

Our Community News

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



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Issue #146 — Volume 13 Number 4 — Saturday, April 6, 2013

Free

Local Events

See pages 30-35 for details of these and many other local events.

- TLCA: Pikes Peak Pastel Society's *Springtime in the Rockies and Weaving Their Way to Hope* April 2-13; opening reception, Fri., Apr. 5, 6 - 8 p.m.
- Rocky Mountain Music Alliance Free Concert, Sun., Apr. 7, 3 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Community Garden Film and Discussion: *The Power of Community*, Sun., Apr. 7, 5-8 p.m.
- HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Apr. 10
- Civil War Roundtable, Wed., Apr. 10, 7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Star Recognition Ceremony, Thu., Apr. 11, 6 p.m.
- WMMI: *Converting Pollutants to Products from Coal Fired Power*, Thu., Apr. 11, 6-8:30 p.m.
- PRHS presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, Thu.-Sat., Apr. 11-13, 7 p.m.
- Forestgate Community Theatre presents *Fiddler on the Roof*, Thu.-Sat., Apr. 11-13, 18-20, 25-27, 7 p.m., plus Sat. matinees at 1 p.m.
- D-38 Chess Tournament, Sat., Apr. 13, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, Sun., Apr. 14, 9-11 a.m.
- Preparing a Personal Wildfire Action Plan, Wed., Apr. 17, 7 p.m.
- Monument Library: AARP Mature Safe Driving Program, Thu., Apr. 18, 1-5 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society Meeting: *Mining for the Real Baby Doe*, Thu., Apr. 18, 7 p.m.
- Colin Hay "Finding my Dance" TLCA Concert, Sat., Apr. 20, doors open at 6, show at 7 p.m.
- Pine Forest Antiques Home Decor & Garden Show & Sale, Sat.-Sun., Apr. 20-21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun.
- LPHS presents *Alice in Wonderland*, Fri.-Sat., Apr. 26-27, 7 p.m.
- "Tackle the Trash," Sat., Apr. 27, 9 a.m.
- HAP Senior Dental Clinic, Wed., May 1 ■



Above: Marc Straub brought his Cool Science lab to the Western Museum of Mining and Industry. With helium balloons that followed the static electricity field of a plastic tube, he showed the crowd how properties of attraction work and let attendees try it out for themselves. Photo by Janet Sellers. See page 28 for additional photos.

Families explore marvels of electricity at museum

By Janet Sellers and David Futey

On March 16, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry hosted a Family Day event with a focus on electricity and power. Cool Science, Colorado Springs Utilities, and Thompson Machine Works were among the organizations that provided demonstrations and hands-on activities. Tim Henry also provided a special demonstration, operating two Tesla coils that he had built.

Chris Thompson of Thompson Machine Works exhibited a variety of steam engines and electric generators at the educational event. His Lego steam engines, miniature water turbines, and Lego cars, trucks, and trains were tabletop versions of the real thing, and although these engines are tiny enough to fit within Lego blocks as housings, they are real engines that power the vehicles. Thompson

showed kids and adults the wide variety of vehicles and power uses with steam and electric power.

Marc Straub, a physicist who originally worked in automotive engineering, brought his Cool Science lab to the museum. Straub attracted children and adults with his tabletop magnetism exhibit. He showed how the energy of magnets works in various ways. He had a display system with a table full of magnets, showing how they repel each other, how they attract objects, and more. With helium balloons that followed the static electricity field of a plastic tube, he showed the crowd how properties of attraction work and let attendees try it out for themselves.

Janet Sellers can be reached at janetsellers@ocn.me. David Futey can be reached at dfutey@ocn.me.

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, March 14

District hunts for possible water leaks, discusses country club issue

By Candice Hitt

Assistant Manager Randy Gillette said March 14 that the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District continued to report a low percentage of water accounted for in February. He said the district is looking into possible water leaks to explain the loss. Gillette stated the Crossroads Development north of Highway 105 may be the issue. The district installed a valve

in the area, but no leaks have been found. Gillette will continue to monitor the situation.

Gillette stated the district is still pumping water into Lake Woodmoor from all available sources. As of March 14, 75 acre-feet had been pumped into the lake. In response to customer concerns over taste and odor of the water, espe-

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El Paso Board of County Commissioners, March 12

County OKs possible litigation against Brookmoor HOA

By Lisa Hatfield

On March 12, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) again addressed a staff request to pursue litigation regarding the entrance to Brookmoor Estates at the intersection of Moveen Heights and Lake Woodmoor Drive. This intersection is in violation of the county's development permit approval that only authorized a split-rail fence. The entry is also in violation of the county's Engineering Criteria Manual regarding "intersection sight distance" due to the stucco wall that developer Michael Brennan installed to replace the fence without approval by the county.

Commissioner Amy Lathen was excused from the meeting.

Assistant County Attorney Steven Klaffky and Mark Gebhart, deputy director of the Development Services Department, requested that the BOCC authorize the County Attorney's Office to pursue litigation to bring the property into compliance. This agenda item had been unanimously continued by the commissioners during the Feb. 19 meeting. (www.ocn.me/v13n3.htm#bocc)

The pursuit of litigation against the Brookmoor Estates Homeowners Association (HOA) was unanimously approved on March 12, with a stay of 30 days to give Brennan (who is a member of the Brookmoor HOA board) more time to obtain more detailed engineering drawings and cost analyses.

These documents were to be submitted by Brennan to County Engineer André Brackin by March 26, to give Brackin time to review them before the next Brookmoor agenda item at the April 11 BOCC meeting. The stay on the county's litigation against the HOA will expire on April 11, when Brackin will inform the commissioners whether the developer turned in the required certified information from a private engineer or if they will proceed with litigation.

Brackin has been requesting engineering plans for road realignment and stucco wall relocation cost estimates from the developer since the staff request at the Dec. 20, 2012 BOCC meeting. A traffic engineering study was submitted but was incorrectly based on driveway sight-line criteria instead of road intersection standards. Corrected information

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New Chief
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The OCN volunteers extend our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Tom Clements.