

Above: Graphic provided by Dave Ellis.

Fox Run Park, with a tower and canopy walk, event room, and a 60-car parking area, will destroy the very qualities that make this small, forested park so special. A news release on the website even says the structure is envisioned as a hub for tourism. The county claims to have done public outreach but made zero effort to include locals who are most directly impacted. If you study the reports on its website, it is obvious that it began with this goal and worked backward to justify it; all decisions were made privately by park and nature center staff/volunteers and its hired design/architecture team.

The feasibility study doesn't even consider any environmental or wildlife impacts, and the traffic study incredibly claims that there will be no impact on surrounding neighborhoods. All its "public meetings" are just fundraisers, like the one in March at a brewery; a meeting was hurriedly called in February because of local residents' complaints at having this sprung on us with zero notice or input, but it was clear they had no interest in actually addressing any of our concerns and intended to proceed with this project. Once again, the county commissioners and agencies refuse to listen to citizens who disagree with their zeal to develop all of our increasingly scarce natural resources. If you agree that funding would be better spent on fixing the ponds/gazebo area and existing trails, and that this park should be protected, not developed, please let the county know about your concerns by contacting your county commissioner and parks@elpasoco.com. Michelle Satterlee

**Little Log Church celebrates 100 years**

For 100 years, the Little Log Church has stood in Palmer Lake. It is a humble, log structure that has survived various congregations and generations. It has been embraced and loved by many, ignored by some, and disliked by others. Regardless of the community's feelings about the church, it continues to stand firmly here.

What purpose does Little Log Church have? Well, its purpose is to show God's faithfulness to all who live here—to assure broken, weary, sinful, defeated, seekers of God that God has a presence here. God's glory is clearly displayed in the beautiful surroundings, but He is also in the people who seek Him here. We are grateful for the community of people at Little Log Church and for those in our wider community of churches who acknowledge that God has a future and hope for us.

Little Log Church is more than just a historical site celebrating its longevity. It is evidence that God continues to show His mercy and protection in Palmer Lake. The people of Little Log Church are not perfect in carrying out God's purpose. We are simply a group of broken and sinful pilgrims who seek God's truth, mercy, and guidance for our own journey, for this town, and for this world. We are evidence that God doesn't leave us to our own understanding but is faithfully here for generations to light our way and guide us through every season. We love and pray for the people of this town and welcome anyone to seek God's truth and way alongside us. We are grateful to be a part of Palmer Lake. Delinda Story

(PAHs) and likely heavy metals as well as accumulated tire and vehicle brake wear residue and engine exhaust artifacts from years of road use. The asphalt paving industry recycles almost all asphalt millings into new hot rolled asphalt which seals in the contaminants. Unbound (loose) asphalt millings have an incredibly high total surface area through which rain and snow melt percolates, leaching contaminants into the aquifer below. The Pumpkin Patch is surrounded by residences which obtain drinking water from their private wells.

El Paso County stipulated these asphalt millings are to be spread over acres of virgin pastureland on which hundreds of Pumpkin Patch client vehicles park as well as over one mile of the Patch's interior dirt roads. This spreading of the asphalt millings, which the county specifies must be done by April 15, 2024, will only accelerate the leaching of contaminants which are ground

down to dust size particles by vehicle traffic.

Enlightened jurisdictions strictly prohibit the use of loose asphalt millings as a roadway surface due to its recognized hazards to human health and the environment. Without a paved top surface, its small particles will leach contaminants as well as migrate through the actions of water, wind, and physical displacement. The El Paso County Environmental Health office, in its apparent environmental ignorance, incredibly responded to my complaints in this matter by saying, "No disturbance of the land is taking place." Dave Ellis

**Protect Fox Run Park from development**

The El Paso County Parks and Recreation Department's decision to construct a multi-million-dollar nature center facility in a remote section of

*Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore*

**Poetry month**

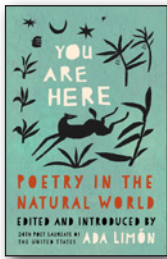
By the staff at Covered Treasures

"Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful."—Rita Dove

April is National Poetry Month! Reading poetry can engage all the senses and is one reason many children's picture books are written in poetry form. This month we feature poetry for all ages, written by nationally known authors as well as some talented local poets.

You Are Here; Poetry in the Natural World  
Ada Limon, Editor (Milkweed Editions) \$25

This sparkling curated collection was edited by Ada Limón, the 24th U.S. poet laureate. It is in honor of the natural world and all it means to be humans living within it. The poems selected for inclusion can be appreciated by experienced poetry lovers as well as by those who are just beginning to learn to appreciate the art of poetry.



Coffee Cup Tales & Old Car Nuts  
By Lon Wartman \$16  
The witty, truthful, and sometimes outrageous poems in this book came about through Wartman's involvement

with Tri-Lakes Cruisers Car Club. The Cruisers meet once a week at the Coffee Cup Café and the stories flow. The group is full of men and women from all walks of life who share a deep love of old vehicles, dreams of yesteryears, and backseat blues. Come along for the ride.

The Divine Book of Love  
Mary Burnett Brown (Heartfelt Poetry LLC) \$10  
Brown's poetry is a key that opens your heart to deep spiritual wisdom. Through her poetry, you will find peace and happiness. Her poems encourage you to pause for a moment and embrace all the beauty and love that are present in this world.

