

Our Community News

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



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Issue #177— Volume 15 Number 11 — Saturday, November 7, 2015

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Local Events

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

Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild Fall Show & Sale, Thu.-Sun., Nov. 5-8

Downtown Monument Holiday Open House, Fri.-Sat., Nov. 6-7

Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Nov. 11

Monument Academy Veterans' Day Assembly, Wed., Nov. 11, 9:45 a.m.

Tri-Lakes Economic Development Corporation State of the Region, Thu., Nov. 12, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Lewis-Palmer High School Musical: "Urinetown," Thu.-Sat., Nov. 12-14

NEPCO Meeting: Commissioner Darryl Glenn speaks on County Issues, Sat., Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-noon

Monument Library: The Life and Times of Gen. Wm. Jackson Palmer, Sun., Nov. 15, 2-3:30 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive, Tue., Nov. 17, 3-7 p.m.

Palmer Lake Historical Society: "Orphan Train," Thu. Nov. 19, 7 p.m.

Stars Alive: An Evening with the Legends at TLCA, Fri., Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

Rocky Mountain Music Alliance (RMMA) Concert: Piano Concerto Night, Sat., Nov. 21, 7 p.m.

Free Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner at Rosie's Diner, Thu., Nov. 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Nov. 27

Monument Library: Bonfils Blood Center Community Blood Drive, Sat., Nov. 28, 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI): The Gold Assay Process, Sat., Nov. 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Palmer Lake's Traditional Chili Supper & Annual Star-lighting Festival, Sat., Nov. 28, 4:30-7 p.m., Star-lighting at 7 p.m.

Monument Hill Kiwanis Club's 10th Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair, Sat., Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Small Town Christmas, Sat., Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. ■

In this issue

Palmer Lake News 1-2

Monument News 1, 3-9, 26

Water & San District News 10-17

D-38 News 17-18, 25

Fire District News 18-19

County News 19-20

HOA News 20-21

Weather 21-22

Letters 22

Books, Library, History, Arts 22-23

Snapshots 24-26

Our Community Notices 27-28

Our Community Calendar 28-31

OCN Information 25, 31

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Above: Costumed runners participate in the 5k Creepy Crawl Oct. 31 on the path surrounding Palmer Lake. Runners, some with kids in jogging strollers, gave their best as the energetic crowd cheered them on. The event helped raise over \$19,000 for the YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region's Annual Support Campaign, which provides financial assistance for lower-income families to participate in YMCA programs and activities. All funds raised stay in our community. *Photo by Janet Sellers.* See page 26 for additional photos of local Halloween festivities.

Monument Board of Trustees, Oct. 5

New town manager begins work; water rates increase discussed

By Lisa Hatfield

New Town Manager Chris Lowe attended his first Monument Board of Trustees meeting on Oct. 5. The trustees discussed proposed increases in water rates and fees and approved funding for a change in scope to the water reuse feasibility study. They discussed the first draft of the 2016 budget, and they went into executive session to discuss the new contract for Pamela Smith's town treasurer contract but did not take action on this item.

New town manager welcomed

The trustees addressed Lowe and expressed their wishes about the "new be-

ginning," as Trustee Becki Tooley called it when she asked for weekly communication from him to the trustees. Mayor Pro-Tem Jeff Kaiser said they had a lot of expectations of Lowe. Trustees Jeff Smith and Jeff Bornstein mentioned wanting to help Lowe prioritize what the town needs to do, and the consensus was to wait a few weeks before having a public workshop that could coincide with the public budget workshop discussion that is still to be scheduled.

Jeff Smith read the whole town manager ordinance out loud so that members of the public would understand the role of

(Continued on page 3)

Monument Planning Commission, Oct. 14

New planning commissioners; Monument Heights project advances

Kate Pangelinan

The Oct. 14 Monument Planning Commission meeting was an eventful one, beginning with the introduction of two new commissioners: Ed Locke is a new full-time planning commissioner and Daniel Rathke is a new alternate planning commissioner. Both new commissioners attended this meeting, weighing in on the night's four primary topics—the Jackson

Creek Market Village Lot 3A Final Plat was discussed, along with the Monument Heights Rezoning and planned development (PD) Sketch Plan, the Creekside Commercial Tractor Supply Company Final Plat and Final PD Site Plan, and the Jackson Creek Self Storage Final Plat and Final PD Site Plan. All motions passed and will now be discussed by the Board of Trustees.

(Continued on page 6)

Palmer Lake Town Council, Oct. 8

Subdivision plans questioned

By James Howald

On Oct. 8 the Palmer Lake Town Council met to hear a request to subdivide a property known as Pioneer Preserve, to finalize the sale of an acre of land to a local business, to approve a credit card for use by the town clerk, to discuss an ordinance to allow residents to raise chickens, to hear a progress report on the Great Outdoor Colorado (GOCO) grant, and to approve a business license and a landscape easement.

Pioneer Preserve subdivision request questioned

Representatives of Proterra Properties LLC asked the board to approve their request to subdivide an 82-acre parcel adjacent to the Mennonite Church on the east side of Highway 105. The board voted in a previous meeting to approve a water augmentation plan for the property. Proterra plans to subdivide the property into 15 five-acre lots, each of which will have a septic system and a well accessing either the Denver or the Dawson aquifer. Access to the subdivision will be from Highway 105, and the homeowners association for the subdivision will maintain the roads, according to Proterra's representatives. The land is currently zoned for residential and agricultural use.

(Continued on page 2)

Election Results

This is a summary of some of the final unofficial results of the Nov. 3 election results. Ballot titles have been abbreviated here. See www.EPCVotes.com for full results.

Town of Palmer Lake 2A: Shall town increase mill levy by 10 mills for Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department? **Yes: 483 (58.55%); No: 342 (41.45%)**

Town of Monument 2B: Shall excess revenue go to town parks, recreation, and senior services? **Yes: 1,110 votes (60.69%); No: 719 votes (39.31%)**

D38 District 1, 2-year term: Sherri Hawkins, 4,217 votes (51.44%); Lani Moore, 3,981 votes (48.56%)

D38 District 2, 4-year term: Kris Beasley, 4,074 votes (48.83%); Sarah Sampayo, 4,270 votes (51.17%)

D38 District 4, 4-year term: Mark Pfoff, 4,518 votes (54.57%); Gordon O. Reichal, 3,762 votes (45.43%)

D38 District 5, 4-year term: Dale L. Bastin, 2,154 votes (26.56%); Matthew Clawson, 5,957 votes (73.44%)


D20 Board of Education: The at-large seats of incumbents Tracey Johnson and Glenn Strebe were up for election. Johnson and Strebe were the only candidates to file for the election. ■

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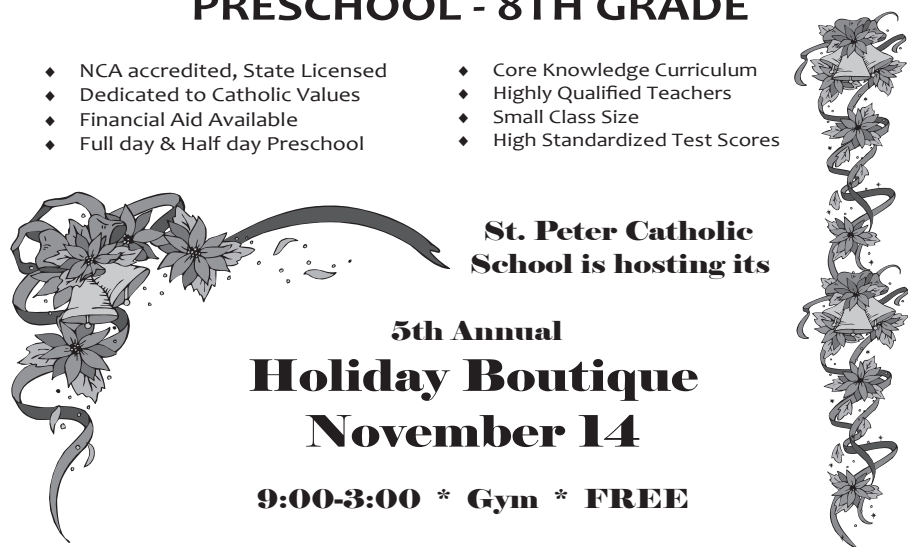
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Palmer Lake TC (Cont. from p1)

Two residents of Palmer Lake—Bob Miner and Kurt Ehrhardt—raised several concerns with Proterra's development plan. Both questioned the decision to use septic systems instead of connecting to an existing sewer line. Miner raised the issues of drainage and flood control on the property. Ehrhardt brought up concerns with fire preparedness, since Proterra's plan does not at present include fire hydrants. Finally, Ehrhardt questioned the safety of the plan to access the property from Highway 105 without providing an acceleration/deceleration lane.

Jerry Biggs of Proterra Properties and other spokespeople pointed out that their plan was developed after consulting with several government agencies. The flood control plan, for example, had been approved by the Colorado Department of Transportation. Biggs said that because the lots were five acres and zoned for both residential and agricultural use, statutes gave the developer the choice between using septic systems or connecting to sewer lines. Connecting to existing sewer lines created problems with easements, Biggs said.

Town Administrator Kathy Green-Sinnard said the Palmer Lake Sanitation District can't require Proterra to use its sewer infrastructure, but that the board can require it as a condition of granting the request to subdivide the property.

The board voted unanimously to table Proterra's request for subdivision for one month, to give them a chance to address the concerns with sanitation, fire preparedness, and road safety.

Town sells land to Ron Reed

At a previous meeting, the board gave businessman Ron Reed access to property the town owns adjacent to Highway 105, just west of Sara's Sausage, to perform soil tests. At the Oct. 8 meeting, Reed told the board that the results of those tests confirmed the suitability of the land for the building he proposed for the site, and offered the board \$73,000 for one acre of the town's 3.46-acre lot. Reed also asked for the right of refusal on the remaining portion of the lot if he does the work of subdivision.

The board voted unanimously to approve the sale of the land to Reed.

Town clerk gets credit card

Green-Sinnard asked the board to approve a credit card in Town Clerk Tara Berreth's name, to be used for limited emergency purchases, such as the payments for the town's website. According to Sinnard-Green, credit card companies require an individual's name to be printed on all cred-

it cards.

The board voted unanimously to approve the request.

Chicken on menu again

The board discussed its progress drafting an ordinance that would allow residents to have chickens on their property. The ordinance, when finished, will likely stipulate no more than four chickens per residence, will ban all roosters, and will not allow the sale of eggs without a business license.

The board voted unanimously to table the ordinance until the November meeting.

Board hears update on park improvements

Resident Bill Fisher and business owner Jeff Hulsmann updated the board on their progress with the Greater Outdoor Colorado (GOCO) project to improve the Palmer Lake Recreation Area. According to Fisher, substantial progress has been made on the parking lot, and lighting will be the next item addressed. Requirements imposed by the railroad have delayed the plans for the pedestrian bridge between the park and the town, Fisher said. The project is over budget by about \$15,000, according to Fisher.

Jeff Hulsmann also addressed the funding issues for the project. Funds are still being raised, Hulsmann said. Restaurant owners have raised \$1,000 recently, he noted, and he also mentioned an athletic fundraiser—the Palmer Lake .5K race—scheduled to be held Sunday, Oct. 11. The signups for the race had far exceeded Hulsmann's expectations, he said, with 628 participants signed up by Oct. 8 and race fees exceeding \$15,000. A story on the race by a Colorado TV station boosted the number of entrants, Hulsmann said. The race, which will include a doughnut stop at 860 feet and cheerleaders from Palmer Ridge High School at the finish, may become an annual event, according to Hulsmann.

Board approves business license, landscape easement

The board unanimously approved a business license for Sue Buell to do business as Massage for Health at 755 Highway 105, Suite 2-I. The board also unanimously approved a landscape easement for Ken Dickinson's residence at 72 Hermosa Ave.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Nov. 12 at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of the month. Information: 481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at james-howald@ocn.me.

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Mon. BOT (Cont. from p1)
both the elected officials and the town staff. The town manager is both responsible to and an advisor to the Board of Trustees. For complete text, see www.muni-code.com/library/co/monument/codes/code_of_ordinances in Section 2, Administration and Personnel.

Lowe said he's been meeting with the directors and trustees individually and learning more about the town. He said, "It's like drinking out of fire hose," but he hopes to bring the town the best professional service he can.

Water rates and fees increase discussed
Public Works Director Tom

Tharnish, Interim Town Treasurer Pamela Smith, and water engineer Will Koger and water quality expert Elizabeth Betancourt of Forsgren Associates presented a draft of the proposed water rates and fees structure they recommend that the town adopt soon. The town's water enterprise fund, which is supposed to be self-sufficient, has borrowed more than \$400,000

from the town's general fund in the last few years, and the water enterprise reserve fund, designed to pay for unexpected maintenance and capital improvements costs, has been drained and needs to be replenished to \$500,000. The goal of these rate and fee increases would be to make the water enterprise fund self-sufficient again by 2020, they said.

Tharnish said that in 2013,



Above: Chris Lowe was sworn in as the new Monument Town Manager at the Oct. 5 Board of Trustees meeting. The trustees welcomed him and also explained their expectations of him. He said that he hopes to bring the town the best professional service he can. Photo by Lisa Hatfield.

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although a large water rates increase was needed, staff “did not want to put a greater financial burden on town

residents and businesses” in addition to the effects of the recession, so just a small increase was instituted then. See www.ocn.me/v13n3.htm#bot0219 for a discussion of the 2013 water rates increase.

The town provides potable water to Monument customers on the west side of I-25. Customers on the east side are served by Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSO) and Triview Metropolitan District (Triview).

The town’s water system includes four water treatment plants, a 1 million gallon storage tank, miles of water mains, five pressure relief valves, nine wells, and over 1,000 water taps, all of which are aging and require more maintenance every year, but because funding levels are low, maintenance has been reactive instead of proactive, Tharnish said.

Three sources provide revenue for the water enterprise fund:

- Residential and commercial customers, for operations, maintenance, and improvement to existing aging infrastructure
- 2A Acquisition, Storage, and Delivery (ASD) Funds, for purchasing renewable water rights, from a 2005 voter-approved 1 percent sales tax. Currently, 35 percent of it is being used to pay off the loan for construction of Town Hall. In 2017, 100 percent of the 1 percent tax will be available for acquiring new water rights.
- Tap fees paid by developers to connect new construction

The town could also finance costs not covered by these sources, Pamela Smith said.

The current residential base fee for a three-quarter-inch tap is \$8.80 per month, and customers pay for the volume of water consumed in addition, based on a tiered rate system in increments of 1,000 gallons and starting with 1,000 gallons, so the lowest monthly residential amount currently invoiced could be \$13.79. A significant change in the proposed water rates and fees is to use a minimum \$60.24 per month base fee for all customers. This would automatically include the first 6,000 gallons of water.

Trustee John Howe said that for residents using less

than 6,000 gallons a month, this change would constitute a 78 percent increase in their water bills; he referred to the chart distributed at the water rates workshop on Sept. 21. Howe’s point was that he never uses 6,000 gallons, a 78 percent increase in one year was too high, and that there was not much feedback from the public because they did not know about the proposal.

However, Tharnish said typical users of water use around 6,000 gallons/month, that they now pay \$38.74 a month, and so they would see a 35 percent increase with the new structure.

The proposed rates and fees the first year would then also include annual increase of 8 percent the next four years, both on the base rates and additional volumetric rates. Rates would be re-evaluated by the board in 2020. Betancourt said the first year’s proposed rates “are lower than they need to be” to meet operations expenses, “because we didn’t want to shock everyone with raising rates as much as they needed to go up right away.”

Tharnish said low-income families would be encouraged to apply for help from local “private, non-profit aid groups” to get help paying their bills, which he estimated would increase \$20-\$30 in winter and more in summer based on volume of water used for irrigation.

