

Our Community News

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



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Issue #266 — Volume 23 Number 5 — Saturday, May 6, 2023

Free

**OCN needs
your help!
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 29-31 for event locations and other details of these and many other local events.

- **OCN mailing day**, Thu., **May 4 & June 1**, approx. 9 am-2 pm.
- **WMMI Lecture**, Tue., **May 9**, 4 pm. *Easy hikes to the hidden past.*
- **NEPCO meeting**, Sat., **May 13**, 10 am-12 pm. HOA legal topics.
- **Taste of Tri Lakes Cares**, Tue., **May 9**, 5:30 p.m.
- **WMMI Family Days**, Sat., **May 13**, Thu., **June 1**. See ad on page 8.
- **D38 Spring Community Connection**, Tue., **May 16**, 1 pm. See ad on page 13.
- **Art Hop**, Thu., **May 18**, 5-8 pm. See ad on page 2.
- **YMCA summer day camp**, starts Tue., **May 30**. See ad on page 6.
- **Concerts in the park**, every Wed., starting **May 31 through Aug. 9**, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. See ad on page 18.
- **Color splash art show 2023**, Thu., **June 1** through Wed. **June 28**, Opening reception Fri., **June 2**, 6:30 pm. See ad on page 18.
- **MVEA Annual meeting of members**, Thu., **June 8**. See ad on page 12.
- **Jackson Creek Community garage sale**, Fri.-Sat., **June 16-17**.
- **Front Range Maker's Market**, Sat., **June 17**, 8:30am-3pm. See ad on page 2.

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Monument water storage tank excavation in Forest View Estates



Above: Excavation resumed during April to prepare for installation of a 2-million-gallon water storage tank for the town of Monument. The town acquired the site by eminent domain in 2016, although the location in Forest View Estates had recorded restrictive covenants stating the property and other lots within Forest View Estates were limited to residential use. The initial excavation began in the summer and fall of 2022. During the winter of 2022-23, work on the property was tabled while laying of pipeline started and is ongoing along residential roads in Forest View Estates, Red Rock Ranch, Highway 105, and residential streets in downtown Monument. *Photo by Sharon Williams.*

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, March 28, April 4 & 18 Overlook Estates rezone denied

By Helen Walklett

At the April 18 El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) land use meeting, the commissioners voted to deny a request to rezone to 2.5 acres a 5-acre property in the Overlook Estates neighborhood to the north of Old North Gate Road. At the same meeting, the commissioners heard a variance of use for a second dwelling at an RR-2.5 (rural residential) property in Black Forest. The BOCC also made decisions

relating to the Black Forest slash and mulch program and Monument Academy.

Overlook Estates rezone

The commissioners voted 4-1 to deny a request by Steven and Jennifer Liebowitz to rezone their property in Overlook Estates from RR-5 (rural residential) to RR-2.5. The rezone would have allowed them to apply to subdivide the existing lot into two 2.5-acre lots. The Summit

COUNTY (Cont. on 7)

Monument Fire District, April 26

Potential Gleneagle annexation ignites concern; Hayes recognized

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Monument Fire District (MFD) meeting on April 26, the board heard about the potential annexation of neighboring residents, recognized Director Terri Hayes for her years of service to the district, and approved an extension to the Meet and Confer plus agreement with L4319.

Secretary Mike Smaldino was excused.

Potential Annexation

Vice Chairman Roger Lance said he had read a message from Fire Chief

Andy Kovacs about Colorado Springs proposing the annexation of Gleneagle. That would have a serious impact on the fire district, he said.

Kovacs said a resident had made a comment about the potential annexation in early April. The comment gave him cause for concern after all the efforts the district had made to consolidate the two districts over the past 2 1/2 years. Annexation would require the dismantling of the consolidation of the two fire districts, the loss of Stations

MFD (Cont. on 11)

Monument Town Council, April Land use bill, investigation loom

By Chris Jeub

The Monument Town Council meetings in April discussed enterprise zones and town investments as well as the looming state Senate Bill 23-213 that would undermine Monument's permitting and zoning laws. But the majority of April was spent dealing with the independent investigation report presented Dec. 28, 2022, by the former Board of Trustees. Two executive meetings and two special meetings were called to specifically handle the investigation.

Actions include disavowing the results of the independent investigation, reinterpreting the results with a newly employed law firm, paying for the personal legal fees of the mayor, and addressing the CORA request from the previous mayor pro tem. The current board declared the investigation "over" with comments showing hope for the town to "move on."

Enterprise zones and town investments discussed

On April 3, Town Administrator Laura Hogan presented an opportunity to

MONUMENT (Cont. on 2)