

Awards will be announced to grant recipients in late May. Questions can be emailed to granting@tlwc.net.

Tri-Lakes Women's Club is proud to continue its support of our great Tri-Lakes community. Over the last 40 years, TLWC has given more than \$750,000, making it a major player in enriching the lives and organizations of those who call the Tri-Lakes community home. In 2013, TLWC raised \$67,847, which it awarded to 36 grant recipients. The club holds two major fundraising events each year: The Pine Forest Antiques, Home Décor and Garden Show and Sale will be held April 26-27; Wine and Roses & More will be held in the fall. For more information about TLWC, visit www.TLWC.net.

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.

Online survey for Black Forest fire victims

United Policyholders has a short online survey to collect information so the organization and its partners can continue to provide support to the Black Forest-area residents impacted by last summer's disastrous fire. Residents are encouraged to respond to the survey as soon as possible at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BlackForestFire>.

New Discount Card to benefit Black Forest fire survivors and local businesses

A new program from Black Forest Together will help Black Forest families and local businesses recover together from last summer's devastating wildfire. The Black Forest Together Discount Card, made possible through a donation from Heartland Payments Systems, will be offered to all residents in the following four ZIP codes: 80908, 80106, 80132, or 80831. More than 72 businesses have already committed to participate in the program for at least one year, and more continue to join the program. Cardholders will save money on the goods and services they need to rebuild or repair their homes, but they'll also get discounts on sporting goods, meals, or other amenities. Cards will be issued Mon. to Thu., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and 9 a.m.-noon on Fridays at the Black Forest Together Resource Center, located at Fire Station One, 11445 Teachout Rd. For more information, visit www.BlackForestTogether.org.

CASA seeks volunteers

Give the gift of a voice to an abused or neglected child. CASA volunteers are an amazing force for good, and more are needed. Become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). Visit the website for an application, training schedules, and frequently asked questions. You can also contact Kelly at 447-9898 x1033 or kellyp@casappr.org.

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. 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.

OCN seeks volunteer reporters

Our Community News (OCN) is looking for reporters to cover these monthly meetings:

- Woodmoor Water & Sanitation District, which usually meets on the second Thu. of each month. The

next meeting will be at 1 p.m., Thu., Jan. 9, 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument.

- Triview Metropolitan District board meeting, which usually meets on the second Tue. of each month. The next meeting will be at 5 p.m., Tue., Jan. 14, 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 300, Monument.

OCN will provide volunteer reporters with training and writing assistance. For more information, please call or text Lisa at 719-339-7831.

PPLD Seeks Photos, Videos of the Black Forest Fire

Pikes Peak Library District wants to preserve the record of the historic Black Forest Fire and its effects on our community. The district is collecting images for an online photo gallery, which you can send to photos@ppld.org. Feel free to include any personal accounts associated with 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.

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 TriLakesmets-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.csfs.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.

Get volunteer help for your nonprofit

Due to popular demand, the Lewis-Palmer School District is adding a list of volunteer opportunities to its Youth Activities Directory online. Many students are required to participate in community projects for credit and others are just looking for ways to serve. If your nonprofit has a need for volunteers for a one-time project or an ongoing effort and can use volunteers under age 18, obtain a directory listing form on the district website www.lewispalmer.org under the community tab. Nonprofits may list their volunteer needs in the directory free of charge. For information, contact Robin Adair, P.O. Box 40, Monument, CO 80132; call 785-4223 or email radair@lewispalmer.org.

Multiple sclerosis support group

A multiple sclerosis (MS) group is forming for the Tri-Lakes and surrounding areas. If interested, please email Susan, susan@cvscomp.com, or visit <http://cvscomp.homeserver.com/ms/>.

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://elpte911.onthealert.com>.

Volunteer drivers needed for seniors' transportation service

Mountain Community Transportation for Seniors is a nonprofit, grant-funded organization that provides free transportation to Tri-Lakes seniors 60 years old and over. It is the only transportation service in the Tri-Lakes area to take seniors to medical appointments, the grocery store or pharmacy, the bank, legal appointments, senior lunches, shopping, and to the many activities offered through the senior center and our community. The program needs additional volunteer drivers. Volunteers are provided with an orientation after criminal and driving records have been screened. Mileage is reimbursed if volunteers use their own vehicle. The program operates Monday-Thursday and is flexible; volunteers can be involved as much as they choose to be. For information or to request brochures, email browneyesmlk@hotmail.com or call Mary Ketels, 481-2470, or Faye Brenneman, 481-2527, or leave a message with the dispatcher, 488-0076.

Attention Tri-Lakes residents with medical conditions

If you have a medical condition or a physical disability, please contact Jennifer at Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, 484-0911, to register for emergency assistance if evacuation is required.

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.

Senior Safety Program

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District offers a free senior safety program to all Tri-Lakes seniors. The program includes smoke detector evaluations, home safety assessments, vial of life, and fire prevention. For information call 484-0911 or visit www.tri-lakesfire.com.

County prescription discount program could save you money

El Paso County's prescription discount program saved 10,000 residents \$250,000 in discounted medicines over 18 months at no additional taxpayer cost. People using the card saved an average of 23 percent. There are no eligibility requirements and no strings attached to receive the discounts. You can pick up a free Prescription Discount Card at most county government locations or you can download your own personalized prescription discount card on the county website (bottom of the front page) at www.elpasoco.com/. Any county resident without prescription coverage can use this program. Even if you have insurance for prescription medications, the discount card might save you money on prescription medications your existing plan does not cover. For information, visit www.elpasoco.com/ or call 520-6337 (MEDS).

Check out energy savings at local libraries

Mountain View Electric Association (MVEA) provides a program allowing consumers to check out "Kill-A-Watt" meters, plug-in energy meters, from local libraries and Book Mobiles in MVEA's service territory. Kill-A-Watt meters can help consumers assess how efficient appliances really are. This program provides a free way to identify the real energy abusers and reduce energy use. People who have used the meters report unplugging appliances that weren't being used to save energy. For information call MVEA, 1-800-388-9881, ext. 2602; or Monument Branch Library, 488-2370.