Examples for residential customers with three-quarter-inch tap:

	Current invoice	Proposed 2016 invoice
2,000 gallons/month	\$18.78	\$60.24
6,000 gallons/month	\$38.74	\$60.24
14,000 gallons/month	\$88.66	\$119.24

The volumetric rates per 1,000 gallons would also increase with the proposed plan.

Commercial water rates and fees would also increase based on the meter size and volumetric tiered rates. For details, see www.townofmonument.org/.

The proposed changes would include an increase in tap fees for new construction. For example, a three-quarter-inch tap fee is currently \$9,000 and would go up to \$19,440, a 116 percent increase. Tharnish said the Lake of the Rockies development under construction now, which will include about 156 total homes eventually, would get the opportunity to purchase 50 taps in advance at the 2015 rate.

Tharnish and Koger said the proposed increase in water rates is comparable to other water utilities of similar size and structure such as Triview Metro District, Colorado Springs Utilities, Donala Water and Sanitation District, Woodmen Hills Metro District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. The range for comparable districts’ monthly rates was between \$35 and \$80 a month, according to the data Forsgren Associates gathered from their websites. Trustee Kelly Elliott asked that Tharnish double-check the figures listed in the chart for comparable districts, because the Triview number seemed incorrect.

No citizens presented public comment on the issue. Tharnish said Monument’s water bills referred residents to the town website for information, but it was not published in the newspaper, he said. He asked the board for direction before presenting this issue at the next Board of Trustees meeting. However, several trustees and Lowe asked for more time to evaluate the proposal before Lowe makes his recommendation and the trustees vote on it. The exact date for the vote was not determined. The proposed rates, if approved by the board, would take effect as soon as Jan. 1, 2016.

If approved, the rates and fees increase would cover operations and maintenance but not any purchases of

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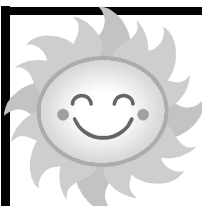
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new water sources. If a new well were needed to augment groundwater production before reuse and renewable surface water sources could be procured, it would cost over \$1.25 million, Tharnish said.

Water reuse study change in scope

The trustees approved a resolution approving the use of additional 2A Water ASD funding to support an amendment to the project agreement approved originally in October 2014 for a local reuse feasibility study for a potential new water source for the Town of Monument. The 2A fund was established by the voters in 2005 for the acquisition, storage, and delivery of any newly acquired water and water rights.

The water reuse study would help the town extend the life its non-renewable groundwater sources, which are wells drilled into the aquifers, said Koger. Water reuse would involve building new infrastructure to divert the town's proportional effluent flows, discharged into Monument Creek from the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF), to a new water treatment plant. Note: The water quality of the treated effluent discharged by the TLWWTF is higher than the ambient Monument Creek stream water quality it is mixed with. Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District already withdraws and pumps Monument Creek surface water from a point upstream of the TLWWTF discharge pipe location to Lake Woodmoor.

The \$46,000 Regional Water Reclamation Facility Concept Study water reuse study was done by Tetra Tech in July 2014, the trustees approved it in October 2014, and it initially included Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District and Donala Water and Sanitation District. On Oct. 8, an additional \$13,400 from the 2A Water ASD fund was added to the scope, which was modified to include a review on how the town's water reuse planning could be integrated with a proposed regional water infrastructure system.

Trustees Jeff Bornstein and Tooley asked why it was time for another study without any concrete action plan associated with it. Koger reminded the trustees that two waterline looping projects identified in the water master plan have been completed recently. Tharnish and Koger explained that the reuse study would determine the hy-

draulic and logistically feasibility, costs, regulatory hurdles, and a road map for implementation. All that would be required before the next phase, which would be more expensive and would involve engineering design and construction details.

The resolution was approved 6-1, with Bornstein voting no.

Park and ride maintenance approved

The trustees unanimously approved a resolution approving a contract between the town of Monument and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) agreeing that the town would do "minimum maintenance" on the Bustang park and ride lot on Woodmoor Drive, which is in El Paso County, not inside the town boundaries. Minimal maintenance will include trash pickup, sidewalk sweeping, and weed removal but not street sweeping or snow removal. Pamela Smith, who has been negotiating with CDOT, explained that CDOT hopes to enlist the aid of El Paso County for the snow removal work.

Pamela Smith and Tharnish said that the park and ride agreement is not a formal or legal arrangement with

CDOT making any promises about the town being able to move the Wagon Gap Trail bulk fill water station to a new CDOT location between Conoco and Safeway. However, they hope that by agreeing to take over minimal maintenance of the park and ride, CDOT will finish issuing the needed permit to the town so the bulk fill water station can be moved out of the neighborhood where it has generated so much controversy. Forsgren Associates is already handling the engineering, and Koger said he thought the bulk fill station might be operating in the new location by late

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spring or early summer 2016.

2016 draft budget

Smith presented the trustees with the first version of a 2016 draft budget. Since there were so many "preliminary" figures in this version, the trustees did not discuss the details.



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They did request a public budget workshop with Smith and Lowe soon so they could ask detailed questions about it.

The final budget will be presented at the Dec. 7 Board of Trustees meeting. The public is welcome to inspect the preliminary budget before then by visiting the Town Hall or by contacting Pamela Smith, interim town treasurer, at (719) 884-8045 or psmith@tomgov.org.

Checks over \$5,000

The trustees unanimously approved the following disbursements over \$5,000 as part of the consent agenda:

- Forsgren Associates Inc., Distribution line R&M –\$6,504
- Forsgren Associates Inc., Water Rates Study – \$7,913
- Martin Marietta Materials, 1.5-inch overlay on Beacon Lite Road by Town Hall and Jackson Creek Parkway between Higby Road and YMCA –\$43,644
- CIRSA Insurance, fourth-quarter workers comp – \$14,238
- CIRSA Insurance, fourth-quarter liability insurance – \$23,920
- Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, fourth-quarter installment of Chamber support – \$5,000

Williams saves the day

Mayor Rafael Dominguez read a thank-you letter from a stranded motorist who had been assisted by Town Gardener Sharon Williams. She used water from the tank on her

town gardening ATV to prevent the overheated brakes on the man's truck from catching fire, and then she directed him to follow her as she drove to the nearest repair shop. "She didn't judge me even though I was wearing tattoos and camo. She was a magnificent heaven-sent angel," the motorist wrote. Dominguez asked the trustees to approve an increase in Williams' water allowance, and the audience applauded the suggestion.

Executive session

Before the executive session, Interim Town Treasurer Pamela Smith asked if she would be permitted to attend the executive session. Town Attorney Gary Shupp said it was up to the board. Trustee Jeff Smith said he thought it would be inappropriate, and there was no other discussion. At 8:45 p.m., the board went into executive session for negotiations, instructing negotiators, and determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations.

After the meeting, Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman informed OCN that the board decided to delay a decision on the town treasurer contract with Pamela Smith until the next regular board meeting on Oct. 19.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Mon. Planning Commission (Cont. from p1)

Jackson Creek Market Village Lot 3A Final Plat

In regards to the Jackson Creek Market Village Lot 3A Final Plat, this proposal is dealing once again with the plot of land along Baptist Road, across the street from King Soopers. Lot 3A is intended to be developed by a dentist's office, a restaurant, and one as yet undetermined commercial establishment. Access from Baptist Road will provide a ramp for easier pedestrian access.

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John Dick motioned for approval with the condition of a future Final PD Site Plan being provided. Michelle Glover seconded, and this proposal passed unanimously.

Monument Heights Rezoning and Final PD Sketch Plan

The Monument Heights Rezoning and Final PD Sketch Plan garnered a bit more discussion from both commissioners and citizens. Under the proposed rezoning, 87.97 acres of land would change from Planned Commercial Development to Planned Residential Development should this rezoning effort succeed, with 44.140 of those acres adjacent to the west side of Jackson Creek Parkway and 39.837 acres adjacent to the east side, between Highway 105 and Bowstring Road. This property is located less than a mile from downtown Monument. The PD sketch plan proposes that 620 dwellings would be built on this property, including apartments, townhouses and duplexes, intended to be in more generally affordable price ranges than much of Monument.

Representatives of Pinetree Properties were present at the meeting, where they explained the company's belief that this property will prove more lucrative if used for housing. The land has been zoned for industrial use since 1980, and Pinetree Properties suggests that it might not have sold due to being somewhat difficult to see from the highway.

Buffers would be constructed along I-25 to further separate these homes from the busy roads, and an elementary school would be built to accommodate the increase in potential students. The children from this new residential development would have gone to Bear Creek Elementary were there enough room, but as there isn't developers have offered the school district choice of lots

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on either side of Jackson Creek Parkway to build a new institution. The applicant prefers to look at this arrangement as an opportunity to ask the district what they could use for a new school. When asked if the applicant was offering any land options that would suit the school district's needs, the district's representative answered, "Absolutely."

A handful of neighborhood meetings have already been held to discuss plans for Monument Heights. Special care has been taken to address citizen concerns following said meetings, including shifting density in the southeast of the development. Citizens expressed gratitude for the developers' willingness to communicate and respond to public concerns.

On that note, concerns discussed at Oct. 14's meeting included questions about how traffic might increase with the arrival of a new housing development, which could lead to the widening of Jackson Creek Parkway, as well as musings about whether such homes would be in-demand so close to the highway. People are also worried about Monument losing its charm, in time, and becoming something of a "suburban sprawl."

Commissioner Locke remarked that these homes might be too close together for his preference and would not provide each resident enough land or separation from their neighbors, to which Commissioner Dick replied that most Americans cannot afford to pay for large lots and providing affordable housing is important for a town. Commissioner Dick also said that it could be what Monument most needs is more people to support local businesses.

This motion passed 5-2, with Jim Fitzpatrick and Locke voting against.

Creoside Commercial Tractor Supply Company Final Plat and Final PD Site Plan

The proposed Tractor Supply Co. in the Creoside Commercial development would be on 6.17 acres of land, built to mesh well with nearby venues. It would be located southeast of the intersection of Jackson Creek Parkway and Leather Chaps Drive.

The project's Final Plat passed unanimously, and the Final PD Site Plan passed 6-1 with Glover voting against because she was unsure how many Monument residents knew about the coming proposal. She also expressed concern about potential commercial traffic—delivery trucks—driving through residential roads.

The landowner behind this project is Creoside Developers Inc., and the architect/engineer involved is HSC Monument LLC.

Jackson Creek Self-Storage Final Plat and Final PD Site Plan

The Jackson Creek Self-Storage Final Plat and Final PD Site Plan both concern 6.6968 acres of land directly to the north of the Vistas at Jackson Creek multifam-

ily development. The Jackson Creek Self-Storage proposal is represented by (landowner) Jackson Creek Land Co. LLC, and (architect/engineer) CSI Development LLC. Should these motions prove successful, Harness Road would be constructed to 10 feet past the storage facility entrance, with a second access point provided for the Vistas housing development as well.

This self-storage facility is intended to provide more than the stereotypical storage unit experience, representatives say. The development would be composed of five storage buildings broken up with land-

scaping and stucco ornamentation, complete with low ambient landscape lighting. Sample units would be provided, as well as a leasing office and a 65-by-335-foot RV canopy. The storage portion of the property would be gated, and both the storage units and the RV canopy would be enclosed.

While the leasing building is intended to remain open 9 to 5 most days, with shortened hours on weekends, the storage units could be accessed 24-7 by people that own a unit. Commissioner David Gwisdalla recommended enforcing a separate code for apartment access. Another concern ex-



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Seating availability is limited, so if you would like to attend, or for more information, please RSVP to Madeline at the Town of Monument not later than Friday, November 13 by calling (719) 963-1524.

More information is also available at:
www.TriLakesHAP.org/CCT

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pressed involved the placement of the waste disposal unit, proving a bit difficult for big RVs to reach.

Both the Final Plat and the Final PD Site Plan for the self-storage development were approved unanimously.

Other business

Over 30 citizens were in atten-

dance at this meeting, and public comment was varied and passionate. One citizen in particular wanted to call attention to the Grow Smart Monument Facebook group, a gathering space for concerned residents dedicated to helping direct the future of Monument's development. Grow Smart Monument is particularly concerned with Monument's open and recreational spaces.

A new planner, Katherine Brady, was also introduced at this meeting. The new planning director, Larry Manning, used to work in Cheyenne and was scheduled to begin work in the Town of Monument soon after this this meeting took place.

The next Monument Planning

Commission meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12 at 645 Beacon Lite Rd. Meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month. Information: 884-8017 or <http://www.townofmonument.org/meetings/>

Kate Pangelinan can be reached at katepangelinan@ocn.me

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Monument Board of Trustees, Oct. 19

New planning director, BRRTA bond, and Grow Smart group

By Lisa Hatfield

The Oct. 19 Monument Board of Trustees meeting included a welcome to the new principal planner, good news about the BRRTA bond, notice of a new citizens group, and information about the Monument Cemetery.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jeff Kaiser and Trustee Kelly Elliot were ab-

sent.

New principal planner welcomed

Mayor Rafael Dominguez and Town Manager Chris Lowe introduced new town principal planner Larry Manning to his first Monument Board of Trustees meeting. Lowe said now the town is fully staffed again. Man-

ning has worked with the cities of Cripple Creek, Manitou Springs, and most recently Gillette, Wyo.

Lowe said he is also still getting acquainted with the lay of the land in Monument and meeting with department heads and the trustees one by one to share ideas. For communication with the trustees, he sent out Friday Night Highlights with information from each department.

CDOT will pay entire BRRTA bond

Dominguez said that he received an email from the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments announcing that the outstanding Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority (BRRTA) bond will be fully paid off by the Colorado Department of Transportation. He did not announce a date or an exact payout amount. When the bond is paid off, the 1 percent sales tax on businesses within BRRTA will be repealed. See www.ocn.me/v15n8.htm#brtta0729 and the upcoming BRRTA article in the December issue of *Our Community News* for details.

Grow Smart Monument citizens group

El Paso County resident Allison Catalano introduced a citizens group she has formed called Grow Smart Monument. It is a volunteer group dedicated to preserving Tri-Lakes area open space and trails, recreational opportunities, natural resources, and community character. She wants to increase governmental communication with people about upcoming development, including water availability, schools, and the police force. And she wants the group to collaborate with developers and civic organizations in "creating a path to smart growth in our beautiful town and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area." Some of the group's goals include:

- Create a community sports complex with cooperation of the town, the county, and various state agencies.
- Help give input to the Monument Comprehensive Plan, which will be updated soon.
- Ask both town and county representatives to explain the transportation plan for the Tri-Lakes area, water issues related to additional homes and businesses, and other issues related to schools and police.

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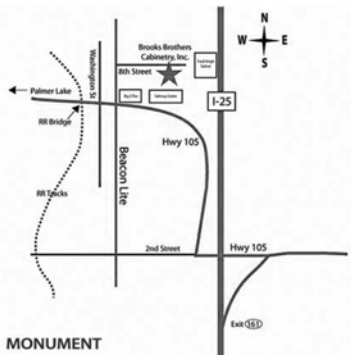
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Above: Allison Catalano told the trustees about a new volunteer group called Grow Smart Monument, which is dedicated to preserving Tri-Lakes area open space and trails, recreational opportunities, natural resources, and community character. She is shown here speaking with citizens after the Oct. 19 Monument Board of Trustees meeting. For more information, join the Grow Smart Monument group on Facebook. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

For more information or to participate, see Grow Smart Monument’s Facebook group. Catalano and Trustee Jeff Bornstein asked about the possibility of enacting a moratorium on development until the Monument comprehensive plan is updated. Town Attorney Gary Shupp said it might be possible, but only for a very limited time under specific circumstances so the town did not get into a reverse condemnation situation. Bornstein said then it would be important not to have land use issues coming in “at the last minute and under lots of pressure.”

