2, approx. 9 am-2 pm. Information on page 29.

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Monument tree lighting, Dec. 3



Above: The Monument holiday tree lighting event was held Dec. 3 at the Limbach Park. Hundreds of onlookers enjoyed music and conviviality in the afternoon, and just as the sun set, the park was lit up with holiday lights. Many people were wearing Santa hats, but Santa himself was also in the crowd to greet kids and join the fun. *Caption by Janet Sellers. Photo by Michael Weinfeld. See page 24 for additional photos and information on the festive event.*

Monument Board of Trustees/Town Council, December 2022

Special investigator claims Home Rule Charter void in report alleging illegal electioneering by Monument staff

By Chris Jeub

In November, following the election that passed the Home Rule Charter and replaced the sitting Board of Trustees with mostly new councilmembers, Monument's town manager was granted the cancellation of December's board meetings for his staff to enjoy the holidays. However, allegations of election campaign fraud brought the interim board back together three times in December. The investigation concluded that due to illegal electioneering, gerrymandering, and more, the Home Rule Charter—passed with 70 percent of

the vote in November—was void. The report also made immediate recommendations: to publicly censure several acting and incoming councilmembers, hold some of them in contempt, terminate the town manager, and file an ethics complaint against the now-resigned town attorney.

Douglas County Attorney Grant Van Der Jagt was appointed independent special investigator. Those being investigated argued against the cost, the redundancy, and the legality of the outgoing members who called the special meetings together. The investigation concluded by finding

the town's new Home Rule Charter illegal and void, but the findings were kept from being discussed publicly due to interruptions from supporters of the charter and the indecision of the board on whether to move to executive session.

Here is the background of the election, reports of the three special meetings during the month, and details of the report delivered digitally to the board and the public on Dec. 28.

MONUMENT (Cont. on 2)

Monument Academy School Board, Dec. 1 and 8

Board launches fundraising campaign; CFO resigns

By Jackie Burhans

At a Dec. 1 special meeting, the Monument Academy (MA) board launched its annual fundraising campaign. At its regular meeting on Dec. 8, the board accepted the resignation of its chief financial officer (CFO), introduced its interim chief

operating officer (COO), and reviewed the amended budget and its financial challenges.

Fundraising campaign launches
At a special meeting on Dec. 1 called Give Hope, board President Ryan Graham began by saying MA's greatest asset since its founding was its

community which had shown great generosity, noting that MA was now asking for more. He briefly went over the history of opening the East Campus during the pandemic and enduring two difficult years with significant staff turnover for various reasons.

MA (Cont. on 6)