

Our Community News

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



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Free

Local Events

See pages 24-27 for details of these and many other local events.

Lewis-Palmer High School Jazz & Percussion Concert, Mon., Mar. 3, 7 p.m.

Regional Concert Band Festival at PRHS, Thu., Mar. 6, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Meet the D-38 Superintendent Candidate Finalists, Fri., March 7, 5-6:30 p.m.

Visions of Light Opening Reception at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Fri., Mar. 7, 5:30 -7:30 p.m.

NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Mar. 8, 10 a.m.-noon. Topic: State HOA office.

Pi = Pie Fun Run, Sat., Mar. 15, check in 1:30 p.m., race at 2 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Cares Blood Drive, Tue., Mar. 18, 3-7 p.m.

Recycling Meeting for Tri-Lakes Residents, Tue., Mar. 18, 6:30 p.m.

D-38 Vocal Music Concert, Tue., Mar. 18, 7 p.m.

Palmer Ridge High School Drama Students: "You Can't Take it With You," Thu.-Sat, Mar. 20-22, 7 p.m.

"Amazing Critters and Beautiful Scenic Photography" by Mark Kirkland, Fri., Mar. 21, 5-8:30 p.m.

Palmer Lake Art Group: "Symphony in Color" Art Show Exhibit & Opening Reception, Fri-Sun., Mar. 21-23

Rocky Mountain Music Alliance (RMMA) Free Concert: Piano Magic2, Sun., Mar. 23, pre-concert lecture 2:30 p.m., concert at 3 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) Spring Break with Bricks-4-Kidz, Mon.-Sat., Mar. 24-29, 9 a.m.-noon.

Gleneagle Blood Drive, Thu., Mar. 27, 1-6 p.m.

D-38 Honors Band Recital, Tue., Apr. 1, 7 p.m.

38th Annual Pine Forest Antiques, Home Décor & Garden Show and Sale, Sat., Apr. 26 and Sun., April. 27. ■

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Above: On Feb. 19, the Tri-Lakes Senior Citizens Center was rededicated after its recent renovation. Immediately following the ribbon cutting, one of the rooms in the center was dedicated in honor of Chuck Roberts, seated, who has been a longtime advocate for increased support for seniors in the Tri-Lakes area. The ribbon-cutting was also attended by, from left, Palmer Lake Mayor Nikki McDonald, Dave Betzler of Tri-Lakes HAP, Interim D-38 Superintendent Ted Bauman, and Monument Mayor Travis Easton. *Photo courtesy of Tri-Lakes HAP.*

Tri-Lakes area celebrates senior center renovations

By Allen Alchian

Tri-Lakes area leaders and others marked recent renovations at the Tri-Lakes Senior Citizens Center in a ceremony on Feb. 19.

The renovation program was completed in December and was largely driven by Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership (HAP) board member David Betzler, who now serves as the HAP board president. Financial and material support for the renovation was provided by the Gleneagle Sertoma, Home Depot, American Legion Post 9-11, and the Town of Monument. Labor for the renovation came largely from volunteers, including several students, parents and faculty of Colorado Springs Christian Schools, John and Linda Ottino, David and Colleen Garwood, and Betzler.

After the celebratory ribbon cutting, Monument Mayor Travis Easton presented HAP President Betzler with a \$2,000 check from the Town of Monument, continuing the town's support and commitment to the area's senior population.

Chuck Roberts was then honored for his many years of advocating for programs to support senior citizens in the Tri-Lakes region. A room in the Senior Center was dedicated as the Chuck Roberts Room. In announcing the room dedication, Betzler explained that many of the seniors' programs and the Senior Citizens Center itself are largely the direct result of Roberts' years of persistence and advocacy.

Roberts organized a Tri-Lakes Senior Forum in 2006 to identify the local needs for senior citizen support. He then created the Senior Alliance as a partnership with HAP in order to implement the findings of the Senior Forum. Soon thereafter, Roberts was serving on the HAP board, overseeing all of HAP's senior program activities.

The Tri-Lakes Senior Citizens Center first opened in 2008 in a classroom in the newly completed Palmer Ridge High School. In 2009 the center moved to its present location—a surplus modular classroom building at the Lewis-Palmer High School campus. Some students helped transform the space into a community center. One student set up the popular lending library with a comprehensive catalog system; others helped in decorating the interior. Seniors have learned computer skills from students. The center's location on the high school campus has encouraged interactions across generations.

The center is open Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m., and at other times to accommodate scheduled events. An open house is scheduled for May 3, to coincide with the Tri-Lakes Annual Health Fair to be held at Lewis-Palmer High School. For more information, visit www.TriLakesHAP.org.

Allen Alchian can be contacted at allenalchian@ocn.me

Gratifying response to OCN message

This month, a remarkable assortment of caring and competent residents of the Tri-Lakes community (shown here at our Feb. 9 meeting) stepped up to volunteer to do the wide array of jobs vital to the publication of *Our Community News*. Because of this enthusiastic response, we will persevere in providing unbiased reporting on important local issues, provide a platform for advertising local businesses without competition from larger markets, and publish letters to the editor to allow you to express your opinions on events in the Tri-Lakes area.

We volunteers at *OCN* are grateful for the opportunity to continue to use our enthusiasm and creativity to benefit our community and celebrate unfiltered information. If you have questions or comments about *OCN*, please email editor@ocn.me or text/call Lisa at (719) 339-7831.

We are also grateful to our many loyal advertisers, without whom we could not afford to print and mail the newspaper free to almost 16,000 Tri-Lakes area mailboxes on the first Saturday of each month. If you would like to advertise your business, personal milestone, or apartment for rent, please write to ads@ocn.me or call Mary Ellen at 719-646-7363. ■

Palmer Lake
Town Council, Feb. 13

Election set for April 1, Vaile house now for sale

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Feb. 13 Palmer Lake Town Council meeting, the trustees discussed the upcoming election, the status of the Lucretia Vaile house, the proposed Verizon Wireless tower, and the town's fuel mitigation grant application. They approved the town's water conservation plan, and eight volunteer firefighters received the Black Forest Fire meritorious service ribbon.

Election date is April 1

Town Clerk Tara Berreth said that the correct election date of April 1 has now been posted on the town website.

Mayor Nikki McDonald suggested that since all six current trustees were appointed instead of elected, in order to regain the usual staggered terms for trustees, the top vote-getters would get four-year terms and the others would get two-year terms. No action was taken on this topic.

The mail-in ballot will include a question about whether or not recreational marijuana sales should be allowed in the

(Continued on page 2)