Monument Cemetery help needed

Trustee John Howe explained how he and several other volunteers have been working with historic documents in an attempt to find the names of “Unknown” people buried in the cemetery. In the early 1900s, some people who died in one of two major train wrecks or the influenza epidemic were buried without headstones. He said there are 189 “Unknowns” now, many discovered with ground-penetrating radar “done years ago,” and the temporary plaster grave markers made more recently are crumbling and being covered with dirt and grass. Howe and his co-volunteers have found a way to have new “Unknown” granite markers with concrete bases made for \$17 each, but for 189 of them, “that’s a lot of money.” Any person or group who would like to help with this project can contact him at JHowe@tomgov.org or call the town at (719) 884-8017.

Financial report

Interim Treasurer Pamela Smith’s report noted that sales tax revenues earned through August were 5 percent over budget, and were also slightly ahead of sales tax collected by same time in 2014.

Checks over \$5,000

- Triview Metro District, sales tax – \$167,276
 - Triview Metro District, annual property tax assessment – \$183,440
- All were accepted unanimously as part of the consent agenda. At 7:17 p.m., the meeting went into executive session for developing strategy for negotiations, instructing negotiators, and determining positions relative to mat-

ters that may be subject to negotiations. Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman told OCN that Pamela Smith’s new town manager contract was approved during the executive session and she would be sworn in again as town treasurer at the Nov. 2 meeting.

After the meeting, Rachel Beck, Policy and Communication manager, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, shared a Colorado Department of Transportation memo with OCN. On Oct. 1, Ajin Hu, acting regional transportation director, requested that the Colorado Transportation Commission use \$11.43 million of Transportation contingency funds to reimburse the Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority for the remaining construction cost on the I-25/Baptist Road interchange.

The Monument Board of Trustees usually meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third

Mondays of each month at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 16. Call 884-8017 or see www.townofmonument.org to see upcoming meeting agendas. Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

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November 2015



CSMA 2015 Adviser of the Year

Carrie Hendrix, Lewis-Palmer High School Westwind yearbook adviser, was named Colorado Student Media Association Adviser of the Year 2015 on October 8. This award complements numerous awards and recognitions she and her staff have received over her thirteen years of supervising the yearbook at LPHS. They have won 2 national awards (the 2011 Silver Crown awarded by Columbia Scholastic Journalism Association, Columbia University and the 2014 Pacemaker awarded by National Scholastic Journalism Association), the State Level All-Colorado Award 5 years in a row, and made the All-American critique list 2 times (with marks of distinction in photography, design, concept, writing). “The awards are impressive,” according to LPHS principal Sandi Brandl, “but, I know they are not Carrie’s true motivation. Her daily efforts, her countless hours in the summer and after school are done because she believes that all students who want to learn should be given that opportunity.” Students and parents praise the opportunities Hendrix offers. Riley Bircham, Co-Editor in Chief of the LPHS yearbook, says of Mrs. Hendrix, “She has taught me to embrace the moment, to learn something new about myself every single day,” and Riley’s mother Quinn shares that Riley’s “increased self-confidence and task-oriented work ethic are a direct result of Carrie’s influence.” Carrie is completely overwhelmed by this honor and gives credit to her students, “My editors and staffers are the true stars of the program. They are the ones that amaze me every day with their hard work and dedication. It warms my heart to hear that one my students loves journalism and wants to continue to study it in college. My job is to simply give them a platform for their student voices and teach them the skills they need to be successful. The rest they do on their own... and I just sit back and smile.” Evidently, Carrie Hendrix knows a thing or two about assisting students as they create quality, award-winning yearbooks.

November is Showtime

It is theatre season in District 38. In November, both Palmer Ridge and Lewis-Palmer high schools present their school musicals. Josh Belk began his LPSD run at LPHS and now serves as the theatre teacher at PRHS. He joined the PRHS staff when the school opened in 2008. When contemplating a school year, Belk chooses a theme to influence his teaching and his choice of shows to produce. The 2015-2016 theme is “finding our place.” Belk further explains, “I try to produce a variety of shows, so that we are not always doing the same thing. I want to expose the students and audience to different styles and looks of shows.” LPSD has a strong history of great student productions. Teachers such as Belk contribute to this legacy. Stage Directions Magazine named Belk and the PRHS theatre program as the 2015 Southwest winner of High School Honors for theatre programs in their November edition. One of Belk’s favorite moments occurred during the 2010 production of Seussical. He shares that it was during this season that he first observed his students “come together as a completely cohesive group rather than a bunch of kids that happen to be doing things together. Actors and technicians and orchestra were all Bear Necessity, rather than groups inhabiting the same space.” Creating places for students to connect happens daily across LPSD. Theatre productions are one of the many extra-curricular activities available to District 38 students. When students are involved, they feel a sense of belonging.



**Upcoming Events**

November 5	LPHS/PRHS Career Awareness Event
November 5-7	PRHS Musical: Oliver
November 9	pK-6 Grades: No Classes
November 11	Veteran’s Day
November 12-14	LPHS Musical: Urinetown
November 23-27	District Closed

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Oct. 8

Board hears presentation on improving water quality in lake

By James Howald

At the meeting on Oct. 8, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board heard a presentation from SePRO Corp. on improving water quality in Lake Woodmoor, clarified a tap policy, and heard reports from water district personnel.

SePRO proposes proactive management of Lake Woodmoor water quality

Andrew Skibo of SePRO spoke to the board concerning the work his company has been doing to control water weeds, especially elodea and coontail, in Lake Woodmoor. According to Skibo, application of Sonar, an aquatic herbicide, has greatly reduced the amount of elodea and coontail in the lake. Reducing the weeds in the lake helps to prevent clogged intakes to the water processing plant, Skibo said.

Skibo also outlined lake management practices he argued will improve the safety and taste of the water in Lake Woodmoor. Implementing these practices will save the district money by reducing the amount of well water the district must add to water from Lake Woodmoor to improve its taste and odor and would be cheaper than processing the water with ozone at the treatment plant, Skibo said. The process should be to set a threshold for action, make regular measurements of the lake water, and take action before customers report problems, Skibo said.

According to Skibo, the blue green algae present in the lake can produce poisonous cyanotoxin. Although that

is not happening at present, it is a potential danger, Skibo said.

Geosmin, an organic compound with an earthy unpleasant taste and smell, is also present in water from Lake Woodmoor, and is the cause of some complaints from the district's customers, especially in late summer, Skibo said. Water from 20 feet below the surface of the lake has higher levels of geosmin, according to Skibo.

To address these issues, Skibo recommended treating the water below 20 feet several times a year with PAK 27, an OMRI-certified organic algicide. The treatments would cost about \$27,000 annually, Skibo said.

In addition to the algicide, Skibo recommended the installation of an aeration system, which would help circulate water from the bottom to the top of the lake and slow the growth of algae. The aeration system would cost between \$64,000 and \$70,000 to install, depending on the number of diffusers used, Skibo said.

After Skibo's presentation to the board, District Manager Jessie Shaffer shared his thoughts about the value of ozonation at the water treatment plant. Even if the quality of the water in the lake is improved through better management, ozonation provides a final guarantee of safety and acceptable taste, Shaffer said.

Board clarifies policy on taps

Shaffer asked board members for their thoughts on an issue related to detached garages that was not completely clear in the existing rules and regulations. A builder working on the plans for a detached garage asked Shaffer if a mop sink could be included in the garage, and connected to the existing water and sewer service lines already in place for the main residence on the lot rather than to the water and sewer main lines. This would allow the owner to avoid a second tap fee, Shaffer said.

President Barrie Town said this has been done in the past, and that he did not see a problem as long as all lines were connected according to regulations.

Problem with well filter noted

In the Operations portion of the manager's reports, Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette described a problem with the filter in Well 11. The presence of sand, possibly from a crack in the well casing, is causing differential pressure problems with the filter, Gillette said.

The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 12. Meetings are usually held at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. See www.woodmoorwater.com or call 488-2525 to verify meeting times.

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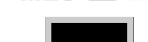
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Triview Metropolitan District, Oct. 13

Residents speak up again about maintenance; new well goes online

By Lisa Hatfield

The Triview Metro District directors listened to public comments about landscaping maintenance, accepted a resident's offer to help create a landscaping maintenance template, and approved a revised road repair contract and new Neighborhood Watch at the Oct. 13 meeting.

New well online

District Manager Valerie Remington said that the new D-4 well was online as of Oct. 7. It took 1 1/2 years from start to finish, Vice President Reid Bolander said.

Landscaping maintenance discussed again

Five residents of Triview spoke to the directors with concerns about the common areas that Triview maintains, including complaints about lack of irrigation of turf grass, lack of regular mowing, weeds as big as shrubs, and a lack of responsiveness from the staff when they have contacted the district. Their comments included:

- Anthony Sexton: I am not getting the service I am paying for in property taxes.
- Terry Heiser: You accepted Promontory Pointe Phase 3 and Phase 4 from Classic Homes, but it is a dump. You shouldn't have accepted it until Classic cleaned it up.
- Shanna Corum: They sprayed the weeds and it killed my grass, all along the sidewalk. Who will fix it? I want a commitment in writing.

President Robert Fisher told the residents, "We do care." He said that over the years, landscaping and overall appearance has been a frequent conversation and that the board would take action and give them feedback. Note: Maintenance issues have been an ongoing theme at Triview meetings. See www.ocn.me/v6n1.htm#tmd, www.ocn.me/v12n8.htm#tmd0710 or search www.ocn.me.

Fisher said that in 2016, the district will use a landscape and maintenance plan for grass fertilizing, individual irrigation sprinkler system activation, etc. and that the board would assess this quarterly to make sure it was followed.

District resident Anthony Sexton volunteered his time and expertise as a landscaping business owner to help the district come up with a plan for scheduled landscaping maintenance, staffing, equipment, supervision, and accountability. The consensus was that Sexton

would work with Director Bob Eskridge to create a template with prioritized baseline plans for each month. Note: Eskridge has served on the Triview Board of Directors for many years, include serving terms as board president and secretary/treasurer.

Fisher reminded the residents that there are funding issues too, since the district has about \$55 million of outstanding debt. "It's a juggling game," he said. "I don't know about next year's staffing, but I hope to improve that problem next year."

Remington reported that the parks and landscape expenses were well below budget as of the end of August, at 52 percent instead of 66 percent budgeted. Bolander asked why the district had not spent what it budgeted, especially considering all the comments from residents on landscaping maintenance. She said several projects were not done this year when she could not find people to hire to complete them. Director Mark Melville asked why subcontractors were not hired to complete those projects, and Remington said they didn't attempt to do that this year.

Remington said that a sprinkler controller had broken at Promontory Pointe Park in August, and the district was still trying to get the warranty repair done. Meanwhile sprinklers were turned on manually in August and September. In October all irrigation systems were turned off.

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Remington said that improvements will be made to the drainage channel that crosses under Agate Creek Drive south of Walter Creek Drive so that it can handle the concentrated flow of water being fun-

neled from the upper detention pond in Promontory Pointe.

She said that the president of Classic Homes said it will take care of the upper and middle detention pond repairs needed,

with some costs shared with Triview.

Checks over \$5,000

On Sept. 8, the directors had approved a \$27,000 (50 percent) down payment for asphalt repairs to be done by John R. Hurley Asphalt LLC. Remington told the board that there was a mistake in that estimate due to a miscommunication, and the actual total cost would be \$52,242 more than what was first quoted, for a total of \$104,484. The directors unanimously approved the revised contract amount. The \$27,000 check was never issued, and so a new \$52,242 check down payment was issued in October, Remington told OCN after the meeting.

Pete Knapstein from A Green Image spoke to the board about the fertilizer and weed control application his company performed over the summer. Fisher said the greenbelt areas they treated had turned brown. Knapstein said he had not been informed until early October that there was a problem and that his work was guaranteed. A tense discussion resulted in Fisher telling him to leave the meeting. The check for \$7,165 to A Green Image was pulled for the second month in a row.

These items were approved unanimously:

- Wildcat construction, I-25 potable crossing –\$15,507
- ORC Water Professionals Inc., contract O&M – \$5,500
- Triview’s share of third-quarter expenses for Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility – \$100,968 quarterly
- John R. Hurley Asphalt LLC, down payment for road repairs – \$52,242

Neighborhood Watch signs approved

A representative of the newly formed Promontory Pointe Neighborhood Watch group asked the board for permission to post two Neighborhood Watch signs on existing signposts. She said the group has its gotten initial training from Monument Police Community Resource Officer Bob Steine. The board unanimously approved the request.

For information on starting a program in your neighborhood within the

Monument town limits, see www.townof-monument.org/departments/neighborhood-watch/. (In El Paso County, see shrp.elpasoco.com/sections-law-enforcement-bureau/patrol-division/neighborhood-watch-program).

2016 budget discussion

The directors scheduled a work session to review the details of the preliminary 2016 district budget on Oct. 21.

Water and sanitation notes

Remington’s report said that for August, Triview contributed 41.9 percent of the total influent to the Upper Monument Creek facility. Donala contributed 58 percent, and Forest Lakes contributed zero. The total monthly operations and maintenance expenses were divided proportionally. Remington said as Forest Lakes development grows, the percentages for operations and maintenance will change.

Remington’s August water usage report noted that average water usage for 1,420 metered accounts, of which 1,330 were residential three-fourths-inch taps, was 22,500 gallons per month with an average charge of \$110.

At 6:54 p.m., the meeting went into executive session to confer with the district’s attorney regarding legal advice on specific legal questions. Remington said they did not plan to make any announcements after the session.

Triview Metropolitan District board meetings are normally held the second Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. at 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 300. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 10. Information: 488-6868 or see www.colorado.gov/triview-metro.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.


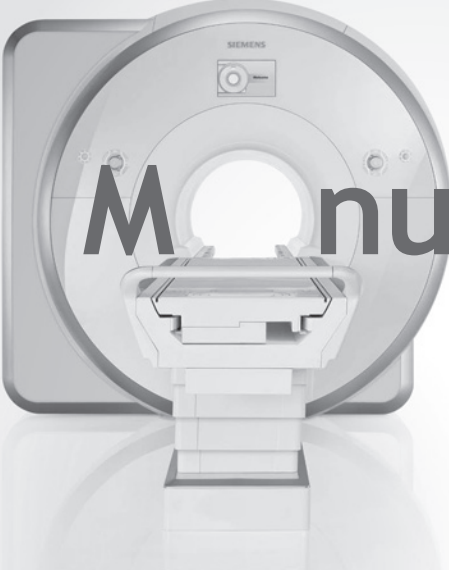
Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, Oct. 13

Phosphorus levels and monitoring schedule discussed

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Oct. 13 Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Coordinating Committee (JUC) meeting, the members discussed differences in phosphorus levels among the influent from the three owner districts and how and why to monitor those levels accurately. They heard from engineering consultant firm Tetra Tech about progress on construction of the new total phosphorus tertiary chemical treatment clarifier expansion and approved using contingency funds from the clarifier construction budget to add an emergency electrical generator to meet the fire marshal’s requirement before the final building permit could be issued.


Treasurer Don Smith represented Monument Sanitation District, along with District Manager Mike Wicklund. Board member Joe Stallsmith filled in for Palmer Lake Sanitation District Secretary/Treasurer Ken Smith, and was joined by District Manager Becky Orcutt. Director at Large Rich Strom represented Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, along with District Manager Jessie Shaffer. Other representatives of the three districts also



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attended.

TLWWTF operates as a separate public utility and is jointly owned, in equal one-third shares, by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD). The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one member from each of the three owner districts' boards.

Background: The \$3.42 million construction costs for the new total phosphorus tertiary chemical treatment clarifier expansion and supporting infrastructure are being shared this way: MSD—19.79 percent, PLSD—33.33 percent, and WWSD—46.88 percent. These percentages are the subject of a pending lawsuit that WWSD has filed against MSD and PLSD over how the cost of construction will be shared.

WWSD's position is that these costs should be divided by thirds.

PLSD had originally agreed to pay a third of the costs.

