

Happy Independence Day! 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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Issue #268 — Volume 23 Number 7 — Saturday, July 1, 2023

Free

**OCN needs
your help!
See page 28.**

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., July 29 & Aug. 1, approx. 9 am-2 pm.
- Monument Hill Kiwanis 4th of July parade, See list of events on page 9.
- **Concerts in the park**, every Wed., through Aug. 9, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. See ad on page 14.
- NEPCO Meeting, Sat., July 8, 10 am-noon. HOA legal topics.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society, Sat., July 9 & 15, members walking tours.
- Freedom car wash coupon fundraiser, ends Mon., July 10. See ad on page 4
- Kids's Painting Class, Mon., July 10, 2-4 pm.
- Free Home Buyers Workshop, Sat., July 15, 10 am - noon. See ad on page 5.
- **Art Hop**, Thu., July 20, 5-8 pm. See ad on page 2.
- WMMI, Family Days, Sat., July 15 & Aug. 12, www.wmmi.org. See ad on page 11
- Time to dance, free event, Fri., July 21, 6-7 pm
- Kiwanis Peach Order deadline, Mon., July 31. See ad on page 8.
- Hummingbird Festival, Fri.-Sat., Aug. 4-5, 10 am-3:00 pm. See ad on page 9

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Black Forest Remembers



Above: As the American flag was raised by Colorado Springs firefighters over the Black Forest Community Center on June 10, the 10-year anniversary of the Black Forest Fire, residents and victims of the fire gathered in the rain to pray and hear stories of the day the fire started, the loss of their homes, and the healing process. Many have rebuilt after nearly 500 homes were lost in the 10-day fire. Some moved on, but many have worked to clean up their properties and replant trees and build new homes. The work is still going on 10 years later. For information about fire mitigation and the slash/mulch program or to make donations to help with the cleanup process, go <http://bflash.org>. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*

Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, June 21

Evacuation routes raise concern among residents

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) meeting on June 21, the board heard concerns over crowded evacuation routes fueled by increased development, discussed the lack of wildland deployments reducing anticipated revenue, and received a donation to equip the recently purchased 2005 Pierce tower ladder truck.

Director Chad Behnken was excused.

Evacuation routes raise concern

Resident David Haney of Arrowhead Drive said the planned development Kettle Creek North behind Pine Creek High School and west of Howells Road would bring a to-

tal of about 900 homes to that area. The residents living in his neighborhood are concerned about safety should evacuation be necessary in the event of a wildland fire, citing the increased traffic concerns and limited access roads that would hamper evacuation. When he contacted Fire Chief P J Langmaid three months ago, Haney learned the district had not been consulted by the Colorado Springs Fire Department during the process, but it is a fire issue and he had hoped the fire district had more clout when it comes to exits and evacuations. The residents are asking for help from the district, he said.

BFFRPD (Cont. on 4)

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, June 6 and 20

Townhome development off Woodmoor Dr. withdrawn from agenda

By Helen Walklett

A 52 single-family townhome development off Woodmoor Drive was withdrawn from the El Paso Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) June 20 land use agenda. The BOCC did approve a rezone application and a minor subdivision application for Black Forest properties during June.

Woodmoor Dr. townhome development withdrawn from agenda

A combined rezone and preliminary plan application by Lake Woodmoor Holdings LLC proposing 52 single-family townhomes on a 7.53-acre property on the east side of Woodmoor Drive, which was due to be heard at the June 20 BOCC land use meeting, was withdrawn by the applicant. No future date was set for it to be heard.

BOCC (Cont. on 2)

Triview Metropolitan District, June 22

NDS pipeline project progressing

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Triview Metropolitan District (TMD) meeting on June 22, the board received an update on the progress of the Northern Delivery System (NDS) pipeline project, approved a water rights lease agreement, and held an executive session to discuss acquisitions, negotiations, and receive legal advice for water, and property, and the draft aquifer storage and recovery report.

Vice Chairman Anthony Sexton was excused.

NDS update

District Manager James McGrady said the NDS pipeline project had reached Roller Coaster Road, and Kiewit Infrastructure is installing about 300 feet of pipeline per day, (the original bid had predicted 200 feet per day). The pipeline project has reached the trail head entrance to Fox Run Regional Park, and everything is going extremely well, he said. The pipeline is expected

TRIVIEW (Cont. on 8)