

Our Community News

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



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Issue #167 — Volume 15 Number 1 — Saturday, January 10, 2015

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Our Community News

Local Events

See pages 28-31 for details of these and many other local events.

El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Jan. 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Jan. 10, 10 a.m.-noon. County assessor.

Centura Health Urgent Care Tri-Lakes Opening, Mon., Jan. 12

HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Jan. 14

Black Forest AARP Potluck Lunch & Meeting, Wed., Jan. 14, noon

Palmer Lake Historical Society: Annual Potluck Dinner & Membership Drive, Thu., Jan. 15, 6:30-8 p.m.

Chuck Pyle CD Release Show at TLCA, Fri., Jan. 16, 7 p.m.

Winterific at Fox Run Regional Park, Sat., Jan. 17, noon-2 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Cares Blood Drive, Tue., Jan. 20, 3-7 p.m.

Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage headlined by Wirewood Station, Fri., Jan. 23, opening act at 7 p.m.

Monument Hill Farmers Market Winter Market, Sat., Jan. 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Identity Theft Presentation, Sat., Jan. 24, 2 p.m.

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Class, Thu-Sat., Jan 29-31.

HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Jan. 30

Lifting Spirits Adult Day Center Open House, Mon., Feb. 2, 1-4 p.m.

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Circulation

Print Run: 16,680

Mail Delivery: 16,040

Stacks: 640



Above: Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District firefighter Jason McFerran, left, and Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department firefighter Weston Oesterreich helped bring toys from the police and from fire trucks to Santa so he could hand them out to children in the Dec. 20 Santa on Patrol event in the Tri-Lakes area. Photo by Lisa Hatfield. See additional photos on page 26.

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Dec. 19

Board votes to raise rates, file lawsuit

By Nancy Wilkins

The Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) Board of Directors held a special rate hearing on Dec. 19 and voted unanimously to approve the rate increases. WWSD residents should see the increase starting in January. Prior to the rate hearing, the district posted the rate increase on its website, www.woodmoorwater.com. As of Dec. 26, this information had been removed, but a copy of Resolution 14-11 and the complete list of rate increases should be available at the district office.

The 2015 rates include the following:

Base sewer charges for residential customers are not to exceed \$28.82 per month. The water volume charge for residential users per 1,000 gallons, up to 6,000 gallons use, should not exceed \$5.90 per month. However, the Renewal Water Investment Fee is expected to remain at \$45 per month for 2015.

For new development in the district,

the tap fee for three-fourths-inch multi-family units should not exceed \$18,774. The Availability of Service fee for water and sewer is not to exceed \$100. Equipment fee and inspection fees are held at 2014 rates of \$300 and \$200, respectively.

Unanimous vote to file lawsuit

Following an executive session, Erin Smith, attorney for the district, in the open public meeting announced that the board voted unanimously to file a lawsuit involving the Joint Use Agreement (JUA).

The JUA is the agreement among the three owners of the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility: Monument Sanitation District, Palmer Lake Sanitation District, and WWSD. Smith said the dispute is associated with determining costs. The civil case, if not settled before filing or resolved before trial, would probably be held either at El Paso County Court or 4th Judicial District Court as a public impact case.

(Continued on page 2)

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Dec. 4

District files for water exchange rights

By Nancy Wilkins

At the Dec. 4 meeting, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board agreed to file an application for water exchange rights, heard recommendations from Raftelis Financial Consultants, approved the 2015 budget, and reviewed the manager's report.

Exchange rights involve water in Monument Creek

Under the recommendation of attorney Veronica Sperling, the board voted unanimously to file a water court application for exchange of water rights. The ap-

plication includes the exchange of water coming from lawn irrigation return flows and processed water from the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility. The treatment facility is jointly owned by Monument Sanitation District, Palmer Lake Sanitation District, and WWSD.

The source of the new water for exchange is from the Denver basin that Sperling says the district acquired from inclusions. Water from the JV Ranch is another source being considered for exchange.

(Continued on page 3)

An important message for our readers

Our Community News needs you now!

For 14 years, our volunteers have provided unbiased reporting on important local issues, including real estate development, fire departments, school districts, and water availability. We have provided a platform for advertising local businesses without competition from larger markets. We have published letters to the editor to allow you to express your opinions on events in the Tri-Lakes area.

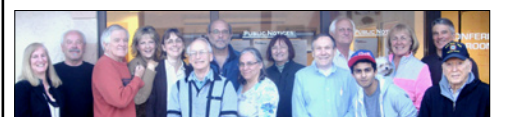
Now we find that we have more tasks than we have volunteers. Some vital jobs where we could use your help:

- Ad sales coordinator. We are looking for one dedicated volunteer who loves *OCN*. Commitment is about 45 hours a month and is very busy the second half of each month.
- Bookkeeping assistant.
- Reporting on local meetings, what they talked about and what they decided.
- Counting and lifting tubs of papers to take mailing to post offices and stacks to local businesses once a month.
- People with strong arms and backs to help load and unload mailing tubs from truck at two locations (3 hours a month)
- Driving rental truck to various post offices and printing plant once a month.
- Preparing post office paperwork, tub labels, subscription labels, etc. once a month.
- Backup managing editor, keeping track of content and word counts at the end of month and preparing new content spreadsheet for new month.

The time and skills involved vary greatly from job to job. *OCN* will provide whatever equipment and training you need.

Please join us today! Meet a group of interesting and committed people. Learn new skills—use your enthusiasm and creativity to benefit your community and celebrate unfiltered information.

Please call John Heiser at 488-3445 or Lisa Hatfield at 339-7831, or email editor@ocn.me to see what you can contribute. Contact us today! We are waiting to hear from you. If you can spare some time to help ensure that *OCN* continues to provide a vital service to our wonderful Tri-Lakes community, please contact us by Saturday, Jan. 24.



Above: Our 2014 crop of volunteers included, from left, Nancy Wilkins, Mike Wicklund, Wayne Claybaugh, RaeJean Claybaugh, Lisa Hatfield, Allen Alchian, James Howald, Jackie Burhans, Harriet Halbig, John Heiser, Chris Pollard, Arjun Gheewala, Janet Sellers, Mark Aggers, Bernard Minetti. Photo by Wayne Claybaugh.