

Letters to Our Community

Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest. The *OCN* editorial board has established a policy that we do not knowingly print letters that have appeared in substantially the same form elsewhere.

Please identify your submission as a letter to the editor and include your full name, home address, and day and evening phone numbers.

A limit of 300 words is recommended. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and accuracy.

Send your letter to editor@ocn.me or mail to Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132-1742. In response to problems receiving e-mail, if you send your letter by e-mail, we will send an e-mail acknowledgement. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please call Susan Hindman at 481-8511 to confirm that we have received your letter.

Disclaimer: *The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the view of OCN even when the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.*

Palmer Lake Community Garden seeks participants

Palmer Lake Community Garden is starting its second year. We are recruiting participants who wish to get involved with a project that will provide benefit to the community and grow over time, just like a garden!

There are several different ways to get involved. You can adopt one of the raised beds that were installed last year and plant your garden. Or participate in the communal garden project that will provide education opportunities for individuals who want to learn from and share in a group activity. There are also opportunities for individuals who are ready to initiate and lead a project.

We are committed to exploring ways that Palmer Lake can be more sustainable and reduce our carbon footprint through gardening, recycling, composting, and education. We have a "pay it forward" initiative. There is "seed money" available for projects with high-impact initiative and that provide maximum benefit for our community. We can help individuals and groups get started on projects that pay it forward to others in the community. We can make Palmer Lake more beautiful and get to know our neighbors, while spending time together and learning from each other.

The Pikes Peak Community Fund underwrites us. If you are interested, please contact Sylvia Amos at Palmer Lake Country Store, 481-8859. Our next general meeting is May 14, 6 p.m., at the

gazebo in front of Palmer Lake Town Hall/Fire Station. (In case of bad weather, we will meet at Palmer Lake Country Store.)

Rebecca Angelo Duke

Regarding "small-minded" leadership at D-38 ...

In the April 7 issue of *Our Community News* ("D-38 leadership called 'small-minded'"), Stephen Boyd expressed dissatisfaction with his recent volunteer experience at Palmer Ridge High School. He was required to be escorted to the class he was to be a guest speaker for, and he was observed in the classroom by an administrator.

As a parent in this district, I appreciate the security policies of this school and all of D-38. It has given me a great sense of comfort knowing that visitors are not allowed to roam the halls without question. There is a very good reason these policies are in place, and no one should need to be reminded of that.

In the two years I acted as the volunteer coordinator as well as the BAAC chairperson for PRHS, the procedure for a volunteer included security check-in, issuing of a name tag, followed by contact with the school receptionist for further instruction or escort. There are regular volunteers who are not escorted, and I am one of them. We are required to wear our PRHS identification badges. I can also say that if my badge was not visible, it would be noted by any teacher or administrator—they look for it. Even members of the Board of Education follow these procedures.

As far as being observed in the classroom, why is this problematic? Teachers are observed in the classroom; why not a volunteer?

I applaud Mr. Boyd for his volunteerism. Clearly it's something I believe in strongly, as do the PRHS administration and the entire district. Volunteerism is embraced and welcomed. However, I do question why someone who does not have children in this district, nor lives and pays taxes in this community, often publicly criticizes and finds fault with D-38. What is the motivation?

Deb Stumpf

Resident supports Stephens in election

As a longtime resident of Monument and retired Air Force officer, I see the upcoming Republican primary in June as critical to the well-being of our community and our state. Due to redrawn districts, two incumbents are competing for the House District 19 seat. With the future of limited, conservative government in Colorado at stake, I have spent many hours researching the candidates.

Only the GOP-controlled

House and leadership of individuals like House Majority Leader Amy Stephens are keeping Colorado's government in check. My research found that Stephens was proactive in passing a Colorado-controlled, free market health care exchange—preventing the federal government from forcing its system on Coloradans (SB11-200). On the other hand, her opponent voted for Centennial health care (SB08-217), a bill that "may impose a requirement that all Coloradans obtain creditable coverage"—an "Obamacare"-like mandate with penalties assessed through Colorado tax laws. Rep. Stephens sponsored the bill that overturned Colorado's "dirty dozen" software tax that hurt many high-tech businesses, and she sponsored legislation to kill the "Amazon tax" on Internet sales. Her opponent sponsored a bill that would have increased real estate sales paperwork and added hundreds of dollars to closing costs, a bill quickly killed in the GOP-controlled House.

I served in the military for 20 years because I believe our system of limited, republican government is the only way to ensure the rights and liberty of the American people. But the principle of limited government is at risk, both nationally and in Colorado. My research convinced me that we need to re-elect the proven conservative leader in the upcoming GOP primary—our current Republican House Majority Leader Amy Stephens.

Anne Campbell

Stephens demonstrates class, determination

I am among a growing number of citizens who are increasingly weary of obnoxious campaign mailings given to distortions and bombastic claims. Amy Stephens' campaign is refreshingly different. I thank Amy for choosing to conduct her campaign in a positive, mature manner. She does not feel compelled to sully an opponent, undoubtedly because she has an impressive, conservative record to stand on. I admire her for signing and honoring the "Truth in Campaigning Pledge." A lady of uncompromising integrity, Amy Stephens has repeatedly demonstrated her class.

I have been privileged to serve with truly inspiring leaders in both the military and civilian environments. Stephens is that type of inspiring leader. Her "can-do" attitude was very evident in how she dealt with adversity when she first arrived at the Statehouse in 2007. Finding herself and her fellow Republicans hampered in their efforts to impact legislation due to a Democrat majority, she didn't just resign herself to being a member of the minority party. Instead, Stephens made a cou-

rageous and unselfish decision to do the hard work to change things. Amy Stephens took the initiative to plan and lead the fight for conservatives in Colorado, stumping across the state for conservative candidates and winning a Republican majority in the House of Representatives in 2010.

Her initiative, grit, unselfishness, and determination were recognized when her fellow Republicans unanimously voted her their House majority leader. Thanks to the team she helped build, Amy was able to effectively lead the charge to protect Colorado against the destructive agenda of liberals with respect to "Obamacare," civil unions, abortion, the erosion of our Second Amendment rights, and gutting the senior citizens Homestead

tax exemption.

HD19 voters, we can't afford to lose this dedicated, conservative leader. We need to re-elect Amy Stephens.

Gordon Edgin
USAF JAG (retired)

Business owner backs Stephens

As the owner of the Affordable Flooring Connection for over eight years, I know how important it is to have a representative in state government fighting for our community. I ask all Republicans in the Tri-Lakes area to re-elect Amy Stephens in the June 26 Republican primary, so that she can continue to serve as a conservative advocate for our area.

Amy is a resident of Tri-Lakes, and she knows and understands

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