

Palmer Lake Community Garden members grow big plans



Photo provided by Pamela Cooley

By Kate Wetterer

On May 14, Palmer Lake Community Garden members spread mats across the Town Hall's Village Green in a welcoming fashion and started working toward a variety of goals for the community. The garden club, set in motion by Sylvia Amos, secured a set of four raised beds last year, located behind Town Hall near the gazebo.

According to current plans, these will be rented out to gardeners willing to cultivate them with care, beautifying the area and potentially providing opportunities to "give back" to Palmer Lake. Renters would pay a minimal fee, currently estimated at \$25, and be responsible for their raised plot for one growing season. The club was looking for people to claim these plots by May 21, but the hope is to initiate a self-sustaining program that will grow and later allow the beds to shift ownership each year so more people are given opportunity to use them. The intention is to acquire more beds to use.

The group also hopes to gain the use of the flower-beds in front of Town Hall for the planting of perennial flowers, herbs, and edible annuals. These would be low-maintenance plants arranged as beautifully as possible integrating principles for sustainable gardening and community—which is the foundation of the grant. This is all part of a plan to contribute to Palmer Lake, to help build a foundation for gardening education opportunities and possibly even a community garden where residents can come together and share the experience of making things grow and using natural resources wisely.

Club members say they hope to utilize gardening spots that are already available to make the most of the

grant money from the Pikes Peak Community Foundation and unused spaces in Palmer Lake, hopefully improving existing beds rather than creating new ones.

Club members also hope to incorporate schools and use gardening plots as educational tools. They intend to teach courses on gardening tactics this summer, on subjects ranging from the control of noxious weeds to different methods to prepare soil for planting.

Rebecca Angelo Duke, an influential member of the club, compared the group to a seed that can grow into whatever the community desires. The idea is to "grow this (club) together," Duke said, adding that important decisions are being made, and the group is eager to attract new members and ideas.

To get on the gardening society's mailing list, or to express interest in lending a hand, please contact Donna at dwoodhockey@comcast.net or 963-2474.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 6 p.m. in front of Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. If the weather is bad meeting will be held at the Palmer Lake Country Store.

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May and June library events

Many events in June—and get ready for Summer Reading

By Harriet Halbig

The children's Summer Reading theme is "Dream Big! Read!" This year's teen program is "Own the Night." The library is ready to welcome all our young friends for a season of special events and prizes, topped off by a party on the Village Green in Palmer Lake on July 20.

Summer Reading begins on June 1 with a kick-off program featuring "Live Bunnies!" Join Laura Foye for this entertaining and informative program. Lean about rabbits, pet a soft bunny, and visit the craft table to create your own rabbit creations.

On Sunday, June 3, at 2 p.m. all are invited to meet Bleuette, a French porcelain doll who was popular from 1905 to 1960. You can see her in a variety of costumes and hear her story as told by local author Mary Davis. Miss Bleuette is enjoying rave reviews from a whole new generation of doll lovers everywhere.

The Pikes Peak Regional History Symposium for 2012 takes place at the East Library on June 9 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. This year's theme is "Disasters of the Pikes Peak Region." The symposium is so popular that the Monument Library will host an alternate location with Internet streaming of the program. A light lunch will be served. Registration is required at 488-2370.

The teen book group, Book-eaters, will meet on Wednesday, June 13, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Call 488-2370 for this month's selection. This group for teens grades 7 and up requires no registration and snacks are provided.

The Monumental Readers will meet on Friday, June 15, at 10 a.m. to discuss Night Villa by Carol Goodman. All patrons are invited to attend and no registration is necessary.

This month's Lego Club meeting will be on June 16 from 10:30 until noon. We provide the Legos and you bring the creativity. Be sure to bring your camera to record your creation, because all pieces remain the property of the Pikes Peak Library District.

June's Crafty Teens Event on Saturday, June 16, from 2 until 4 p.m. will be "Aliens and Monsters, Oh My!" Come create aliens and googly-eyed monsters as part of "Own the Night," the Teen Summer Reading Program. No registration necessary. Ages 11 and up.

