

Thank you Firefighters and other First Responders!

Our Community News

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

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Issue #149 — Volume 13 Number 7 — Saturday, July 6, 2013

Free

Local Events

See pages 27-31 for details of these and many other local events.

“Roadmap to Recovery” Workshop for Black Forest fire survivors, Mon., Jul. 8, 6 p.m.

Concerts in the Park: Blue Pepper Trio, folk/bluegrass/jazz/reggae, Wed, Jul. 10, 7-9 p.m.

Village Center Estates Community Yard Sale, Sat., Jul. 13, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Jul. 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Acoustic Eidolon Concert at TLCA, Sat., Jul. 13, 7 p.m.

Awake Palmer Lake with Music, Sun., Jul. 14, noon

Tri-Lakes Cares Blood Drive, Tue., Jul. 16, 3-7 p.m.

Concerts in the Park: Inman Brothers, rock/blues, Wed, Jul. 17, 7-9 p.m.

Art Hop, Thu., Jul. 18, 5-8 p.m.

Palmer Lake Historical Society Meeting: The Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI): Past, Present, and Future, Thu., Jul. 18, 7 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): 31st Anniversary Celebration & Membership Appreciation, Sat., Jul. 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Firewise Landscaping, Sat., Jul. 20, 1-3 p.m.

Concerts in the Park: Skean Dubh, Celtic/acoustic, Wed, Jul. 24, 7-9 p.m.

Lewis-Palmer School District Homeschool enrichment Academy Open House, Wed., Jul. 31, 5-7 p.m.

Free Concert: Grant Sabin at Fox Run Regional Park, Wed., Jul. 31, 6-8 p.m.

Concerts in the Park: Jody Adams and the String Dudes, bluegrass/folk, Wed, Jul. 31, 7-9 p.m.

6th Annual Chautauqua Returns in Palmer Lake, Fri.-Sun., Aug. 2-4 ■

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Above: At FireWise Community Day at the Woodmoor Barn on June 29, Jim Woodman, left, with hazard rating map, Dick Green, and other FireWise volunteers shared information with over 220 Tri-Lakes residents on how to create “defensible space,” a 100-foot-wide area with graduated fuels reduction around the house. Residents should remove pine needles 15 feet from the house. The goal is to reduce vegetative fuels so that a wildfire can’t reach the home. Scrub oak and junipers are particularly flammable “ladder fuels” that should be removed 30 feet from homes and away from any pine trees. See the Personal Wildfire Action Plan Bulletin at www.woodmoor.org/pdf-files/forestry/WIA-ActionPlanBooklet_PROOF4.pdf for ideas about home hardening, defensible space, and evacuation planning. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board Meeting, June 26 Board discusses fire concerns

By Harriet Halbig

In the wake of the Black Forest Fire, the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board invited Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Fire Marshal John Vincent to attend its June 26 meeting.

The board had discussed fire mitigation in previous meetings, with special presentations by the chairman of the Firewise Committee and the Forestry Committee and a mailing of information about emergency preparedness and fire prevention. There had also been two public meetings on the subject. The Black Forest Fire proved that a fire could happen suddenly and that preparedness and prevention could help save homes and lives.

Vincent said that Woodmoor is much more similar to Black Forest than it is to the area of the Waldo Canyon Fire. The area is heavily wooded and populated with flammable, wood-sided homes with trees over roofs and brushing against decks.

When asked what precautions homeowners could take to preserve their properties, Vincent had a few basic suggestions:

- Reduce fuels on the property. Remember that flames can move up from low, dry brush to tree limbs to the canopy. Once the flames reach the tops of trees, little can be done to slow the spread of the fire.

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Above: On June 11 at 5:34 p.m., smoke from the Black Forest Fire is rising behind the Thunderbird display at the USAFA. *Photo by Herb Wetzel.* See page 25 for additional photos of the smoke plume from the Black Forest Fire.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, June 20

Board passes 2013-14 budget, celebrates achievements

By Harriet Halbig

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman reported to the Board of Education that a few changes were made to the budget since the board’s May meeting. Half-time instructional coaches were added to the staffs of the elementary schools, and \$50,000 was added to the technology budget.

Wangeman projects a full-time student population of 5,830 for next year. The district now is 122 students short of that number, but registration generally increases between July and the Oct. 1 student count date.

The district will receive an additional \$1 million next year on a one-time basis due to increased funding from capital gains on the state level.

The board passed the 2013-14 budget as presented.

District achievements

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer School District 38 celebrated achievements of some of its supporters at its June 20 meeting.

(Continued on page 3)

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, June 18

The Black Forest Fire fight

By Lisa Hatfield

At the June 18 Donald Wescott Fire Protection District meeting, board and audience members listened to accounts of Wescott crews assisting in the fight against the Black Forest Fire that started on June 11 and was 85 percent contained by the night of the board meeting a week later. In executive session, the board approved Chief Burns to work with the county to put a mill levy increase issue on the next ballot.

The absences of Director Greg Gent and Assistant Chief Scott Ridings were excused.

Steps begun for mill levy increase ballot issue

The board entered an executive session after the regular meeting to “determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators.”

In an email to OCN on June 20, Administrative Assistant Cheryl Marshall

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