

Our Community News

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



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Issue #159 — Volume 14 Number 5 — Saturday, May 3, 2014

Free

Local Events

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

- NEPCO Meeting, Sat., May 10, 10 a.m.-noon
- HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Wed., May 14
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: "Maggie: She Went West for the Cure", Thu., May 15, 7 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Community Health Fair, Sat., May 3
- HAP Senior Center Open House, Sat., May 3, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Home Energy Savings: Myths and Money, Mon., May 5, 7 p.m.
- "Do-it-Yourself" Wildfire Fuels Mitigation Class, Wed., May 7, 7 p.m.
- Pikes Peak Soap Derby, register by Sat., May 10
- Cleanup Monument Days, Thu., May 15, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Art Hop is back! Thu., May 15, 5-8 p.m.
- Slash Disposal Drop-off Day, Sat., May 17, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Gleneagle Sertoma presents Spirits of Spring: A Wine and Food Tasting with Live and Silent Auction, Sat., May 17, 6-9 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive, Tue., May 20, 3-7 p.m.
- Rampart Range Wildlands Project Open House, Tue., May 20, 7 p.m.
- Town of Monument Memorial Day Ceremony, Mon., May 26, 10 a.m.
- Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Picnic-N-Planes, Wed., May 28, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Cares (TLC) Awareness and Informational Get-Together, Wed., June 4, 5:30-7 p.m.
- Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI), Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show-The Snow Mastodon Project, Fri.-Sun., Jun. 6-8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri.-Sat, 9a.m.-4 p.m. Sun.
- Hooked on Monument Lake Kids' Fishing Derby, Sat., Jun. 7, 8 a.m.-noon
- Trail Work Day, Sat., Jun. 7, 8 a.m.
- Tri-Lakes Cruisers Car Show, Sun., Jun. 8, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. □

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Above: Forestry Committee Chairman Jim Woodman explained how creating a "defensible space" around your home can help protect it from wildfires. The "Do It Yourself" fire mitigation class will be offered again May 7. *Photo by Arjun Gheewala.* See page 26 "Wildfire prevention class" for more information.

Palmer Lake Town Council, April 10

New council members seated; marijuana amendment tabled



Above: The newly elected Palmer Lake Town Council was sworn in on April 10. From left are returning Mayor Nikki McDonald; John Russell, roads trustee; Cindy Allen, mayor pro tem and recreation trustee; Trish Flake, economic development trustee; Paul Banta, police trustee; Jen Martin, finance trustee; and Richard Kuehster, continuing as fire trustee. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

By James Howald

On April 10, the Palmer Lake Town Council swore in new and returning council members, delayed an amendment to prohibit recreational marijuana sales, heard from a member of the Planning Commission regarding large signs, and received an update on the community's fire fuel mitigation project.

New and returning council members sworn in

Mayor Nikki McDonald, who was re-elected in the April 1 election, administered the oath of office to four new trustees: Cindy Allen, Paul Banta, Trish Flake, and Jen Martin. Two returning trustees, Richard Kuehster and John Russell, also took the oath of office.

The newly constituted council re-appointed Tara Berreth as town clerk, Jason Vanderpool as police lieutenant, Margo Humes as fire chief, and Larry Gaddis as town attorney. Trustee Allen will head the Parks and Recreation Committee and will also serve as mayor pro

tem. Trustee Banta will head the Police Committee. Trustee Flake will head the Economic Development Committee. Trustee Kuehster will continue to head the Fire Committee. Trustee Martin will head the Finance and Office Committee, and Trustee Russell will continue to head the Roads Committee.

Medical and retail marijuana sales debated

The council addressed two issues related to marijuana. The first regarded the growing and selling of marijuana for recreational use. In the April 1 election, Palmer Lake voters rejected the sale of recreational marijuana 538 to 481. This was an advisory vote, so the council was responsible for choosing what actions to take.

In response to the election, the council drafted Ordinance 2, 2014, which prohibited both the growing and selling of recreational marijuana within the town while leaving medical marijuana laws

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Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, April 23

Beseau promoted; water rates explained

By Jackie Burhans

The board promoted homeowners association (HOA) Manager Matt Beseau and hosted a Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District presentation at the April 23 meeting of the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) Board of Directors.

The board addressed owner inquiries regarding the use of alternate material for split-rail fencing that attaches to a house to mitigate fire danger. Darren Rouse, director of Architectural Control, indicated that homeowners can find other non-ammable material that resembles split rail and request approval for its use from Architectural Control Committee.

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Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, April 10

JV Ranch purchase explained

By Nancy Wilkins

At the April 10 meeting of the Board of Directors of Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWS), district Manager Jessie Shaffer gave a detailed presentation on the state of the district for a board critique before making a formal presentation to the Woodmoor Improvement Association meeting on April 23. Director Tommy Schwab inquired about WWS unaccounted water. The board approved plans to provide water and sewer services for a housing development.

Searching for water

Shaffer said that before considering the purchase of the JV Ranch, the WWS board conducted a wide search for additional water sources from the Arkansas River basin and tributaries, in Pueblo and as far as Leadville. According to Shaffer, the purchase of JV Ranch water was needed to ensure a renewable and sustainable source of water for the district, in addition to the existing water from aquifers, because the water level in the Denver aquifer is decreasing.

While looking for additional surface water, the board also looked at costs associated with building storage facilities and the transportation necessary for us-

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