The AARP Mature Driving Program will be offered on Wednesday, June 20, from 1 to 5 p.m. This is a driver refresher course designed for motorists age 50 and older. Graduates may present their course completion form to their insurance agent for a discount. Cost of the four-hour course is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers. Class size is limited and registration is required.

Meet some creatures of the night, brought to us by the staff of the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's Zoo-Mobile! This is a Teen Summer Reading Program event for ages 12 and up. Registration is required and limited to 30. The program will be on Wednesday, June 27, from 2-4 p.m.

On the walls during June are watercolors by Kathleen Murray. In the display case will be Dolls through

the Decades, a collection of treasures from the Colorado Springs Doll Study Club.

During the months of June and July, there will be additional programs on Tuesday and Thursday as part of Summer Reading.

Super Tuesday programs

Welcome world class clown Jim Jackson from the Manitou Art Theater as he brings to life Busker and Me, a Circus Dog's Tale, the adventures of Busker the circus dog using puppetry, juggling, magic and stunts. This program takes place on June 5 at 10:30 a.m.

The Scarlet Sisters and Salida Circus Dream Big is our program on June 12 at 10:30 a.m. The Scarlet Sisters Circus nannies have flown in on their umbrellas, bringing with them a suitcase of fun. Come and jump through magic picture frames and live out your circus dreams. Dare-devilish double balancing, interactive acrobatics, and silly songs will leave you dreaming big.

Tuesday, June 19, brings Monsters Beware with Denise Gard and Sienna. There's a monster under the bed. Join Denise Gard and her border collie, Sienna, as they hunt for monsters in this interactive tale about things that go bump in the night.

Take a close peek at a variety of animals with Kathy's Kritter Karavan on Tuesday, June 26, at 10:30 a.m. Meet Jack and Jill the tortoises, Tenrecs, and a big boa constrictor and other snakes. Add to the fun with animal crafts.

7-up programs

Programs for patrons ages 7 and up come to the library on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

Water Wonders, presented by Colorado Springs Utilities, will teach how to make a cloud in a bottle. Will a balloon held over a flame pop? Come enjoy this family program with fun science experiments about water, the water cycle, and saving water.

Opti-Mania! Do you believe what you see? We'll do fun and crazy projects with optical illusions on Tuesday, June 26, at 3:30 p.m.

Thursday stories and crafts

Stories and crafts for school-age children in conjunction with Summer Reading will be offered every Thursday at 2 p.m. during June and July.

Palmer Lake Library events

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Research has proven that reading to a quiet and patient dog can improve fluency among young readers. Come to the Palmer Lake Library to read to Misty, the tiny Sheltie, on Thursday, June 14, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Misty loves to listen and likes for you to give her a treat.

Read with Kirby, our golden retriever friend on Saturday, June 23, from 11 a.m. until noon.

Read to a dog and select a prize.

Toddler Time, an introduction to rhyme, rhythm and special stories, is a program offered for 1- and 2-year-old children each Friday at 10:30 a.m. This program will not be offered on June 1 and 8.

The Palmer Lake Library Knitting Group meets each Wednesday from 10 until noon. Bring your project and enjoy the fellowship of knitters of all skill levels. No registration is required.

The Palmer Lake Book Group will meet at 9 a.m. on July 6 to discuss House Rules by Jodi Picoult. All patrons are welcome and no registration is required.

There will be no Family Fun event in June.

View works from Expressions of Beauty—Shared, photography by Laurisa Rabins, on the walls of the library.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.



Above: On Sunday, June 3, at 2 p.m. all are invited to meet Bleuette, a French porcelain doll who was popular from 1905 to 1960. You can see her in a variety of costumes and hear her story as told by local author Mary Davis. Left: Bleuette Bellette. Center: Bleuette Premier Jumeau. Right: Bleuette Silver.