MSD's position is that each district should pay the same percentage of the cost of this expansion according to the amount of currently owned treatment capacity for flows and biosolid wastes in accordance with TLWWTF's Joint Use of Facilities Agreement (JUA) rules for treatment constituent expansions: WWSD—64.28 percent, MSD—19.79 percent, and PLSD—15.93 percent.

MSD's position is also that each district should own those same percentages of the new chemical total phosphorus treatment capacity that is being created with new equipment in accordance with the Tri-Lakes JUA rules for treatment constituent expansions and that district reimbursements from the \$1 million state nutrient design and construction grant should also be divided by these same percentages. See www.ocn.me/v15n5.htm#tlfjuc0414 and www.ocn.me/v15n2.htm#tlfjuc0113 for additional background.

Phosphorus levels high; testing schedule discussed

Facility Manager Bill Burks reported the August total phosphorus influent test result from each district into the TLWWTF. The total phosphorus concentration (mg/l) and pounds per day (ppd) for MSD for August were almost twice as high as in previous months this year, Burks said. Flow in millions of gallons per day (MGD), total phosphorus concentration (mg/l), pounds per day (loading) and percent of phosphorus contribution for August were:

- MSD — .207 MGD, 34.0 mg/l, 58.7 ppd, 51 percent
- PLSD — .225 MGD, 6.8 mg/l, 12.8 ppd, 11 percent
- WWSD — .876 MGD, 8.8 and 4.0 mg/l (North and South Woodmoor), 43.4 ppd, 38 percent

Wicklund said Monument's numbers since January had been high, and he planned to talk to industrial and commercial businesses in MSD about "best practices" that reduce the amount of phosphorus they contributed to the wastewater influent into the plant.

The August MSD numbers, which were higher than expected, generated a

discussion about the current once-a-month phosphorus test. Wicklund said the JUC had anticipated that phosphorus levels would track with each district's pounds of influent biosolids and would eventually use those biosolids numbers for billing on phosphorus treatment too, but since indications were that total phosphorus was not tracking with biosolids, testing more than once a month was needed. He said that the increased cost of testing would be worth it to make phosphorus operational cost sharing fair. He asked the JUC to approve phosphorus testing at same frequency as biosolids testing, which is done 12 times a month.

Wicklund said the MSD board had discussed the fact that more frequent phosphorus testing would reduce the possibility of an outlier reading incorrectly representing the whole month's levels for any one of the three districts. One composite sample in one day might not be representative of the district's influent wastewater for the whole month, he said.

He anticipated that cost sharing for chemicals and electricity used in new total phosphorus tertiary chemical treatment clarifier currently scheduled to start next summer would be based on the phosphorus testing for each district. The cost of operating the new phosphorus treatment clarifier next year would be far larger than the small costs of sampling and testing, he said. "Does Palmer Lake want to pay a third of the chemical costs for this when it's only contributing 14 percent? We have to do something to make the billing fair for each district.... We are not just going to be splitting the costs of operating that phosphorus treatment by thirds," Wick-

lund said.

Shaffer disagreed with Wicklund, saying that a single data point should not result in spending so much extra money on testing immediately. He also said that the current phosphorus monitoring was supposed to just be an indicator, not a way to assess future operating costs or split-outs on capacity.

Burks said that the issue of billing for chemicals and electricity for phosphorus removal had not yet been discussed or decided by the JUC.

Shaffer said it was premature to talk about billing now, and that it would be decided when differences between the member districts were settled in January or February, after the lawsuit was over.

Wicklund disagreed that the billing question would be solved by the lawsuit, since those results would determine ownership percentage in paying for construction of the new total phosphorus tertiary chemical treatment clarifier. The lawsuit did not have anything to do with operating costs, such as treatment issues, which are addressed in the Joint Use Agreement, he said.

Burks suggested that once the phosphorus removal process actually begins next May, sampling of actual amounts will automatically occur three times a week. The committee voted unanimously to continue testing phosphorus levels once a month for now, but once the clarifier starts operating, the testing will be done more frequently.

Construction going smoothly

Tetra Tech engineer Steve Tamburini presented a report on progress by Aslan Corp. on the new total phosphorus tertiary chemical treatment clarifier. The total budget for the project is \$3.642 million, and construction was progressing on or ahead of schedule for the first five months of work, Tamburini said.

Note: The existing TLWWTF has no designed capability for removing total phosphorus, because there was not a requirement for treating this constituent until the state's approval of Health Department Control Regulation 85 in June 2012. The facility already meets the Control Regulation 85 total inorganic nitrogen (TIN) November 2019 limit of 15 mg/l. TLWWTF must comply with the new 1 mg/l running annual median total phosphorus limit listed in Control Regulation 85 starting on Nov. 1, 2019 under the facility's new five-year discharge permit that took effect on May 1. The new phosphorus treatment clarifier is designed to comply with this TIN limit and will start compliance testing in mid-2016.

Tamburini said construction so far has proceeded with a temporary building permit, which will expire soon. The final building permit will not be issued by the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department until the plans include a backup electrical generator for the ventilation and temperature control in the chemical storage area, which is classified H4 since it stores large amounts of non-flammable chemicals commonly used in both water and sanita-

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tion treatment plants, he said.

Tamburini said Tetra Tech had never before had to include these emergency backup components in an H4 building, so the \$35,000 to \$50,000 total estimated cost was not included in the original estimates for the clarifier building. This unprecedented requirement came from the fire marshals of both the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) and Colorado Springs Fire Department. Burks, Tamburini, and Tetra Tech Environmental Engineer Dmitriy Zinchenko met recently with both fire marshals to present scien-

tific data showing that the requirement for emergency power for ventilation was not necessary and not listed in the fire code book. However, TLMFPD had a separate version of the fire code book "with comments" that required the emergency generator, Burks said.

The JUC unanimously authorized Tetra Tech to use money from the 10 percent project contingency funds to proceed with the engineering design using the lowest-cost solution that would satisfy the fire marshals. The design will be used by Aslan for the construction of this section.

Smith and Wicklund both asked Tamburini why this unexpected cost did not show up sooner in the building permit pulling process. Tamburini said the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department was the most bureaucratic building department his company has worked with, adding that Regional was used to dealing with commercial and housing developments, but not industrial buildings.

Plant manager's report

Burks said the plant averaged processing 1.32 million gallons of wastewater per day in August. Plant capacity is 4.2 million gallons per day. Influent flow was 31 percent of capacity, and biosolids were 46 percent of capacity, he said.

He summarized the facility's discharge monitoring report required by the state for August effluent discharge into Monument Creek and said all parameters were easily within permit limits.

TLWWTF also continues to take an array of other samples for the ongoing Arkansas and Fountain Coalition for Rural/Urban River Evaluation (AF CURE) Monument Creek and Fountain Creek basin baseline characterization study for future reference by TLWWTF, the state, and the EPA regarding these wastewater constituents.

Burks also said that the Oct. 1 inspection report from the Water Quality Control Division reported no significant issues.

The committee was glad to hear that TLWWTF had passed the quarterly required whole effluent toxicity (WET) tests showing that fish and wetlands macro-invertebrates can reproduce in the facility's treated effluent being discharged into Monument Creek.

Financial reports

Burks presented the financial statements as of Sept. 30, which were unanimously approved by the board.

Wicklund said that state grant money is not usually given to ongoing projects like the new total phosphorus tertiary chemical treatment clarifier expansion, but he suggested that since the building has a

compliance schedule, the JUC might look into whether TLWWTF might be eligible to apply for a current state grant worth up to \$850,000. The consensus was to check into it.

2016 draft budget discussed

Burks presented a few modifications to the 2016 draft budget under consideration. One item of discussion was how each district should budget for the costs of chemicals for the total phosphorus tertiary chemical treatment clarifier expansion when it starts operating next summer.

Stallsmith asked Burks to delay buying a new pickup truck for one year, since there could still be more unexpected costs associated with construction and compliance testing.

Burks said he would find out in a few weeks if he could reduce costs on ultra-violet (UV) disinfection treatment components and also have a more reliable system too.

Wicklund said MSD's environmental compliance coordinator Jim Kendrick was excused from the meeting to attend a Water Quality Control Commission Hearing on Regulation 85 and Regulation 31 and the intended use plan for awarding new grants from the water pollution control revolving fund and drinking water revolving fund. He will give the AF CURE report in November.

District managers' reports

Orcutt said that, after some delays, PLSD started scheduled line cleaning and video inspection of one-fifth of its sanitary sewer collection system. Shaffer and Wicklund had nothing to report.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Nov. 10 at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month and are open to the public. For information, call Bill Burks at (719) 481-4053.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

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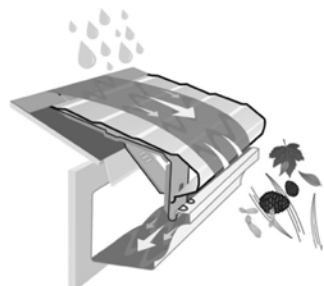
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Donala Water and Sanitation District, Oct. 15

Third electric rate increase in a year drives water rate increase

By Jim Kendrick

On Oct. 15, General Manager Kip Petersen briefed the Donala Water and Sanitation District (WSD) board on the announcement by Mountain View Electric Association that there would be a third 9 percent commercial rate increase in July 2016 following the July 2015 and January 2016 9 percent rate increases previously reported. The cumulative exponential effect of these three rate increases is a 29.5 percent rate increase from June 30, 2015 to July 1, 2016. Petersen proposed a 4 percent across-the-board increase for the tiered water use fee structure, effective Jan. 1, 2016, but no increases in the \$30 monthly wastewater rate or the \$25 monthly water service rate.

Note: Although regular meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month, the next regular meeting will not be held until Thursday, Dec. 10 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive and will include the 2016 annual budget hearing so that this approved budget can be submitted to the state by the Dec. 15 deadline. The next board meeting will be a workshop, held at 9 a.m. on Nov. 17, in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603 or www.donalawater.org.

Petersen also noted the recent increase in water sales revenue due to increased irrigation resulting from the decline in recent rainfall. In September the district produced almost 39 million gallons of billable water compared to 28 million gallons in September a year ago. Revenues to date were still 6 percent short of the amount budgeted. Expenditures for 2015 have been held to 7 percent less than budgeted, even though some high priority capital projects have been initiated. He said the other postponed projects will be added to the 2016 budget to take advantage of a low-interest state loan from the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority. Board President Bill George praised the staff's "astute financial management. Well done."

2016 draft budget presented

Some of the other factors Pe-

tersen emphasized regarding his 2016 budget proposal were:

- Colorado Springs Utilities will increase the rate it charges Donala by 4.9 percent for transporting and treating Donala's Willow Creek Ranch renewable surface water for direct distribution to Donala customers.
- Tap fee revenue from development will be significantly less than in 2015.
- Vendor rates were budgeted to increase by about 3 percent in 2016.

It is still the Donala board's goal that annual drinking water and wastewater revenue should be sufficient to pay all annual costs of drinking water and wastewater services respectively so that each operation can become self-sustaining and achieve enterprise status.

Financial reports

Petersen noted that a payment of \$6,400 had been made for Donala's share of a Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority preliminary design study on joint water storage in a common reservoir as well as exchange between these northern El Paso County water entities:

- Town of Monument
- Town of Palmer Lake
- Donala WSD
- Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District
- Triview Metropolitan District
- Forest Lakes Metro District

Total expenditures to date for the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Fa-

cility were about 17 percent less (\$223,000) than the budgeted amount for the first three quarters of 2015, while operating revenue was roughly equal to the amount budgeted through September. Petersen said that the cost of some of this year's individual repairs has been much higher than usual, and Chief Waste Plant Operator Terri Ladouceur has postponed some routine projects to have enough money left in the budget should more unexpected high-cost repairs need to be made before 2016.

Petersen stated that the 2016 budget for the waste plant would have higher contingency funding than in 2015 as well as a more comprehensive long-term equipment repair and replacement program that is being prepared by consulting engineer Roger Sams

of GMS Inc. Also, about \$20,000 will be spent on the Doral Way pipeline project before the end of the year.

Academy Water and Sanitation District waste-

water IGA approved

The Donala board unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the Donala and Academy districts to have Donala provide all wastewater service for Academy. A

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new emergency service IGA between the two districts will also be put in place to replace the current IGA.

The state has directed Academy to shut down the operation of its existing wastewater treatment lagoons by 2018 because they will not be able to meet new tighter ammonia standards nor the new total phosphorus and total nitrogen limits of the state's new Control Regulation 85 and new Regulation 31.17. The Academy board determined that it was best and cheapest to pay for a lift station force main and connection to Donala for sewer services rather than build its own very small and costly state-of-

the-art replacement wastewater treatment plant or build a much longer and much deeper interceptor line to be able to connect by gravity to the Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) wastewater treatment system at Northgate Boulevard.

A new Academy lift station will meter and pump all of Academy's sanitary sewer flows from Academy's existing collection system up over the ridge between the two districts to a Donala manhole. Academy's wastewater will then be delivered by gravity through the Donala collection system to the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. Academy will pay Donala for wastewater treatment on a monthly fee for service basis. Academy will comply with Donala sewer use and pretreatment regulations.

Academy will pay a plant investment fee of \$889,700 to Donala. Academy will not purchase any of the treatment capacity of the Upper Monument Creek waste plant. Donala will maintain 70,000 gallons per day of its total share of owned Upper Monument Creek wastewater treatment capacity for the management and treatment of wastewater delivered by Academy. Academy has 286 single-family homes and the potential for 10 additional homes. There are no commercial uses within the district.

The fees charged to Academy will be based on Donala's cost of service analysis plus 10 percent. Academy sewer customers would initially pay \$33 per month for Donala's treatment of their wastewater based on the current Donala monthly fee of \$30 for 2016.

Manager's report

Petersen said he would continue to work with Donala's water attorney Rick Fendel on negotiating an extension of the district's service contract with CSU for transportation and treatment of Donala's Willow Creek Ranch renewable surface water once operations begin for the CSU Southern Delivery System. Approval of Donala's 1041 permit for use of the SDS pipeline is currently being delayed by Pueblo County as part of the controversy between the City of Colorado Springs and Pueblo County over stormwater issues. Petersen and Fendel are also working on a long-term extension of Donala's water storage contract with the federal Bureau of Reclamation for continued storage of Donala surface water in the Pueblo Reservoir.

Petersen said that the 2015 annual season for taking credit for Willow Creek Ranch renewable surface water is over. As of Sept. 1 Donala had 439 acre-feet of water stored in the Pueblo Reservoir. Donala's maximum annual decreed withdrawal amount is 499 acre-feet.

Petersen also reviewed Donala's options if 2016 Arkansas River flows are higher than the amount Pueblo Reservoir can store, as currently predicted due to higher

than average El Niño rainfall, and there is no space available for Donala under its annual contract that only allows the district to use the reservoir's unused excess storage capacity, if and when it is available. The Pueblo Reservoir was 63 percent full on Sept. 17.

Katie Fendel, the district's water engineer, reported that the state's Water Quality Control Division would be analyzing potential changes to interim stream standards in the state's Control Regulation 85 and Basic Standards Regulation 31.17 regarding the total phosphorus and total nitrogen. On Oct. 13 at an informational hearing, the state's Water Quality Control Commission directed the division to hold a full triennial review hearing in 2016 for making modifications to these two regulations regarding imposition of even tighter nutrient restrictions.

Fendel noted that most nitrogen is absorbed naturally by the aquatic life ecosystem in Cherry Creek before flows reach the Cherry Creek Reservoir.

The commission rejected the division's original recommendation to not hold a review hearing and make no changes to the two regulations. Also noted was that the existing biological treatments for phosphorus and nitrogen removal interfere with each other.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

The next board meeting will be a workshop at 9 a.m. Nov. 17 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603 or www.donalawater.org.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Academy Water and Sanitation District, Oct. 27

May election will bring effort to eliminate TABOR limitations

By Susan Hindman

Facing TABOR restrictions on funding necessary for upcoming improvements to its wastewater system, the Academy Water and Sanitation District board approved a resolution for a ballot measure in May 2016 that will ask voters to eliminate those restrictions.

