

each image, which will be used as a caption. For details on how to submit your photos, video, and high-resolution photos, visit www.ppld.org.

Donate personal hygiene products, ends Dec. 10

Wescott Fire Department is accepting donations of personal hygiene products (toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, laundry detergent, diapers, baby wipes, etc). The items will be taken to Partners in Housing, which supports members of the community who need a hand up. Bring your donations to Station 1, 15415 Glenaele Dr., by **Dec. 10**. For information, see the website www.wescottfire.org.

Donations and volunteers needed for Feed the Children, Dec. 14

El Paso County's 13th annual Feed the Children event occurs Dec. 14, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at Springs Church, 1515 Auto Mall Loop, Colorado Springs. It is a one-day event just before Christmas where the families already receiving help from the Department of Human Services are able to enjoy a day of celebration and receive food, toys, books and toiletries. To donate money, contact Rebecca Jacobs, 444-8191 or RebeccaJacobs@elpasoco.com. To donate new and like-new infant and children's clothing, contact the Music Evangelism Foundation, 591-7481. To volunteer, sign up online, <http://dhs.elpasoco.com/Pages/FeedTheChildren.aspx> and click on the Volunteer Signup Form. For more information, email FTC@elpasoco.com.

Santa on Patrol toy drive, ends Dec. 20

Monument Police Chief Jacob Shirk and the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Department will deliver toys to children in the Tri-Lakes area Dec. 21, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and they need the community's support. Please drop off new, unwrapped toys or gift cards by **Dec. 20** to Monument Police Department, 645 Beacon Lite Rd.; Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Department fire stations 1, 2, & 3 or the department's administration building, 166 Second St., Monument. Any family in need or with questions may call Jennifer, 484-0911.

Colorado Gardener Certificate training program, apply by Jan. 3

Colorado State University (CSU) Extension is now accepting registrations for the 2014 Colorado Gardener Certificate (CGC) training program. Classes will be held 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Jan. 15 through March 12, at the El Paso County CSU Extension Office. CGC students may also attend up to three "Plus" classes, which are offered March 18 to April 4 on various days and in various Front Range counties. Space is limited and available on a first-paid basis. Registration form and payment must be received at the county CSU Extension Office by 5 p.m. on Jan. 3, 2014. Gift certificates are available. For more information, visit <http://www.cmg.colostate.edu/> or call Julie, 520-7690.

MVEA Scholarships, apply by Jan. 15

Mountain View Electric Association (MVEA) awards 14 scholarships of \$1,000 each to graduating high school seniors. Applications are available at either MVEA office, high school counselors' offices, or online at www.mvea.coop under 'Community.' For more information, call 719-494-2670.

CASA seeks volunteers

Give the gift of a voice to an abused or neglected child. CASA volunteers are an amazing force for good, but we need more! Become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). Visit our website for an application, training schedules, and frequently asked questions. You can also

contact Kelly at 447-9898 x1033 or kellyp@casappr.org.

Palmer Lake Rockin' the Rails Disc Golf Course opens

Palmer Lake's nine-hole disc golf course is now open. Disc golf is similar to traditional golf, but instead of a ball and club, players use a Frisbee-like flying disc. Like traditional golf, the object is to complete each hole in the fewest number of "strokes." The disc golf course is at 198 County Line Rd., Palmer Lake, at the park just east of the railroad tracks. For more information, visit www.awakepalmerlake.org.

Dog park at Fox Run Regional Park now open

The new facility is a five-acre fenced area for dogs to roam off-leash. The dog park was added to Fox Run Regional Park's Master Plan at the request of citizens who wanted a safe place to let their dogs run and play off-leash. Heuberger Motors donated to the dog park through the successful Partners in the Park program. Volunteers with Friends of Fox Run Regional Park raised \$2,500 for the project. The parking lot for the dog park is located near the Stella Drive entrance in southeast Fox Run Regional Park. Stay to the right as you enter the park. For more information, contact Dana Nordstrom, 520-6983.

Help chart Colorado's transportation future

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) invites citizens to get involved in planning the future of the state's transportation system by visiting the website, www.coloradotransportationmatters.com. Website visitors will discover what opportunities and challenges face Colorado's transportation system. It allows the public to provide comments and take online surveys and examine the financial practices and organizational policies used by CDOT to stretch resources and meet statewide needs. Local planning processes, upcoming events, and data on the state's economy, environment and transportation system are available on the site. For more information, visit www.coloradotransportationmatters.com.

Monument Academy looking for Walk-a-thon sponsors

Monument Academy is still seeking sponsors for the Middle School Walk-a-thon scheduled for Feb. 21, 2014. Monument Academy receives the lowest level of per-pupil funding of any school in the state, making fundraising essential. Sponsorship can be given at any amount, but a company's logo will be placed on all event-related signs, banners, and T-shirts for those who donate \$100 or more. Sponsors can also donate goods and services that support the event expenses. Sponsors can contact Julie Galusky at pto@monumentacademy.net through January for more information or to help sponsor the upcoming Walk-a-thon. All donations are tax-deductible.

