

sion Office, now located at 17 N. Spruce St (near I-25 and Bijou). Space is limited and available on a first-paid basis. For more information, visit the Horticulture page of the website <http://elpasoco.colostate.edu> or call Julie at (719) 520-7690.

CASA volunteers needed

Become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). CASA offers a volunteer opportunity like no other. As appointed representatives of the court, CASA volunteers are empowered to make a lifelong difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. Learn more at <http://www.casappr.org/volunteer-colorado-springs/> or contact Kelly at 447-9898, ext. 1033 or kellyp@casappr.org.

Grant writers needed for Palmer Lake

The Awake Palmer Lake Committee is looking for grant writers to help with the next Great Outdoor Colorado (GOCO) grant application to improve the park at Palmer Lake. The grant could be worth \$300,000. See <http://awakepalmerlake.org> for more information or contact the Park and Recreation trustee at parke@palmer-lake.org.

Help chart Colorado's transportation future

The Colorado Department of Transportation invites citizens to get involved in planning the future of the state's transportation system by visiting the website, www.coloradotransportationmatters.com.

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 TriLakesmcts-sshs.org.

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. 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.

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. The program needs additional volunteer drivers. For information, email browneyesmlk@hotmail.com or call Mary Ketels, 481-2470, or Faye Brenneman, 481-2527, or leave a message with the dispatcher, 488-0076.

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., Tue.-Fri., and earlier for scheduled activities. The facility has a lounge, craft room, game room, and multipurpose room. Programs include pinochle, National Mah-jongg, line dancing, tea time, bingo, and more. Ping-pong, Wii video games, puzzles and board games, refreshments, a lending library, computers with Internet connections, and an in-

formation table are also available. 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. To subscribe, send an email with your name and mailing address to SeniorBeat@TriLakesSeniors.org. *Senior Beat* can also be viewed online at www.TriLakesHAP.org.

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. □

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. 9, 10 a.m., 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: Bill Burks, 481-4053.
- **Triview Metropolitan District Board Meeting**, Tue., Dec. 9, 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. 9, 7 p.m., Palmer Ridge High School, 19255 Monument Hill Rd., Monument. Meets 2nd Tue. each month, location varies. Info: 488-4700, www.lewispalmer.org.
- **Palmer Lake Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Wed., Dec. 10, 10 a.m., 120 Middle Glenway. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 481-2732.
- **D-38 Special Education Advisory Council**, Wed., Dec. 10, 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. 10, 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. 10, 6:30 p.m., 166 Second St., Monument. Normally meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: Jennifer Martin, 484-0911, www.tlfire.org.
- **Palmer Lake Liquor Licensing Authority & Medical Marijuana Authority** and Town Council Combined Workshop and Regular Meeting, Thu., Dec. 11, 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 481-2953 (then press 0) or www.ci.palmer-lake.co.us.
- **Monument Board of Trustees Meeting**, Mon., Dec. 15, 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**, Tue., Dec. 16, 9 a.m., 2880 International Circle (off Union Blvd & Printers Pkwy). Meets 1st & 3rd Tue. (if required) each month. Info: 520-6300, <http://adm2.elpasoco.com/planning/agendas/pc/pc-agn.asp>.
- **Wescott Fire Protection District Board Meeting**, Met Dec. 2, no additional meeting in December. Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Normally meets 3rd Tue. each month at 7 p.m. Info: 488-8680.
- **Academy Water and Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Wed., Dec. 17, 6 p.m., Wescott Fire

Why Advertise in Our Community News?

- **OCN is mailed free to every resident and business in the Tri-Lakes area.**

We mail approximately 16,000 copies every month and put another 700 copies in stacks throughout the area. *OCN* has the largest mailed circulation, and the third largest circulation among local newspapers in El Paso County. We put copies of *OCN* into the hands of those people most likely to buy your products or services: local residents and businesses.

- **OCN is a primary source for Tri-Lakes area news.**

For the past 13 years, *OCN* has been presenting unbiased, detailed coverage of Tri-Lakes area governmental entities, and their deliberations and actions. Credibility is key during tough times. Advertising in a trustworthy medium like community newspapers lends credibility to the advertiser.

- **OCN only publishes advertisements from Tri-Lakes area businesses.**

In *OCN*, your advertisement won't be competing for attention with ads from Colorado Springs or Castle Rock. This policy was adopted at the founding of *OCN* in 2001 as a way to help local businesses like yours succeed.

- **OCN's low ad rates and our monthly publication schedule help stretch your advertising budget.**

OCN offers one of the lowest ad cost per printed copy of any local newspaper. Since *OCN* is a monthly publication, your ad will be in reader's hands for a month—more than four times longer than that of the local papers. Many of our advertisers tell us that they are still getting calls in the third and fourth weeks of the month!

- **OCN does not use contracts.**

You are not tied down. Adjust your advertising month-to-month to meet your changing needs. Our advertisers choose us because they see the benefit in it, not because they are bound by a contract that they signed months before.

- **OCN offers a Frequent Advertiser Bonus rewards program (FAB).**

To reward frequent advertisers, *OCN* allows you to earn up to 10% of your ad cost as a reward that you can use to reduce the cost of future *OCN* advertising. The more you advertise with *OCN*, the more you save.

****Thanks to our FAB program, OCN advertisers have saved more than \$29,000!****

- **You are supporting a good thing!**

Your advertising dollars support a unique, all-volunteer, Tri-Lakes-area-focused effort to present detailed, factual, local news to all Tri-Lakes area residents and businesses.

For information, contact John Heiser at (719) 488-3455 or ads@ocn.me.

Why Advertise Now?

In tough economic times, the businesses that continue or expand their advertising can take market share from those competitors that stop or reduce advertising. Businesses that gain market share during downturns tend to keep that increased market share when economic conditions improve. Each percentage point of market share gained during a recession results in that much more in sales as the economy improves.

A McGraw-Hill study following the 1981-1982 recession found that from 1980 to 1985, companies that maintained or increased their advertising typically grew their sales 14 times more than companies that cut their advertising budgets. At least six different studies conducted during recessionary periods from 1960 through 1990 found the same correlation. Recent studies by today's marketing experts are drawing the same conclusions that advertising during economic slowdowns leads to increased market share and sales.