Because of Colorado's Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) amendment, problems arise when a governmental entity receives revenue such as grant money. In Academy's case, that money is needed to help cover the costs of pumping its wastewater into Donala Water and Sanitation District's system, which will transport it to the treatment plant off of Baptist Road that it co-owns with two other districts. The Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility is equipped to meet new state standards for ammonia, phosphorus, and nitrogen. Academy's current lagoon treatment system can no longer meet these standards.

Around 300 residents will be shouldering the \$3.1 million in costs, so the district will be seeking funding from state and federal sources—which would look on paper like additional revenue and trigger TABOR requirements to refund a portion of that same money to residents. Passage of the ballot measure will allow the district to keep money from those funding sources.

Attorney Paul Murphy pointed out that, according to numbers from Colorado's Department of Local Affairs, 98 percent of school districts, 81 percent of counties, and 76 percent of special districts in the state have voted to eliminate TABOR restrictions.

The board also voted to approve Donala's recent amendments to the Intergovernmental Service Agreement, which means the two districts can now move forward with

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their plans. (See the article on Donala Water and Sanitation District's Oct. 15 meeting on page 15 for more details.)

A new cost estimate worksheet for making the required changes to Academy's collection system was discussed, and the new bottom line figure was revised down from \$3.9 million to \$3.1 million. Included in that figure is \$255,600 in up-front engineering costs that must be paid for before other grant monies can even be applied for. The board

is looking into a possible loan through CoBank at 2.2 percent interest to cover those costs. Dave Frisch, of GMS, the district's engineering firm, said the bank is offering no origination fees or closing fees and can approve the loan in two weeks' time.

Residents will be looking at a \$33 increase in wastewater service fees when operations with Donala begin in 2018, so Treasurer Walt Reiss suggested that a gradual rate increase begin by 2016 and those monies set aside

in a separate account. Academy's current service fee of \$40 hasn't been raised in five years. Once operations with Donala begin, Academy will manage the monthly billing of its current customers, not Donala. It will collect all fees and then pay Donala in one lump sum each month.

The board had hoped to pass a separate resolution establishing an enterprise, which the district's engineer has encouraged for the funding opportunities it opens up; the district's auditor has recom-

mended the enterprise be effective Jan. 1 for easier bookkeeping. But a few more questions came up about the enterprise that necessitated putting off a vote for another month. Enterprise status changes the way money flows into the district's treasury to pay for the changes to the wastewater system.

The board plans to present all of this information at a town hall meeting of Pleasant View residents on Oct. 31.

Meeting date is changing
Starting in December, Academy's board meetings will move to the second Tuesday of the month, still at 6 p.m. at the Wescott Fire Station on Gleneagle Drive.

The Academy Water and Sanitation District board currently meets at 6 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at the fire station on Gleneagle and Jessie Drives. The next meeting is Nov. 24.

Susan Hindman can be reached at susanhindman@ocn.me.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Oct. 15

Board recognizes staff for statewide honor, receives Adopt D38 update

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education recognized a staff member who received a statewide honor, recognized the founder of Adopt D38, and approved budget adjustments and new teaching materials at its Oct. 15 meeting.

Recognitions

Lewis-Palmer High School Principal Sandi Brandl introduced journalism teacher Carrie Hendrix, who was recognized as the Colorado Student Media Association's Adviser of the Year for 2015. Hendrix was joined by several student members of the staff.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman introduced Georgina Gittins, who is the director of the Adopt D38 program. The program began in 2010 and offers parents and other community members a way to donate funds to the district by adopting a classroom, program, grade level, or school. During the first year, the program was tested at Bear Creek Elementary and since then has grown throughout the district. Gittins reported that 722 teachers have been adopted and nearly \$150,000 in donations have been received.

Budget adjustments approved

Wangeman reported that the student population has grown by 68.8 FTE as of the October count. She said that one contributing factor is that younger families are beginning to move into Woodmoor, accounting for 25 of those students.

Wangeman requested that \$522,909 be transferred to the account for additional staffing for students with special needs and other purposes. Although it appears that assessed valuations of district properties are rising, there is no guarantee that the state will backfill the difference when property tax revenues rise but per pupil funding does not.

Additional uses for these funds include the addition of bus routes to serve the new students, reserves in the event of a rescission later in the year, and purchase of gifted resources.

When asked how much the 50 cent per ride fee for bus use contributes, she responded that



Above: Carrie Hendrix, center, Lewis-Palmer High School journalism teacher, was named Colorado Student Media Association's Adviser of the Year. With her are, from left, Aisha Chugh, Arjun Chugh, Hannah Spivey, Riley Bircham (co-editor in chief), Kimberly Loidolt (co-editor in chief) and Kelsey Archuleta. Photo by Harriet Halbig.



Above: Georgina Gittins, director of Adopt D38, on the left, was recognized by Superintendent Karen Brofft and Board President Mark Pfoff for her achievements. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

the fee covers less than 25 percent of the cost.

Wangeman also reported that the district has received a grant to help fund wireless service at the

high school and middle school levels. Funding for wireless at the elementary schools was included in the budget as previously approved.

The board approved the adjustments as proposed.

New textbook approved

The board approved the adoption of a new textbook for use in the Palmer Ridge High School Bio-organic Chemistry course. This is an elective course. The title of the book is *Organic Chemistry* by F. Carey and R. Giuliano.

Community Partnership recognitions

Superintendent Karen Brofft recognized a number of community partners, including Penrose Hospital/Centura Health for sponsoring the district's mobile app; Security Services Federal

Credit Union for offering promotions for staff and Sky Sox tickets; the No Methadone for Monument Committee for supporting the district's efforts to defeat a methadone clinic in downtown Monument; and the Maguire family for its support of district events at Maguireville and contributions from the Overhead Door company.

Representatives of No Methadone in Monument reported that St. Peter Church and school are now also supporting the cause and that the company wishing to open the clinic has never before seen such resistance.

Superintendent update

Brofft thanked outgoing Vice President John Mann for his service of over eight years on the board and as a teacher for several years before.

Brofft commented in re-

sponse to concerns that the use of ZPass to board district buses offers a safety that outweighs concerns about data privacy. She noted an occasion when a child got off the bus in the wrong place and was able to be found quickly due to the use of the pass.

In another area of data concern, Brofft said that the district is seeking a waiver from Teaching Strategies Gold to allow the district not to include videos or photos in its evaluations. The district needs to prove that its kindergarten report cards contain the same information as that developed by TS Gold. The waiver would become active next year.

Brofft reported that she had spoken with the district's attorneys and those of the No Methadone in Monument group to determine the extent to which the district should be involved in the



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Board comments

Treasurer John Magerko thanked the District Accountability Advisory Committee for its sponsorship of candidate forums for the board election and encouraged members of the public to get involved in education matters by writing to the Colorado Department of Education or attending meetings in Denver in areas of interest.

Board President Mark Pfoff thanked Mann for his service, which he said was particularly valuable during the recession

when budget cuts were large and unavoidable. Pfoff said that Mann was instrumental in identifying priorities so that Wangeman could come to the board with a proposal that they would approve.

Mann spoke about the importance of public education to society. He said that his wife was a teacher during the time when he served in the Air Force and, upon his retirement, he too entered the field. He acknowledged individuals he knew during his tenure on the board, including Caryn Collette, who oversaw the consolidation of two middle schools into one, and Wange-

man for the stability of her leadership in financial matters. He also praised the district's Special Education Program, which is successful and exemplary despite the fact that is funded at a minimal level by the state.

Mann also cautioned that it is wise to continue to anticipate rescissions by the state, as they happen almost annually.

Practice ACT shows benefit

Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton reported that the use of the practice ACT among 10th-graders has

caused significant improvement in ACT scores among juniors.

Benton also explained the application process for individuals seeking to conduct research studies or distribute surveys within the district.

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer D-38 meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on Nov. 19.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

District Accountability Advisory Committee, Oct. 13

Committee determines calendar for 2015-16, discusses teacher evaluations

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee determined its meeting calendar, finalized its charge for presentation to the Board of Education, and discussed the teacher evaluation process during its Oct. 13 meeting.

The committee will not meet each month this year. In the past, the committee examined each school's unified improvement plan (UIP) and the district's plan during the meetings in the winter. This year, the plans will be reviewed at individual schools with the schools' Building Accountability Advisory Committees (BAACs), and detailed summaries will be reviewed with the committee in April. The entire committee will meet in November, January, February and April.

The committee approved the year's calendar.

At these committee meetings, the group will also receive updates on the district's communication plan, technology developments, the Community-Family Partnership, Gifted Learning, Special Education, safety and security, and the budget.

Committee charge

Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton reviewed the committee's charge before final presentation to the Board of Education. The charge will be virtually unchanged from the previous year. Responsibilities include:

- Overseeing the Special Education and Gifted Education programs (including English Language Learners).
- Advising the board regarding budgetary matters.
- Overseeing the staff evaluation process.
- Aiding the board in community outreach through such things as host-

ing forums among candidates for the board.

- Committee for Political Achievement, a subgroup of the committee, acts to monitor legislative and other activity that may affect the district.

Evaluation updates

Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster spoke about Senate Bill 191 and recent changes in the evaluation process for teachers and other staff in the district.

Foster listed the stages of the process, including orientation to the process, self-assessment, meeting with the evaluators, and classroom observations by evaluators.

This system was introduced in the 2013-14 school year and is still developing. The first year was "hold-harmless" as districts worked through their methods of compliance. The 2014-15 school year was the first in which staff could be ruled ineffective, which effects probationary status.

A primary aspect of the system is to have a large part of the evaluation score based on student performance. The remainder is based on a detailed review of professional practices.

A major drawback of the system is the fact that many employees are not teachers of subjects for which there is data such as test results to measure student performance. This includes such employees as media specialists, librarians, teachers of dual diagnosis students, teachers of the arts, and instructional coaches. For these individuals the district has had to devise its own methods of evaluating student performance and submit these techniques to the state for approval.

Another weakness is the fact that performance is based on growth from one year to the next, and the assessments

being applied are changing frequently.

Foster and Benton said that they will keep the committee informed regarding any future changes in the process.

Superintendent update

District Superintendent Karen Brofft reported on the district's strategic vision to encompass a focus on the community, a variety of learning opportunities, continued performance in the top 10 percent in ACT scores, continuing Advanced Placement offerings and scores above the national average, a high graduation rate, and acclaimed music, performing arts, arts, and sports activities.

The primary goal of the board this year, in addition to continuing excellence in the above areas, is to improve the availability of up-to-date technology in the classroom.

Brofft also said that she wishes to focus on 21st-century skills such as data-driven decision-making, enhancing the public's trust in the district through transparency, and engaging in long range planning.

Some of this year's initiatives include a focus on technology in the classroom, continued interaction with focus groups such as businesses, homeowners groups, and churches, and a revamping of the district's website.

Campus introduction

Lewis-Palmer High School Principal Sandi Brandl spoke of her school of 977 students, of which 17 percent are gifted, 16.6 percent are minority, 9 percent qualify for free/reduced lunch and 9 percent are disabled. Eighty-five percent of the class of 2015 plan to attend two- or four-year post-secondary programs.

The school offers 21 advanced placement (AP) courses, giving 502 tests to 303 students. Brandl said that she encourages students to take AP courses in areas that excite them, because these courses give them a good view of college-level classes. Also, the school shares a partnership with the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, which allows students to get college credit for specific classes.

The school is also a participant in Project Lead the Way, offering classes in engineering and biomedicine. It has been named a John Irwin School of Excellence nine times and has one of the highest graduation rates in the state.

The next meeting of the District Accountability Advisory Committee will be at 7 p.m. on Nov. 10 at Palmer Lake Elementary School, 115 Upper Glenway, Palmer Lake.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Oct. 20

New insurer sought; salary increase proposed

By Jennifer Green-Lanchoney

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board discussed the need for a new insurer and a proposed salary increase at its Oct. 20 meeting.

Proposed 2016 budget change

Despite being on the list of approved insurers, Colorado HealthOp has now gone under, leaving Wescott and many others to search for new insurance. While the increase of only \$2,400 a year was a win over the \$36,000 increase proposed by their previous insurance agency, it was too good to be true, said administrative assistant Stacey Popovich.

Because Wescott will search for new insurance, this will change the bottom line of the proposed budget. The other line that will change is workers compensation. Popovich is working with Pinnacle insurance, which has recently gone through a structural revamp and didn't have the numbers available for Popovich to accurately adjust the budget.

Proposed salary increase

A line in the budget proposes Wescott salaries to be increased by 7 percent. Some positions, like paramedic, will be increased a bit more to keep competitive with other organizations. Wescott paramedics contract with the station to be put through school and then work for Wescott when they complete their education. Keeping competitive wages will hopefully entice them to stay beyond their contract with the station. Adjusting paramedic pay meant also having to adjust the officers' pay to stay in line with a tiered pay scale. Chief Vinny Burns also implemented step raises in the budget to be calculated into pay.

The board continues to move steadily toward a Dec. 1 approval of the 2016 budget, Burns said.

Administrative

The September financial statement totaled \$1.33 million, which is \$160,362 less than the August financial statement. The reason for the large difference is that wildland firefighting expenses came out in Septem-

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ber. Popovich is expecting to get some revenue in return from wildland reimbursement.

Director John Fredell questioned the wildland budget and whether it was something that would vary yearly. Chief Burns indicated that it would and that it is typically hard to gauge.

The August financial statements were approved.

Public comments

A request was posed that Wescott begin to post the meeting agenda and minutes on the district web-

site. Chief Burns agreed, and the minutes will be posted to Wescott.org under the Board of Directors tab.

One public comment questioned the construction of Colorado Springs Station 22 and when Wescott expected homes and businesses in the district to request to be taken out of the district to be served by the city station.

Chief Burns responded that there are legal hoops that must be jumped through to be taken out of

the district and that there would likely be a dual response. He added that legally, the presence of the fire station doesn't trigger anything; they could open the fire station tomorrow and Wescott would still be here.

Chief's report

Assistant Chief Scott Ridings gave the September run report that showed a 13 percent increase in the number of calls received in 2015 over 2014. There was no significant loss due to fire in August.

District participates in Fort Collins ceremony

Wescott participated in an honor guard that lined the streets of Fort Collins on Oct. 24 to welcome a new fire station there and honor the memory of those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that demolished two World Trade Center buildings in New York City in 2001. A girder, one of few left from the Trade Center rubble, will be on display at the new station.

The meeting was adjourned

at 7:54 p.m.

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors' next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at Station 1 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Please call 488-8680, a non-emergency number, for more information, or visit www.wescottfire.org. The district is also on Facebook.

Jennifer Green-Lanchoney can be contacted at Jenlanchoney@ocn.me.

Board of County Commissioners, Oct. 13

Forest Lakes amended improvements agreement approved

By Lisa Hatfield

The El Paso Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved an amended subdivision improvements agreement for Forest Lakes Residential Development LLC and Classic Consulting Engineers & Surveyors LLC on Oct 13. The request amended the Sept. 9, 2004 filing that had included restrictions on the sale of lots or issuance of building permits within the subdivision as a guarantee for the completion of required subdivision improvements.

The amendment will now allow the provision of collateral, in the form of a bond, to secure and guarantee performance of the

remainder of the required public subdivision improvements in Filings 1 and 3 of the Forest Lakes development, located at the western end of West Baptist Road, west of the Union Pacific railroad tracks.

Forest Lakes Residential Development requested the amendment in order to initiate lot sales and building permit issuance while the few remaining improvements are being completed in Filing 1 and begun in Filing 3, including public water systems, fire hydrants, public wastewater facilities, public storm facilities, curbs and gutters, and paving the public streets.