LEAP—Help for heating bills

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally funded program that provides cash assistance to help families and individuals pay a portion of winter home heating costs. The eligibility period for LEAP runs now through April 30. Application packets will automatically be mailed to residents who received LEAP assistance last year at the address where they were living at that time. To find out if you qualify for LEAP, call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) or visit www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap.

Free Senior Safety Handyman Services

Senior Safety Handyman Services is a unique program funded by the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging. It is designed to help seniors (age 60 and over) in northwest El Paso County with safety-related handyman projects.

Dedicated, paid contractors and volunteers install grab bars, wheelchair ramps, railings, steps, etc., to help seniors to continue to live independently in their own homes. For service, call 488-0076 and leave a message for Cindy Rush. For more information, visit TriLakes-mcts-sshs.org.

Tax credit available for wildfire mitigation work

Taxpayers with property located in a wildland-urban interface area can receive a tax credit up to \$2,500 for performing wildfire mitigation measures. Information regarding community wildfire protection plans and wildfire mitigation measures can be found online at www.wescottfire.org and www.csf.colostate.edu. For information, check www.taxcolorado.com.

Free help line for fire victims

Optum, a health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line to those affected by wildfires. The service is free and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters. The toll-free number, 866-342-6892, will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for as long as necessary.

OCN seeks volunteers

Would you like to volunteer with *Our Community News*? You can help with mailing day, write articles, take snapshots, and write captions, and more. We'll teach you! Text or call Lisa at 339-7831 to find out more.

Reverse 911

With the heightened concern for fire danger along the Front Range, many people want to sign up their home or cell phone for reverse emergency notification. The El Paso-Teller E-911 Authority Emergency Notification System is used to notify residents of any potential emergencies in their neighborhood. To sign up, go to <https://elptc911.onthealert.com>.

Tri-Lakes HAP Senior Center programs

The Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership Senior Citizens Center is next to the Lewis-Palmer High School Stadium (across from the YMCA) and is open 1-4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and earlier for scheduled activities. The facility has a lounge, craft room, game room, and multipurpose room. Programs include pinochle, Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 4 p.m.; National Mah-jongg, Fridays, 1-4 p.m.; line dancing, first and second Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m.; tea time, third Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.; bingo, third Wednesday, 12:30-3 p.m. Also available at the center are ping-pong, Wii video games, various puzzles and board games, refreshments, a lending library, computers with Internet connections, and an information table. For information about programs for seniors, visit www.TriLakesSeniors.org.

Senior Beat newsletter—subscribe for free

Each monthly *Senior Beat* newsletter is full of information for local seniors, including the daily menu of the senior lunches offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in Monument. It also contains the schedule of the classes and events for the month at the Senior Citizens Center. There are articles and notices of events geared toward senior citizens. To subscribe to the free newsletter, send an email with your name and mailing address to SeniorBeat@TriLakesSeniors.org. *Senior Beat* can also be viewed online at www.TriLakesHAP.org. ■

Our Community Calendar

By Judy Barnes, Community Calendar Editor
Although we strive for accuracy in these listings, dates or times are often changed after publication. Please double-check the time and place of any event you wish to attend by calling the info number for that event.

GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

- **Tri-Lakes Wastewater Facility Joint Use Committee Meeting**, Tue., **Dec. 10**, 10 a.m., 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: Bill Burks, 481-4053.
- **Triview Metropolitan District Board Meeting**, Tue., **Dec. 10**, 5 p.m., 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 300, Monument. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: 488-6868.
- **D-38 Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting**, Tue., **Dec. 10**, 7 p.m., learning center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Meets 2nd

Tue. each month, location varies. Info: 488-4700, www.lewispalmer.org.

- **Palmer Lake Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Tue., **Dec. 10**, 7 p.m., 120 Middle Glenway. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: 481-2732.
- **D-38 Special Education Advisory Council**, Wed., **Dec. 11**, 6:30 p.m., Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 488-4700, www.lewispalmer.org.
- **Monument Planning Commission Meeting**, Wed., **Dec. 11**, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 884-8017.
- **Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Dec. 11**, 6:30 p.m., 166 Second St., Monument. Normally meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: Jennifer Martin, 484-0911, [\[lakesfire.com\]\(http://lakesfire.com\).](http://www.tri-

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- **Woodmoor Water & Sanitation District Meeting**, Thu., **Dec. 12**, 1 p.m., 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 488-2525.
- **Palmer Lake Liquor Licensing Authority & Medical Marijuana Authority and Town Council Combined Workshop and Regular Meeting**, Thu., **Dec. 12**, 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Normally meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 481-2953 (then press 0) or www.ci.palmerlake.co.us.
- **Monument Board of Trustees Meeting**, Mon., **Dec. 16**, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Meets 1st and 3rd Mon. each month. Info: 884-8017.
- **El Paso County Planning Commission Meeting**,