Having Lived  
By Joseph Murphy (Kelsay Books) \$13  
This is a wonderful collection of strong, authentic poems that range from moving elegies and lyric poems of homecoming and longing to personal histories retold as narratives full of irony. Common to all these works is a collection of shared sentiments from our times. Murphy's subtle grasp of our contemporary lives will have a wide audience appeal.

Red Sings from Treetops; A Year in Colors  
By Joyce Sidman; illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski (Clarion Books) \$19

Color comes alive in this whimsical, innovative picture book: blue dances on summer lakes, green drips from spring leaves, black wafts mysteriously through autumn evenings. Together an award-winning poet and a brilliant artist inspire us to look closer at the thrilling colors of the seasons. This book invites readers to notice colors and correlate emotion.

Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver  
By Mary Oliver (Penguin Books) \$20  
Carefully curated, these 200-plus poems feature Oliver's work from her very first book of poetry, No Voyage and Other Poems, published in 1963 at the age of 28, through her most recent collection, Felicity, published in 2015. This timeless volume, arranged by Oliver, showcases the beloved poet at her edifying best. Within these pages, she provides us with an extraordinary and invaluable collection of her passionate, perceptive, and much-treasured observations of the natural world.

Tiny, Perfect Things  
By M. H. Clark (Compendium Publishing) \$18  
The whole world is a treasure waiting to be found. Open your eyes and see the wonderful things all around. This is the story of a child and a grandfather whose walk around the neighborhood leads to a day of shared wonder as they

discover all sorts of tiny, perfect things together. With rhythmic storytelling and detailed and intricate illustrations, this is a book about how childlike curiosity can transform ordinary days into extraordinary adventures.

I Knew You Could Do It!  
By Nancy Tillman (Feiwel & Friends) \$18  
This picture book is a celebration of everyday accomplishments as well as life's milestones. It applauds anyone who has overcome hurdles and challenges, and cheers them into the future. It's for anyone who needs an infusion of support and reassurance. The book is full of bright, wonderful illustrations that make you believe in the magic that cheers you on.

Conversations with Flowers  
By Valerie Shereck (Austin Macauley Publishers) \$8  
This little poetry book is a tapestry where the author weaves reflections on nature, the sting of loss, the intricacies of relationships, and the myriad hues of life. These poems not only celebrate the rejuvenating power of faith but also resonate and linger long after the last word is read.

Until next month, happy reading.  
The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at books@ocn.me.

*April Library Events*

**National Library Week; newly extended hours in Monument**

By Harriet Halbig  
The week of April 8 is National Library Week. In commemoration, the Monument Library will hold an open house on Tuesday, April 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. Enjoy dessert platters from Lolly's Ice Cream, a program of Irish dancers from Rose Courtney Academy of Irish Dance

at 7 p.m., and a scavenger hunt with a prize of a family fun pack from Dave and Buster's.

There will be a planetarium-themed escape room for teens on April 16 from 5 to 6 p.m. The program, Back to the Planetarium, is open to ages 12 to 18. Registration is required. Please go

to the library website ppld.org and then programs by location. Or call 719-531-6333 extension 7005.

The tween Dungeons and Dragons Club, for ages 9 to 12, will meet on May 4 from 4 to 5:30. No experience is required and new members are welcome. Registration is required at 719-

531-6333 extension 7005.  
Please note that the Monument Library is now open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursdays.

We hope to see you at our open house!  
Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

*Palmer Lake Historical Society, Mar. 21*

**Presentation on Monument Cemetery**

By Marlene Brown  
The Palmer Lake Historical Society (PLHS) March meeting began with introduction of 2024 President Jennine Engel, a longtime resident whose family is from Palmer Lake. Then Doug Lange, treasurer, presented a \$500 check on behalf of PLHS to Sue Cook as a grant to the PLHS Valley Cemetery. It is another pioneer cemetery located off County Line Road in Douglas County.

The next presentation was a charcoal drawing of Catherine McShane, wife of David McShane, one of the first

homesteaders in 1865 in the Town of Palmer Lake. There has been a charcoal drawing of David McShane hanging in Lucretia Vaille Museum, but recently the picture of Catherine was found in the frame and hidden behind David's picture. What a surprise!

The March program The Monument Cemetery was presented by John Howe and Michael Weinfeld. Howe is a member of the board for Our Community News and a former member of the Monument Board of Trustees. He has worked on many volunteer proj-

ects around town. He has worked on the cemetery project for 14 of the 18 years that he has lived in Monument, working tirelessly to find the names on plots and tombstones and identify where the information had gotten lost or misplaced. Weinfeld has worked on the project for the last six years alongside of Howe. He is one of the editors of Our Community News and was an Associated Press reporter in Washington, D.C., for 37 years.

On May 28, 1886, Charles Bissel sold 5 acres of land, where the cemetery

is located, to the Town of Monument for one dollar. There were many graves already in the cemetery, including the oldest grave, that of Alonzo Welty who died in 1860.

As many people had already been buried in the cemetery without markers or anyone knowing their names, many graves were marked "unknown." There was train wreck in 1909 near the town of Husted, which was between south of the North Gate of the Air Force Academy and Interquest Boulevard. Twelve people died and 60 were in-