The homes in Forest Lakes

will be served by these entities:

- Water and wastewater: Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (a Title 32 special district), which shares the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility with Donala Water and Sanitation District and Triview Metropolitan District
- Natural gas: Black Hills Energy
- Electricity: Mountain View Electric Association
- Fire protection: Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District
- Roads: El Paso County Road and Bridge

- Police: El Paso County Sheriff's Office
- School District: Lewis-

Palmer District 38

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

New Santa Fe Trail still off-limits to the general public

By Terri Hayes

On Oct. 5, El Paso County Parks and the Air Force Academy held a joint information gathering meeting concerning the New Santa Fe Trail at the Academy International Elementary School. Key players were County Commissioners Darryl Glenn and Peggy Littleton, El Paso County

Director of Community Services Tim Wolken, and Col. Ken Ohlson with the Air Force Academy. There were about 100 people in attendance, made up mostly of those who would like to use the trail again both for recreation and transportation, in addition to other community leaders.

Although the County Commissioners and the Academy recently approved a new 25-year easement through the Academy,

ATTENTION High School Juniors

It's time for the annual **MVEA Essay Contest**. The lucky winners will receive an all expense paid trip to **Washington, D.C.** in June or to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near **Steamboat Springs** in July.

To Enter:

1. Parents or guardians must receive electric service from MVEA.
2. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age by January 1, 2016.
3. Submit a 500 word essay on **As Mountain View Electric celebrates its 75th anniversary, there are several members who remember what it was like the day the lights came on. "What does having electricity and the "cooperative difference" mean to you?"**

Entries must be postmarked or hand delivered to either MVEA office by November 18, 2015. For an entry form, go to our website at www.mvea.coop. For more information call Member Services at 719-494-2670.



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the trail remains off limits to anyone without a military or Department of Defense badge after the Academy was named in Inspire magazine and other terrorist correspondence as a desirable target. The Academy was directed by the commander of the U.S. Northern Command to increase force protection.

The premise of the meeting was to

brainstorm different ways the Academy could balance security while allowing public access. The most popular ideas were:

- Create a trails watch group to patrol and report any unusual activity
- Signage with contact information for Academy Security
- Surveillance cameras along the trail

The trail was heavily damaged by the rains

this year, with repairs costing an estimated \$480,000. El Paso County is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine funding opportunities for the repairs, which for safety reasons would need to be completed prior to potentially opening up to the public again.

Talks will continue as the Academy and the county work together to reach an

agreeable compromise. A compromise, however, would still need to be approved by the U.S. Northern Command. Future meetings open to the public may take place. Final decisions were not expected to come before next year.

Terri Hayes can be reached via editor@ocn.me.

Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO), Sept. 26

Sheriff discusses law enforcement issues and initiatives

By Larry Oliver, NEPCO president

Bill Elder, El Paso County Sheriff, spoke about county law enforcement at the Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO) general membership meeting, held at the Monument Town Hall on Sept. 26.

Sheriff Elder began the presentation with a brief personal background. He grew up in Colorado Springs, attended Palmer High School, and for many years was a law enforcement officer in District 1 (the NEPCO area). He also worked in real estate as a homeowners association (HOA) manager, giving him experience in HOA matters.

Elder said that El Paso is the largest county in Colorado, covering 2,200 square miles (same as Rhode Island), with a population of 600,000. The county has the largest Sheriff's Office in the state, employing about 820 total personnel. Of those, 525

are "sworn-in" personnel and 100 are patrol officers. The county also has a 1,600-bed jail, with about 1,500 inmates a day.

Within El Paso County, Elder identified District 1 and the Falcon area as two focus points for his office due to the high growth in these areas. However, he pointed out that District 1 is a low-crime area compared to most of the county, with one patrol car assigned to the district full time. As crime rises in the county and traffic conditions worsen, the sheriff has designated five traffic motorcycles to cover the entire county.

The Crime Prevention section of the Sheriff's Office works closely with Neighborhood Watch personnel. One person in the office is dedicated to Neighborhood Watch, and provides helpful information as it is received. Elder urged everyone to call the Sheriff's Office if something catches their attention, and highly recom-

mended setting up Neighborhood Watches in communities where none exist. To aid county residents, the Sheriff's Office recently released a new smart phone app for receiving sheriff alerts, submitting tips, calling the office, etc. Download this app by searching for "El Paso County Sheriff's Office."

The sheriff discussed several safety tips to aid in crime prevention including:

Safety tips when on vacation away from your home:

- Have a neighbor collect newspapers and mail or stop delivery.
- Tell your Neighborhood Watch director that you'll be gone.
- Put lights on a timer.
- Leave a key with a neighbor.
- Plant signs stating your house is alarmed (This is a big deterrent to crime).
- Treat the door from the garage into

the house as an entry door, and lock it.

- Ask the Sheriff's Office to do an occasional "vacation check" of your house.

Safety tips for cars:

- Keep your address out of your car (check glove compartment).
- Put your proof of insurance and registration in your wallet or purse with your driver's license, not in your glove compartment.

Sgt. Shane Mitchell, who accompanied the sheriff, spoke about the Crime Reduction Unit that Sheriff Elder is in the process of organizing. Highlights include:

- The unit would have no assigned districts and would go where needed.
- Focus is on current crime areas.
- The unit would stay on a crime until it is solved.

Larry Oliver can be reached via editor@ocn.me.

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Oct. 28

Board hears update from No Methadone group, passes 2016 budget

By Jackie Burhans

At the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board meeting on Oct. 28, the board discussed the 2016 budget, heard a presentation from the No Methadone in Monument organization and announced the roll out of the new website design.

No Methadone in Monument

Tom Allen and Greg Coopman of the No Methadone in Monument (NMIM) group provided an update to the WIA board. Allen provided background information about the proposed Methadone Clinic and his involvement in forming the group to fight against it opening at 192 Front Street next to Limbach Park. He told the board that this impacts each and every one of us and could affect your property value from 17 to 22 percent. He indicated that the state directed Colonial Management Group

(CMG) to place a clinic in Monument but was not able to present data proving that there was a need in this location. The next target market for CMG is in Durango.

Greg Coopman discussed the timeline of community meetings and decisions and then gave some additional information about the lawsuit filed by CMG against the Town of Monument, the trustees, and the Board of Adjustments. The NMIM group is trying to get inserted into the lawsuit and has raised half of the \$60,000 goal to pay for additional lawyers to help fight this lawsuit. By asking to be added to the lawsuit, they hope to prevent the clinic and the town from settling the lawsuit outside of court, which could lead to the clinic opening.

Allen and Coopman indicated that they have the support of St. Peter Catholic

Church and School as well as the Colorado Springs Catholic Diocese. The D-38 school board also passed a resolution against the clinic and gave NMIM a plaque of appreciation for its work. More information can be found at <http://nomethadoneinmonument.weebly.com/> and its associated Facebook page.

WIA budget and finances

Homeowners Association (HOA) Manager Denise Cagliaro reported that she had worked with Kevin Nielsen, director of Public Safety, to develop a balanced budget for 2016. WIA President Jim Hale noted that in the past two years the board has not funded the reserve fund in the budget but has taken money left over from previous years to put into the fund but feels that cannot be counted. The board has decided to fund the contribution to the reserve fund in the budget going forward thanks to

hard work from Cagliaro, Nielsen, and the WIA staff in finding ways to save money. The board unanimously passed the 2016 WIA budget, which will be available on the website at <http://www.woodmoor.org/budget-statements/>.

The board also unanimously voted to allocate \$53,000 into the reserve fund for 2015 and agreed to a motion to explore options for providing an employee retirement plan for WIA staff in the future. They will look into the possibility of offering a 401K plan with a 3 percent match to start no earlier than 2016.

The board then discussed a motion to spend \$5,500 to install a security system with cameras in the Barn. Kevin noted that the Barn sees a lot of people come in and out and that Woodmoor Public Safety offers 24/7 service but isn't always at The Barn. They have seen instances of personal vehicles being vandalized. The system will have nine cameras; five inside and four outside to record comings and goings. The camera in the office will have audio recording as well.

The board discussed looking into the possible impact on insurance costs, which may help to offset the purchase price, the ability to use in cases of dispute on damage when they rent out the Barn, and the need for signs on premise indicating that the area is under surveillance. The board unanimously voted to approve this expenditure.

Board report highlights

- HOA Manager Cagliaro attended a local Council of Neighbors and Organizations (CONO) meeting. CONO (www.cscono.org) had a presentation by the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). CONO has a lot of free classes available.
- The annual meeting is coming up in



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Season to Date Snow	Trace (-12.3")	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)		Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me .	
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)	Heating Degree Days	488 (-140)		

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31.
Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer

Retaliation for report of illegal activity

I have served the citizens of Palmer Lake as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department since mid-June 2015. The fact that Palmer Lake Fire Department has had so many chiefs in just a few years is testament to the dysfunction between the town and the Fire Department.

Serving as the Emergency Medical Services coordinator with the Fire Department, I became aware of serious problems affecting our ability to provide emergency medical services to the citizens of Palmer Lake. I reported those problems to the fire chiefs. I discovered that a member of the Fire Department had been serving for more than a year as an EMT, but was not licensed to do so in Colorado. This is practicing medicine without a license in the State of Colorado. After being directly asked by our Penrose Hospital medical direction (they are responsible for all EMS activities in Palmer Lake) about whether anyone was practicing

medicine without a license, I confirmed that there was an individual who had been running calls as an EMT who was not licensed in Colorado to do so.

Two days after an urgent meeting requested by the Penrose medical director with members of the Town Council and the Fire Department, I was summarily asked by the Fire Department chiefs to resign. This request was direct retaliation for embarrassing the town and Fire Department by reporting an unlicensed person performing as an EMT. I never was given an opportunity to present my side of the situation to anyone at the town or the Fire Department. I did not resign.

The action of the Town Council and chiefs is unethical. The town and Fire Department chiefs should be held accountable in this matter, but instead they retaliated against me for exposing serious problems to our medical director.

Sharyn Baker

Statement regarding 2015 D-38 school board election

First, I want to thank the more than 8,300 voters who care enough about the future of education in our district to take

the time to vote. I also want to thank those who supported me in this election, especially our wonderful and dedicated educators, who are the heart and soul of the Lewis-Palmer School District!

I offer my congratulations to Mark Pfoff, Matt Clawson, Sherrie Hawkins and Sarah Sampayo on their election to the board of education. The re-election of three incumbents makes it clear that the citizens of our community believe that the current board and D-38 Superintendent are doing a superb job and want to continue the tradition of educational excellence that is the hallmark of D-38.

While I'm disappointed in the results personally, I know Sarah also cares about our kids and believe she will work hard to keep D-38 one of the best in the state.

I strongly believe D-38 is doing a great job educating our kids and I will continue to be involved in the district as a volunteer. I want to continue all the wonderful, positive things going on in the district and help shape an even better future for D-38.

Kris Beasley

■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

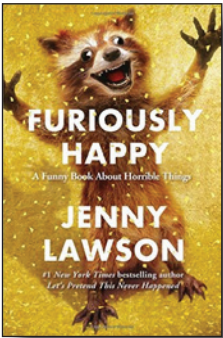
Book buzz from the trade show

By the staff at Covered Treasures

Excitement was in the air as Mountains and Plains Booksellers descended upon Denver in October for our annual trade show. This is where authors and publishers showcase their new and noteworthy publications, and we select those that might be of interest to our customers. We're eager to share a sampling of our discoveries with you.

Furiously Happy: A Funny Book about Horrible Things
By Jenny Lawson (Flatiron Books) \$26.99

A hysterical, ridiculous book about crippling depression and anxiety sounds like a terrible idea, but as Lawson explores her lifelong battle with mental illness, this becomes a book about embracing everything that makes us who we are—the beautiful and the flawed—and finding joy in fantastic and outrageous ways. As Jenny's mom says, "Maybe 'crazy' isn't so bad after all." Sometimes crazy is just right.



The National Parks: An Illustrated History
By Kim Heacox (National Geographic) \$50

This stunning book is a lavish celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. The very best of National Geographic's iconic photographs, combined with an illuminating history, presents a panorama of diverse properties from the multihued layers of the Grand Canyon to the verdigris flame of the Statue of Liberty. For-

mer Denali National Park ranger Kim Heacox traces the evolution of the Park Service's mission from protecting "scenery" to advocating for cultural and natural preservation and conservation, weaving in dozens of fascinating stories and personalities.

Bats of the Republic
By Zachary Thomas Dodson (Doubleday Books) \$27.95

This is a book that instantly transfixes, even before you start reading. The author is a book designer who co-founded Featherproof Books out of Chicago, and his debut novel is a glorious demonstration of what old-fashioned paper can still do in the hands of a creative genius. Bats of the Republic cumulatively is a book about the way books are made and the way stories work. Novels, Dodson suggests, are contraptions, jury-rigged together with parts of other novels, archived letters, remembered conversations, maps, scraps of info, imagined journeys, and creatures real and strange. Dodson has quite brilliantly exposed the gears and cogs whirring in the novelist's imagination.

The Art of Memoir
By Mary Karr (Harper Collins) \$24.99

Mary Karr, author of The Liars' Club, offers a master class in the essential elements of great memoir—delivered with her signature humor, insight, and candor. Synthesizing her experiences as a writer, reader, and renowned professor, Karr provides a unique window into the mechanics and art of memoir that is both irreverent and entertaining. "In some ways," she says, "writing a memoir is knocking yourself out with your own fist, if it's done right."

Quick and Easy Italian Recipes
By The Silver Spoon Kitchen (Phaidon) \$29.95

The 10th anniversary edition of this trusted and bestselling Italian cookbook presents over 100 simple, fast, and delicious recipes to help the busy cook embrace the flavors and spirit of Italian cuisine at home with minimal fuss. With full color photographs and recipes that cooks of all levels can master, the book includes Italian classics such as spaghetti alle vongole, risotto Milanese, fritto misto, and tiramisu.

The Ultimate Alphabet; Complete Edition
By Mike Wilks (Pomegranate) \$50

Artist Mike Wilks set out in the 1980s to depict as many words as possible in 26 images corresponding to the alphabet. His four-year painting odyssey resulted in a suite of magnificent compilations, all minutely detailed, masterfully rendered, and slightly surreal. Each picture contains hundreds of items all starting with the same letter. The images were first published in a book in 1986 in the best-selling *The Ultimate Alphabet*, and later in *The Annotated Ultimate Alphabet*, in which keys to the images were included. Now, *The Ultimate Alphabet: Complete Edition* brings these two volumes together in one deluxe slipcase edition; one volume presents the paintings with introductory text by the artist; the other offers the keyed drawings and alphabetical lists of words—all 7,825 of them!

Stop by and browse through some of our new selections. Choose some to enjoy yourself during these cool fall nights, or find some special gifts for the readers on your list. Until next month, happy reading. ■

November library events

Celebrate National Novel Writing Month

By Harriet Halbig

November is National Novel Writing Month. Come to the library alone or with your friends during several sessions throughout the month and join in the creativity. The community room will be reserved on Thursday, Nov. 12 from 1 to 4; Saturday, Nov. 14 from 12:15 to 1:45; Thursday, Nov. 19 from 2 to 4; Friday, Nov. 20 from 1:30 to 3:30 and Saturday, Nov. 28 from 10 to 1.

No registration is necessary and Wi-Fi is available.

Children's programs

The Family Fun program for November, on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 2:30 to 4, is the chance to meet local children's author Amber Isaac and Cody, the Teeny Tiny Alpaca. Amber will share her book about Cody. It is a picture book for children that helps young readers learn about feeling

different and the value of being unique.

The Lego Club will meet on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Fourth Fridays Kid's Crafts will be on Friday, Nov. 27 from 4 to 5. This month's craft is a "What I'm Thankful for Wreath" and is recommended for children 5 and up.

