

# Our Community News

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



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Issue #135 — Volume 12 Number 5 — Saturday, May 5, 2012

Free

## Local Events

See pages 35-39 for details of these and many other local events.

**Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild Spring Show & Sale, May 3-5;** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun., May 6, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**Tri-Lakes Time Trial Bicycle Race, Sat., May 5**

**Spirits of Spring Wine and Food Tasting and Auction, Sat., May 5,** 5-8 p.m.

**A Taste of Tri-Lakes Cares, Mon., May 7,** 5:30 p.m.

**HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Tue., May 8**

**Tri-Lakes Business Incubator Free Workshop: Financing Options, Thu., May 10,** 10-11 a.m.

**NEPCO meeting, Sat., May 12,** 10 a.m.-noon. Legislation affecting HOAs.

**Palmer Lake Community Garden meeting, Mon., May 14,** 6 p.m.

**Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive, Tue., May 15,** 3-7 p.m.

**Art Hop, Thu., May 17,** 5-8 p.m.

**Palmer Lake Historical Society: "Early Life on the Palmer Divide," Thu., May 17,** 7 p.m.

**Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI), Picnic-n-Planes! Wed., May 23,** gates open at 9 a.m.

**Care and Share Days At Rosie's Diner, Thu., May 24,** 5-9 p.m.

**MeadowGrass Music Festival, Fri., May 25 through Sun., May 27**

**Brule in Concert, Fri., May 25,** 7-10 p.m.

**Palmer Lake After Dark, Fri., May 25,** 8-11 p.m.

**Hooked on Palmer Lake Kids' Fishing Derby, Sat., Jun. 2,** 8 a.m.-noon

**Music by the Creek: Conductor Joe's Kids Club, Sat., Jun. 2,** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Annual Summer Safety Fair, Sat., Jun. 2,** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Above: From left, Shana Ball, Bob Grado, Michael Maddox, Town Clerk Tara Berreth, Mayor Nikki McDonald, Town Attorney Larry Gaddis, Bruce Hoover and Jerry Davis are the continuing and new members of the Palmer Lake Town Council. Missing from the photo is Trustee Rich Kuester. Photo by David Futey.

## New Palmer Lake mayor and trustees sworn in

By David Futey

A new mayor and four new trustees were sworn in at the April 5 meeting of the Palmer Lake Town Council.

Trustee Rich Kuester was excused from this meeting.

### Trustee applicants approved

By unanimous decision, the council approved applications for trustee positions from Jerry Davis, Bruce Hoover, Bob Grado, and Shana Ball. The council had previously interviewed these candidates:

### New council members sworn in

The following appointments and resignations occurred:

- Nikki McDonald was sworn in as mayor after the council unanimously approved her selection. Mayor John Cressman's term had expired due to term limits.
- Shana Ball and Bob Grado were appointed to trustee positions by the council.
- Trustees Gary Coleman and Max

Stafford resigned from the council.

- Bruce Hoover and Jerry Davis were appointed to trustee positions by the council.

By unanimous decision, the council appointed Kieth Moreland as police chief, Greg Lokken as volunteer fire chief, Larry Gaddis as town attorney, and Tara Berreth as town clerk.

### Water Conservation Ordinance

By unanimous decision, the council approved the Water Conservation Ordinance.

Water Trustee Max Stafford said the ordinance is similar to Donala Water and Sanitation District watering restrictions. The ordinance relates only to watering lawns and landscapes. The irrigation season affected by the ordinance is from May 15 to Sept. 30.

Stafford said the town will probably need to operate the water plant and the wells in July to meet demand. Water Supervisor Steve Orcutt asked for a land-

scape watering ban on Sundays so the tanks can be refilled.

Cressman said, "There is not a code enforcement officer so it will be up to the Palmer Lake Police Department or a neighbor" to notify if someone is violating the ordinance. Cressman concluded that "it will take a community commitment to work." Town Attorney Larry Gaddis said that a violation could result in a misdemeanor penalty if convicted.

### Committee reports

In summary of his tenure as mayor, Cressman said he "has enjoyed his term" and "will miss holding this position." He added, "It has been a lot of work, a lot of joy. I appreciate everyone, the trustees and the town staff who help run this town."

Parks and Recreation Trustee Coleman said playground equipment will be installed by the volleyball court near the lake.

Economic Development Trustee Mi-

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### Tri-Lakes Joint Use Committee, April 10

## New nutrient treatment equipment could cost \$15 million or more

By Jim Kendrick

On April 10, Facility Manager Bill Burks and engineering consultant Steve Tamburini of Tetra Tech Inc. updated the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee (JUC) on near- and long-term requirements that will be mandated by the state Water Quality Control Commission and their related new costs for removing phosphorus and nitrogen compounds from treated effluent.

The capital cost for treating total phosphorus after 2017 under Control Regulation 85, when the Tri-Lakes discharge permit is scheduled to be renewed, will be up to \$1 million. The initial interim capital cost for treating nutrients when Regulation 31 limits go into effect in 2022 will be up to \$15 million. However, these improvements to the \$6.6 million Tri-Lakes

facility will still not meet the currently unattainable interim values for nutrients recently approved by the commission in the Reg. 31 nutrient amendment, so the final capital costs for compliance with Reg. 31 remains unknown.

The Tri-Lakes facility operates as a separate public utility and is jointly owned, in equal one-third shares, by Monument Sanitation District, Palmer Lake Sanitation District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: Dale Smith from Palmer Lake, Lowell Morgan from Monument, and Jim Whitelaw from Woodmoor. Typically, several other district board members and the district managers from each of the three districts also

attend JUC meetings.

### Future nutrient issues briefed

Tamburini also discussed the costs of new permanent testing requirements for nutrients in Monument Creek that will be required starting in 2013. The Tri-Lakes staff will be required to perform sampling tests for nutrients upstream of the plant to determine the background concentration of nutrients in Monument Creek. Sampling tests will also be required in the mixing zone by the facility's discharge pipe and downstream of the mixing zone to determine the amount of nutrient absorption by the ecosystem. The Tri-Lakes staff has been sampling Monument Creek this way for almost a year already.

All this sampling data will be needed to justify and defend the facility's future

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