

# Our Community News

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



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Issue #162 — Volume 14 Number 8 — Saturday, August 2, 2014

Free

## Local Events

**Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua** in Palmer Lake, Sat. Aug 2, 10:00- 6:00 p.m. Palmer Lake Town Hall

**Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social**, Sat. Aug 2, 1:30-3:00 p.m. Palmer Lake Village Green.

**SunDance Studio Meet & Greet**, Sat. Aug 2, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

**Miguel Dakota & Spiral Lion Concert** Sat. Aug 2, 7:00 p.m. TLCA

**King's Deer Community Garage Sale** Fri-Sat Aug. 8.

**Family Fun Night for Deployed Military Families**, Fri. Aug 8, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Byrd & Street Concert** Sat., Aug. 9, 7:00 p.m. TLCA

**Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage**, Fri. Aug 8 7:00 p.m. doors open

**Ice Cave Creek Trail Building** Sat. Aug 9, 8:00-4:00 p.m.

**Mount Herman Road Trash Pickup**, Sun. Aug10, 9:00 a.m.

**M.R. Lang Investment's Annual Pig Roast**, Fri. Aug 15 5:30-8 p.m.

**Slash Disposal Drop-off**, Aug 15 8:00-4 p.m.

**Black Forest Festival** Sat. Aug 16, 6:30-9:30 a.m. pancake breakfast

**Peak Ranch Alpaca Boutique Harvest Brew** Sat. Aug 16, 10:00-4:00 p.m.

**Gary Farmer & the Troublemakers Concert** Aug 16, 7:00 p.m. TLCA

**Art Hop**, Thu. Aug 21 5:00-8 p.m.

**Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage**, Fri. Aug 22 7:00 p.m. doors open

**Legacy Sertoma Charity Sporting Clay Shoot**, Sat. Aug 23 7:00-1 p.m.

**Labor Day Kinetic Festival**, Mon. Sep 1 8:00 until complete.

**Gleneagle Sertoma Club 13th Annual Patriot Golf Tournament**, Mon., Sep 8, 8:30 a.m.

**"Be Prepared - Don't Be A Zombie" 2014 Zombie Run**, Sat. Sep 27, 10:00 a.m.



**Above:** Eva Fields, Alex Fields, Maddy Seeley, and Carson Seeley are ready to bike along the parade route during the July 4 Children's Parade. Photo by David Futey. See additional Independence Day photos on pages 15 and 26.

## Monument Board of Trustees, July 21

### Trails End residents protest bulk water fill station issues

*By Lisa Hatfield and Jim Kendrick*  
The board room at Monument Town Hall was packed for the July 21 Board of Trustees meeting. About 35 residents of Trails End attended to express concerns to the trustees and public works department about a new bulk water station the town built. The trustees approved an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of deadly weapons within town limits and heard presentations from new D-38 Superintendent Karen Brofft and Haley Chapin, executive director of Tri-Lakes Cares.

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish was excused.

#### Trails End residents voice concerns

Tammy Barber, Bobby Padilla, and several other Trails End residents spoke to the trustees of concerns about the new bulk water station built at the northwest corner of Wagon Gap Trail and Old Denver Highway. Some of their comments:

- Residents were not given proper notification that the town was going to build the bulk fill water station, how-

ever, for previous construction projects, all the residents have received notification by certified letter.

- No community input was requested.
- Children's safety is at risk in this residential neighborhood now that so many commercial trucks are entering.
- Streets and driveways are not holding up to the high traffic load.
- Why do we have a commercial station in a residential area?
- The water tank was described as "not low-profile; it's a big snorkel thing," and, "It looks like an RV dump site," and "Nothing was done to make it look slightly appealing."
- In June the site was used 506 times for commercial vehicles and only a few times for a residential vehicle.
- The driveway to the fill station is already damaged and deteriorating
- When trucks line up to load water, they block the entrance to Trails End.

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**Above:** A new bulk water tank located at the corner of Old Denver Highway and Wagon Gap Trail, adjacent to the Trails End subdivision, is a source of concerns from residents who voiced their views at the July 21 Monument Board of Trustees meeting. Photo by Lisa Hatfield

Academy Water and Sanitation District, Aug. 20

### Wastewater operations will be joined with Donala; election moved to 2016

*By Susan Hindman*

After nearly five decades of managing its own wastewater treatment, the Academy Water and Sanitation District board approved a resolution to pursue connecting its wastewater operations to the neighboring Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD). Pipes will be laid from Academy's lagoon on Spring Valley Drive to Donala's collection pipes. A lift station will pump Academy's wastewater to the Donala pipes for subsequent treatment by the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. This will begin by fall 2018, as required by Academy's wastewater permit.

The board was forced to change because of new state regulations that could not be met by the district's current lagoon treatment system. The board had looked at two other options: connecting with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) or building a new plant at the current location. But there were a number of unknowns about the CSU option, including having to get easement access across private property and possibly building a new lift station. A new plant would have been problematic because of impending state regulation changes involving Smith Creek, which is where the treated effluent is released.

Kip Petersen, general manager of DWSD, said at the meeting, "In terms of what's been happening between our districts, this is rather historic. This is a very good thing. I'm really proud to be a part of it." The next step is creating a written agreement between the two districts. And the two boards will have their first joint meeting in the near future.

Academy board members were torn as to when to hold an election to ask residents for a new mill levy to cover the costs of connecting to Donala, both construction and plant investment costs. Special districts like Academy can only hold elections in even-numbered years, so the choice was either November 2014 or May 2016. The pros and cons of both options were discussed for more than an hour before Director Ron Curry made a motion to put the issue before voters in 2016. The vote was 3-2, with directors Curry, Richard DuPont, and Walt Reiss voting yes, and Jim Weilbrenner and Susan Hindman voting no.

Going to the voters in November would have been "extremely tight," according to Paul Murphy, the district's lawyer. The ballot wording would need to be written quickly and would require consultation with the bond company. While the bottom-line numbers may not

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