Teen programs

Need help with math? Free tutoring is offered through the AfterMath program every Monday from 3:30 to 7. Bring your homework and meet with an experienced tutor. No appointment is necessary.

Join us to watch The Hunger Games Mockingjay Part 1 and make a Mockingjay-inspired mini-crossbow on Saturday, Nov 7 from 1 to 3:30. No registration required.

Adult programs

View the documentary *The Life and Times of Gen. Wm. Jackson Palmer: Founder of Colorado Springs and the Denver & Rio Grande R. R.* (as seen on PBS) on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. Local filmmaker Jim Sawatzki will show his one-hour documentary with questions and answers to follow. No registration necessary.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, Nov. 20 to discuss White Ghost Girls by Alice Greenway.

Palmer Lake Library events

The Palmer Lake Book Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. Please call 481-2587 for the current selection.

November is Picture Book Month. Come and celebrate by hearing some of our favorite stories, write and illustrate your own picture book, and play a game or two. The program will be on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 10:30. Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facilities will close at 6 p.m. on Nov. 25 and remain closed Nov. 26 in observance of Thanksgiving. Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Historical Society, Oct. 15

George Washington comes to life

By Al Walter

President and former General of the Continental Army George Washington visited Palmer Lake Town Hall on Oct. 15 and provided a brief history lesson and words of wisdom to an attentive audience of adults and school-children. President Washington, as portrayed by Dave Wallace, appeared in the uniform of a general of the Continental Army. Wallace explained the origin and components of the uniform, gave details of the use of swords to communicate orders in battle, and described the use of muskets and “rifles” in the Revolutionary War.

Using volunteers from the audience, Wallace demonstrated the minuet and quizzed potential army recruits on the two important questions they needed to answer before they could enlist. The two questions were: “Do you have two front teeth?” and “Are you over 18?” Teeth were needed to rip the paper musket cartridges. Youngsters not old enough to join put a piece of paper in their shoe with the number 18 written on it so they could say they answered truthfully when asked if they were “over 18.”

Wallace cut an imposing figure as Washington and

provided interesting details and facts regarding aspects of Washington’s childhood and his rise to the presidency.

On Thursday, Nov. 19, the Palmer Lake Historical Society presents Jane Milne, who will provide an in-depth look at the origins and operation of the “orphan trains.” Beginning in the 1850s, a welfare program known as the Orphan Train Movement transported orphaned and homeless children from crowded Eastern cities of the United States to foster homes located mostly in rural areas of the West and Midwest. Milne provides a fascinating look into this movement, which operated between 1853 and 1929. During that time about 200,000 orphaned, abandoned, or homeless children were relocated. The program starts at 7 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall.

Right: Dave Wallace portrays General George Washington. *Photo courtesy of the Palmer Lake Historical Society.*



Art Matters

Fine art as gifts: ideal or not?



By Janet Sellers

Fall is the biggest art sales time of the year with galleries in towns and cities nationwide. There’s something about the season that brings the energy up a notch for art sales. This is true for the big art sales on the coasts (six figures and more) and the relatively smaller local galleries in cities and towns. I’ve heard the market is best in the four-to-five figure range. Our local artists have a lot to offer this time of year for artworks to purchase, or even gift certificates for the art. Many times, a person likes an artist’s work, or those at a gallery, and would love to have a gift certificate to choose something special.

One idea to keep in mind for art at this time of year is that, if giving fine art or an artisan work as a gift whether you are the artist or giving from one art lover to another, a hugely important factor is knowing if the art is what the person would like to have, and there are great ways to determine that and not fail to please—sad but true.

The most obvious way to know how to give a gift of art is to ask the person directly if they have a preference or special artist or subject they like to collect or own, and they just might. Some people have a definite idea and collect all things, say, in cats, dogs, owls, elephants, turtles, horses, hummingbirds, etc. My students and I used to get juried into the annual fall show at Colorado College and a number of visitors specifically asked for these images as they make it a habit collect them. Truth be told, at the time I didn’t know that was a “thing” but we learned fast and

made sure to include those subjects in our inventory.

Another good back pocket idea is to get a wish list—at least listen carefully for hints—for gifts of any season. In the art realm, that is vital for making an optimal choice as a gift in art, which can be a very personal taste, unless you know for sure the recipient will want to have an artwork as a gift. The right art as gift can be the best memory-maker in the world, you know. Our family has collected a number of favorites over the years, but Dad was keen to listen and took Mom to the galleries and to scout out the favorites first.

Art events

This month begins art events at our venues that offer a range of art and artists to discover. Join them for the special shopping and celebration events in November and December.

Bella Art and Frame Gallery offers the unique artwork of their local, member artists for the upcoming holiday season. Artists are constantly putting up new work as their work sells, so be sure to buy the art you like now, or the next person just might get it instead. Bella Art and Frame Gallery, 183 Washington St., Monument.

Palmer Lake Art Group will have a fall show, “Fall into Winter,” Nov. 6, 7, 14 and 21. Opening reception is Friday, November 6, 5 to 7 p.m. The show will be open on the other days 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Show includes fine art, fine jewelry and fiber arts, at Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Highway 105, Palmer Lake.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TCLA) Member Artist Exhibition, paintings, sculpture, photography, and more, show runs through Jan. 2. Meet the artists at the reception Nov 6, 6 to 8 p.m. TCLA, 304 Highway 105, Palmer Lake.

Wisdom Tea House hosts a new art show through Saturday, Nov. 20. “The Peep Show People Exhibiting Extraordinary Paintings,” artwork from Carol Losinski Naylor’s art classes. Wisdom Tea House, 65 Second St., Monument.

Holiday pop up shops—the new ad hoc way to shop in style, have been a big hit nationwide and in Southern Colorado the last few years. Pop up shops are local, last-minute trunk show/sale type venues that just “pop up” out of seemingly nowhere and discovered by word of mouth, so keep an eye/ear open or you might miss the chance to get in on one. You can Google them for the Front Range and Tri-Lakes areas, or check out this Facebook page for a fashionably incomplete list: <https://www.facebook.com/Local-Pop-Up-Holiday-Shops>.

Janet Sellers is a Colorado artist and art teacher, making paintings and sculptures and mini-movies, too. Her public art sculptures are in exhibitions in Colorado city and museum venues and throughout the Tri-Lakes area. Sellers lives in Woodmoor. She can be reached at Janet-Sellers@OCN.me.



Left: The Palmer Lake Arts Group annual holiday art market and sale was Oct. 3, 4, 5 at Palmer Lake Town Hall. Sales proceeds go to the artists and to the group’s fund for scholarships for graduating high school art students. **Above:** From left, member artists Margarete Seagraves, Beth Carroll, and Meredith Bromfield were instrumental in the success of the holiday sale. **Right:** Artist Ernie Knoth won top prize Oct. 9 for the first annual Miniature Fine Art Exhibit at Bella Art and Frame Gallery. Entries had to be rendered no larger than 1/6th the natural size of the subject to comply with the traditional genre of miniature fine art. *Photos by Janet Sellers.*



Snapshots of Our Community

W0TLM holds class, Oct. 3, 10



Above: The Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association held a ham radio Technician Level class on Oct. 3 and 10. Thirty students took the Federal Communications Commission class and 27 passed the exam. Amateur Radio W0TLM is open to all amateur radio operators or those interested in becoming ham operators. The club meets on the third Monday of the month at various locations. For more information on this club's activities, contact joycewitte@gmail.com or visit www.W0TLM.com. *Photo by Bob Witte.*

Dizzy reenactment, Oct. 4



Above: The Palmer Lake Star, the iconic symbol of Palmer Lake, is the world's largest illuminated star, built in 1935 by townsfolk and volunteer firemen, who still maintain it. On Oct. 4, local film producer Jim Sawatzki posed with Kitty Armstrong, her dog Charly, who plays Dizzy the wonder dog who carried light bulbs and tools to the workers on the mountain, along with fellow cast of star builders, for the new film celebrating The Star on Sundance Mountain. The film was formatted for PBS affiliates for 2016 release and was sponsored by the Intermountain Rural Electric Association and the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department. It is Sawatzki's 16th documentary on Front Range history. A bronze statue of Dizzy sits in front of the Palmer Lake Town Hall for visitors to enjoy. *Photo courtesy of Jim and Diane Sawatzki.*

Empty Bowls celebrated 22nd year, Oct. 7

The 2015 Empty Bowls dinner was held on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at Lewis-Palmer High School. It was hosted by Monument Hill Kiwanis Club and Service Leadership Clubs, Tri-Lakes Cares, and Lewis-Palmer School District 38 to benefit Tri-Lakes Cares. This was the event's 22nd year.



Above: Shanna Ellis dances with her nephew Noah Daly to the sounds of the Lewis-Palmer High School jazz band at the Empty Bowls dinner. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*



Above: Maureen Borgia and Anne Schemec are longtime supporters and contributors to Empty Bowls. *Photos above and below courtesy of Monument Hill Kiwanis.*



Above: Jean Harris, left, and Harriet Halbig enjoy the food and atmosphere at the 2015 Empty Bowls event. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*



Right: Dr. Lori Benton, D-38 director of Assessment and Gifted Education, set aside her pad and pen and picked up a soup ladle at the Empty Bowls event.



Palmer Lake Inaugural 0.5 K Fun Run to benefit Awake Palmer Lake, Oct. 10

Over 600 kids, adults, and dogs showed up for the Palmer Lake Inaugural 0.5 kilometer Fun Run donned in their new Palmer Lake fun run shirts, Broncos gear, lake-themed costumes, and a variety of other costumes.

The day included costume contests, an obstacle course, a donut aid station, cheerleaders cheering at the finish line, and of course, beer, root beer, and doggy treats at the finish.

All the proceeds for race entry went to Awake Palmer Lake.



Above: Dan and Sharon Bossie went all out for their run as the Awake the Lake Olympic Kayak Team.



Above: Runners and walkers alike fueled up on donuts half-way through the fun run.



Above: Jon, Max, and Kate Reisinger celebrated their costumed run with beer, root beer, and a big thumbs up. *Photos by Audrey Burkart.*

WMMI Harvest Festival draws 1,300 visitors, Oct. 10-11

By David Futey

On Oct. 10 and 11, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) hosted its annual Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival. More than 1,300 visitors had many activities to participate in.

Visitors went on a hay ride that circled the museum's 27-acres, selected a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch

held at the historic Reynolds house, saw the operation of the blacksmith shop, interacted with the museum burros Chism and Nugget, took a daylight tour of the Haunted Mines, visited with Civil War re-enactors, watched the operation of an apple cider press, heard spooky stories told in the museum's mine drift, learned how to gold pan from members of the Gold Prospectors of Colorado, and saw

the operation of a variety of outdoor and indoor museum equipment.

Information on upcoming events at the museum is at www.wmmi.org.

David Futey can be reached at dfutey@ocn.me.

Photos by David Futey



Above: Young visitors carefully select a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch in the Reynolds Farm House yard.



Above: Museum volunteer Douglas Ducote drives a tractor pulling festival visitors on a hay ride at the WMMI's Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival.



Above: Visitors to the WMMI Harvest Festival try their hand at striking it rich in the Gold Prospectors of Colorado panning troughs.

D38 candidate forum, Oct. 14



Above: As part of the 2015 coordinated election, a candidate forum was sponsored by the District Accountability Advisory Committee at the administration building (Big Red) on Oct. 14. All of the candidates attended the forum and responded to questions in front of a live audience as well as those watching the live stream video that was recorded. Candidates, from left to right: Mark Pfoff, Matthew Clawson, Lani Moore, Gordon Reichal, Dale Bastin, Sherri Hawkins, Sarah Sampayo, and Kris Beasley. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

Our Community News needs you!



For the past 15 years, OCN 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** – Handle emails and phone calls with local businesses, finalizing ad graphics and costs. Experience with sales and Microsoft Excel are helpful.
 - Ad Sales Help** – Email, visit, or call local businesses to discuss how OCN's great rates and monthly delivery directly to over 16,000 Tri-Lakes-area mailboxes can help them grow their businesses.
 - Newspaper Layout** – Once a month, use Adobe InDesign CS4 to prepare the electronic file to send to the printer.
 - Meeting reporter** – Attend and record public meetings and write articles telling "what was discussed and what was decided."
 - Mailing Day** – Once a month — two hours, morning, moving tubs and counting papers and/or two hours, afternoon, delivering papers to local businesses.
- Training provided. Please text/call Lisa at 719-339-7831 or email lisahatfield@ocn.me to find out more.**

Support Our Community. Advertise in OCN!

We offer inexpensive ads especially considering our very large mailed circulation. Every month more than 16,200 copies of OCN are delivered by mail to businesses and residents throughout the Tri-Lakes area. Another 700 copies are placed in stacks throughout the Tri-Lakes area. For more information, contact John Heiser at (719) 488-3455 or ads@ocn.me or visit www.ocn.me/advertise.htm.

250 attend Tri-Lakes Women’s Club Wine and Roses event, Oct. 23



By Harriet Halbig

The Tri-Lakes Women’s Club’s 19th annual Wine and Roses event was held at the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame on the evening of Oct. 23. The event featured many wine distributors, food from a dozen local restaurants, live music, celebrity pourers from local media and nonprofit organizations, and a silent auction. Wine and Roses is one of two annual events sponsored by the group. The other is the Pine Forest Show in the spring. The proceeds from both events benefit nonprofits in the Tri-lakes area. The group has donated over \$800,000 to the community.

Left: Barb Betzler and Susanna Beters were the organizers of this year’s event. **Right:** Mike McCarthy and Rose Dunphy of the Tri-Lakes Music Association provided live music. *Photos by Harriet Halbig.*



Halloween festivities



Above: During Monument’s Safe Trick or Treating event, costumed kids and adults safely strolled the sidewalks on a balmy Oct. 31. They enjoyed greetings and treats from the local shopkeepers and meeting local fire and police personnel with fire trucks to view. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*



Above: Monument businesses held their 12th Annual Safe Trick or Treating event on Halloween. Robyn Millheim, at Websites by Robyn in the Monument Chapala Building, had her annual haunted house and gave out candy to more than 700 children brave enough to venture within! *Photo by provided by Robyn Millheim.*



Above: A family of Taekwondo students, from left, Emily Carlson, Dr. Linda Silviera-Carlson, and Amber Carlson enjoy the Kick or Treat at the U.S. Taekwondo Center in Monument, where there was a packed crowd of costumed creatures and superheroes taking part in active games, candy collecting, and more. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

Monument Heights discussed



Above: Morgan Hester, consultant to the Monument Planning Department, right, presented multiple land use ordinances to the Monument Board of Trustees on Nov. 2. New Principal Planner Larry Manning, left, observed the proceedings. The Monument Heights rezoning proposal was continued to the next meeting scheduled for Nov. 16 to give the trustees more time to consider the testimony given, but no new public comments will be heard then. See related Monument Planning Commission article on page 1 for details on the application to change planned commercial development (PCD) zoning to planned development (PD), which would instead mean a mix of housing including single-family attached and detached, townhome, and multi-family, along Jackson Creek Parkway just south of Highway 105. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Monument apartment fire, Nov. 4



Above: As OCN went to press, we learned that eight people were displaced from their homes on the night of Nov. 4 when a fire started in the attic of the apartment building at 163 Washington Street in Monument. Firefighters had to break through the roof and the ceilings of the second story apartments to fight the fire. Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (FPD) received mutual aid from other districts including Donald Wescott FPD, Black Forest FPD, Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department, and the United States Air Force Academy. The Colorado Springs Fire Department backfilled the Tri-Lakes and Wescott stations. The Red Cross responded by midnight to assist the residents (and two cats) to find temporary shelter, and the Pikes Peak Regional Fire Rehab Services was deployed to provided food and water to the firefighters on scene. The cause of the fire is under investigation. *Photo by Mike Wicklund.*

Our Community Notices

By Judy Barnes, Events 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 information number for that event.

Wednesday Senior Lunch at Big Red

Nov. 11: Chicken Caesar salad and garlic bread.

Nov. 18: BBQ pork sandwich, beans, coleslaw.

Nov. 25: No lunch, Happy Thanksgiving!

Rolls and butter are served with each meal except sandwiches. Dessert is also provided.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. at 146 Jefferson St., Monument (the School District 38 Administration Building). \$3 voluntary donation. Entertainment follows lunch. For more information, call Judy, 487-9067. An activity of Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership. Meals are provided by Pinecrest Catering, Palmer Lake; Nikki McDonald, executive chef, 481-3307.

Black Forest Road closed at Kettle Creek

Heavy rain in the Black Forest area has prompted the immediate closure of Black Forest Road at Kettle Creek for safety reasons. Two critical stormwater culverts along Black Forest Road over Kettle Creek were heavily damaged during summer flash flooding. Heavy rain has accelerated the erosion problems underneath the roadway, forcing the immediate closure of the road between Swan and Shoup Roads. Weather permitting, construction is expected to begin in March with completion in July. Approximately 5,000 cars per day travel over this area of Black Forest Road and will be routed over an approximate three-mile detour using Swan, Herring, and Shoup Roads. For more information contact Dave Rose, 520-6540, cell: 337-9239, DaveRose@elpasoco.com.

Work to start on I-25 bridge near Larkspur

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will begin work **Nov. 6** to repair the northbound I-25 bridge over Upper Lake Gulch Road, just east of Larkspur. Work includes milling, erosion control, upgrading the bridge surface, and repairs to the deck and piers. The project is scheduled for completion in spring 2016. Drivers can expect lane shifts, a reduced 45 mph speed limit, and possible delays through the work zone. For project updates, email UpperLakeGulch@gmail.com or call the project hotline at 303-582-1812. To receive updates about road conditions, visit www.codot.gov and click on white envelope icon at the bottom of the page. Information about weekly lane closures is available at <https://www.codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html>. Updated road conditions can be found at www.cotrip.org, by downloading the CDOT Mobile app or by calling 511 from anywhere in the state.

Black Forest Together (BFT) needs volunteers; Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays

BFT is searching for team leads, work team members, volunteer work groups, resource center office volunteers, and donations so that they can help residents of burned areas of Black Forest do cleanup and mitigation of their properties. Workers are needed Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays through **Nov. 21**, weather permitting. For more information, please contact Donna, 495-2445, BlackForestTogether@gmail.com, or come by the Resource Center at 11590 Black Forest Rd., Suite 30, in the Forest Plaza Center Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Volunteers needed for County's Citizen Review Panel, apply by Nov. 13

The El Paso County Board of Commissioners is seeking community-minded citizen volunteers to serve on the Citizen Review Panel, an advisory board for the County Department of Human Services. Applications are due by Nov. 13. The volunteer application is located at www.elpasoco.com. Click on the "Volunteer Boards" link. For more information, call 520-6436 or visit www.elpasoco.com.

Forestgate Theatre Auditions, Dec. 1, 3, 5

Forestgate Theatre will hold auditions for Disney and Cameron Macintosh's Mary Poppins **Dec. 1, 3, & 5** (by appointment only). Audition workshops will be available **Nov. 19 & 21**. Actors of all ages and dancers are needed. Performances are scheduled for Apr. 7-23. For more information, call 216-3192 or visit www.forestgatetheatre.org.

Donate new unwrapped toys for Santa on Patrol, by Dec. 18

Each year Chief Jake Shirk plays Santa with the help of elves from the local Fire and Police Departments. This year they will deliver toys **Dec. 19**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can help by donating new, unwrapped toys and gift cards by

Dec. 18, 5 p.m., to the Monument Police Department, 645 Beacon Lite Rd.; Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Department (TLMFD) stations 1, 2, & 3; or the TLMFD Administration building at 15455 Gleneagle Drive, Colorado Springs. For more information, contact Chief Shirk, 481-3253.

Grow Smart Monument group forming

Grow Smart Monument is dedicated to preserving open space and trails, recreational opportunities, natural resources, and community character. Across the U.S., access to parks and open spaces has become a measure of community wealth; a tool for attracting businesses and residents by guaranteeing quality of life and economic health. This group invites collaboration with developers and civic organizations in creating a path to smart growth in our beautiful town. For more information, see the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/groups/growsmartmonument/ or email growsmartmonument@gmail.com.

County warns of phone scam

The scam going around is not new. The caller claims to be a deputy from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. The caller informs the victims they have active warrants for their arrest and need to mail a money card to the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office reminds citizens that no one from that office will ever call anyone to clear up a warrant. A warrant can only be cleared by turning yourself in at the Criminal Justice Center after showing proper identification. If you receive a phone call of this nature, please call the Sheriff's Office, 390-5555, to report it.

Election judges needed

El Paso County needs registered voters to serve as pollworkers on Election Day. For more information, visit elpasoco.com/Election/Pages/ElectionJudgeInformation.aspx.

Mens' a cappella singing group forming

Singers are wanted for a unique men's singing group that will feature close harmony, a cappella singing, somewhat in the style of the Four Freshmen and Vocal Majority. For more information, call John Hobson at 368-7833, or Phil Zara, 481-3197.

Monument School of Fine Arts, enroll now

Art and movie classes for kids and adults, every skill level. Join award-winning art classes for traditional art and painting instruction. For more information, contact Janet Sellers, 387-1890, www.JanetSellers.com.

SunDance Studio Fall registration is open

Register now for dance and fitness classes for toddler through adult, gymnastics, tumbling, cheer, and more. 1450 Cipriani Loop, Monument. For more information, contact 481-8208, www.thesundancestudio.com.

Monument Academy enrolling

Waitlists are moving, some seats are still available in this free public school of choice. For more information, contact 481-1950, www.monumentacademy.net.

St. Peter Catholic School enrolling

The school offers full and half-day preschool, academics, athletics, and more. NCA accredited, state licensed, financial aid available. Call or visit: 124 First St. Monument; 481-1855; www.petertherock.org.

SafeCare Colorado now in El Paso County

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFS) now provides SafeCare Colorado Services in El Paso County. SafeCare Colorado offers proactive in-home, voluntary services that support at-risk families in understanding the health, development, and safety needs of young children. LFS home visitors will deliver the SafeCare curriculum to parents through weekly visits over a four- to five-month period. The curriculum covers: Infant and Child Health, Home Safety, and Parent/Child Interaction. The goal of SafeCare is to build parental skills and consistently reinforce positive communication and problem-solving skills—helping to prevent child abuse. For more information, contact 303-217-5854, www.lfsrm.org.

Mountain View Electric Association Essay Contest, apply by Nov. 18



House Sitting

Short-term house sitting in the Monument area. Evenings. References. Mature female looking to help out the vacationer or on-the-go individual.

Call Nan (719) 651-0488.

High school juniors can win an all-expense-paid trip to either Washington, D.C., or a week at Leadership Camp in the mountains. "What does having electricity and the 'cooperative difference' mean to you?" is this year's topic. For more information, contact 494-2670, www.mvea.coop/community/essay-contest/.

Volunteer drivers needed

Help transport cancer patients to and from medical treatments. The American Cancer Society provides free rides through its Road to Recovery program. For information about the Road to Recovery program or to volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

Bustang & Park-n-Ride improvements

Bustang, the new interregional express bus service from the Colorado Department of Transportation, has begun. Along I-25, there are seven round trips per day, Mon. to Fri., from Colorado Springs to Denver, with a stop at I-25/Monument Park-and-Ride. Single ride tickets from Monument to Denver's Union Station cost only \$9, \$7.50 for seniors. Each coach is equipped with restrooms, bike racks, free Wi-Fi, power outlets and USB ports. Parking lot improvements include new asphalt paving, lighting, striping, signing, and new shelters equipped with lighting and infrared heating units. For information or to buy tickets online, visit www.ridebustang.com, or phone 800-900-3011.

Become a CASA volunteer

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.

HAP needs volunteers

The Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership (HAP) is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that serves and supports seniors in our community. HAP currently needs volunteers, three hours a week; and active board members,

Snowplowing

Commercial & Residential. 20 yr. experience
Call Jeff at Sharpest Cut 491-4811

HELP WANTED THRIFT STORE MANAGER

Full time. Retail experience req'd, preferably thrift stores. Lifting up to 50 lbs req'd.
Send resume to admin@TriLakesHAP.org.

Furnished Studio Apartment For Rent

Totally clean and neat. Great quiet location in the woods near Fox Run Park. North end Colorado Springs near I-25 and Baptist Road. Separate entrance, kitchen, and bath. New bathroom and kitchen. Laundry in the garage. N/S. N/P. Single adult only. Available now. \$995/month includes utilities and laundry. One-year lease. \$800 deposit and full background check required. On-street parking. Call, Text, or Email:
Karen (303) 868-3255 go2karenlinamen@yahoo.com



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eight to 10 hours a month. For more information, call HAP board president, Dave Betzler, at 205-7651.

Donate live trees for Black Forest burn area
If you are doing wildfire mitigation, you might have good live trees to donate to Black Forest burned-out areas. The Black Forest Together (BFT) Tree Donor Program is accepting live trees to be either transplanted in the Black Forest burn area or sold to support the cost of this program. Trees up to 12 inches in diameter (or up to 38 inches around) are ideal. The size of trees is measured at ground level. For more information, contact billmantia@aol.com.

Emergency Notification System update
If you registered for the Emergency Notification System (reverse 911) prior to July 2013, you may need to create a new account. Go to www.elpasoteller911.org and select “sign up” on the registration page. If you are able to log in using your existing user name and password, no further action is needed. If you get an error message indicating your email or password is invalid, press the sign-up button and create a new account. If you need assistance, dial 785-1971 and a staff member will return your call.

Free transportation and safety services for seniors
Mountain Community Senior Services offers free transportation and safety services to Tri-Lakes seniors. If you need a ride to a medical appointment, grocery shopping, or the local senior lunches, a volunteer driver will be happy to help you. Call 488-0076 to leave a message for the dispatcher. If you are in need of grab bars in the bathroom, a ramp to your door, or repair of stairs or railings, please call Cindy Rush, 488-0076, and leave a message.

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 TriLakes-mcts-sshs.org.
Volunteer drivers needed
Mountain Community Transportation for Seniors is a non-profit, 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 MCSS at mcseniorservices@gmail.com or call the MCSS dispatch hotline at 488-0076.

Monument Marketplace Facebook page
Tri-Lakes residents can sell their used items, trade items, and chat about anything local goings-on at www.facebook.com/groups/monumentmarketplace/.

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, call 785-4223 or email jstephen@lewispalmer.org.

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.

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 bridge, 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 information 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.

Senior Safety Program
Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District offers a free senior safety program to all Tri-Lakes seniors. The program includes smoke detector evaluations, home safety assessments, vial of life, and fire prevention. For information call 484-0911 or visit www.tri-lakesfire.com.

County prescription discount program
El Paso County’s prescription discount program saved 10,000 residents \$250,000 in discounted medicines over 18 months at no additional taxpayer cost. People using the card saved an average of 23 percent. There are no eligibility requirements and no strings attached to receive the discounts. You can pick up a free Prescription Discount Card at most county government locations or you can download your own personalized prescription discount card on the county website (bottom of the front page) at www.elpasoco.com/. Any county resident without prescription coverage can use this program. Even if you have insurance for prescription medications, the discount card might save you money on prescription medications your existing plan does not cover. For information, visit www.elpasoco.com/ or call 520-6337 (MEDS).

Free gun-lock kit
The Monument Police Department is offering free firearm safety kits to local residents through a partnership with Project ChildSafe, the nationwide firearms safety education program. Each kit contains gun safety information and a cable-style gunlock that fits most types of handguns, rifles, and shotguns. The Police Department administrative offices at 645 Beacon Lite Rd. are open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Drop by during those times to pick up a free gun-lock kit. For information, phone 481-3253. ■

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., Nov. 10, 10 a.m., 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: Bill Burks, 481-4053.
- **Triview Metropolitan District Board Meeting**, Tue., Nov. 10, 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., Nov. 10, 7 p.m., Palmer Lake Elementary, 115 Upper Glenway, Palmer Lake. Meets 2nd Tue. each month, location varies. Info: 488-4700, www.lewispalmer.org.
- **Palmer Lake Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Wed., Nov. 11, 10 a.m., 120 Middle Glenway. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 481-2732.
- **Palmer Lake Planning Commission Workshop**, Wed., Nov. 11, 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 481-2953 (then press 0) or www.townofpalmerlake.com.
- **Monument Planning Commission Meeting**, Wed., Nov. 11, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 884-8017.
- **Woodmoor Water & Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Thu., Nov. 12, 1 p.m., 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 488-2525.
- **Palmer Lake Town Council Meeting**, Thu., Nov. 12, 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 2nd Thu. Each month. Info: 481-2953 (then press 0) or www.townofpalmerlake.com.
- **Monument Board of Trustees Meeting**, Mon., Nov. 16, 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., Nov. 17, 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>.
- **Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Board Meeting**, Tue., Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Normally meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: Jennifer Martin, 484-0911, www.tlmfire.org.
- **Wescott Fire Protection District Board Meeting**, Tue., Nov. 17, 7 p.m., Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: 488-8680.
- **Palmer Lake Planning Commission Meeting**, Wed., Nov. 18, 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: 481-2953 (then press 0) or www.townofpalmerlake.com.
- **Woodmoor Improvement Association Board Meeting**, Wed., Nov. 18, 7 p.m., Woodmoor Barn, 1691 Woodmoor Dr. Meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: 488-2693, www.woodmoor.org.
- **Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Board Meeting**, Thu., Nov. 19, 6 p.m., Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Meets 3rd Thu. each month. Info: 488-4700.
- **Monument Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Thu., Nov. 19, 10 a.m., 130 2nd St. Meets 3rd Thu. each month. Info: 481-4886.
- **Donala Water & Sanitation District Board Workshop**, Thu., Nov. 19, 1:30 p.m., 15850 Holbein Dr., Colorado Springs. Meets 3rd Thu. each month except Nov. and Dec. Info: 488-3603.
- **Academy Water and Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Tue., Nov. 24, 6 p.m., Wescott Fire Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Meets 4th Tue. each month. Info: 481-0711.
- **Forest View Acres Water District Special Board Meeting**, Thu., Dec. 3, 5:30 p.m., Monument Sanitation District boardroom, 130 Second St. Normally meets 4th Thu. each month, 6 p.m. Info: 488-2110, www.fvawd.com.
- **Academy Water and Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Tue., Dec. 8, 6 p.m., Wescott Fire Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Now meets 2nd Tue. each

- month. Info: 481-0711.
- **Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Board Meeting**, Tue., Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Normally meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: Jennifer Martin, 484-0911, www.tlmfire.org.
- LOCAL LIBRARY EVENTS**
- **The Palmer Lake Library hours** are Tue.-Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 66 Lower Glenway. Info: 481-2587, www.ppld.org.
- **The Monument Branch Library hours** are Mon.-Thu., 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. & Sat, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., 1-5 p.m. 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Aftermath**, every Mon., 3:30-7 p.m. Free drop-in math assistance for students of all ages. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Paws to Read**, every Mon. & Wed., 4-5 p.m. Let your child practice reading to a Paws to Read dog. No registration required. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Storytime**, every Tue., 10:30-11 a.m., 11:15-11:45 a.m. Ages 3 and up, with adult. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Toddler Time**, every Thu., 9:30 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. Rhymes & rhythms for one- and two-year-olds. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Palmer Lake Library: Storytime**, every Wed., 10:30-11 a.m. Ages 3 and up, with adult. Palmer Lake Branch Library, 66 Lower Glenway. Info: 481-2587, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library Teens: Mockingjay Part 1 Movie and Mini-Crossbows Craft**, Sat., Nov. 7, 1-3:30 p.m. No registration required. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Girl Scout Monthly Activity**, Fri., Nov. 13, 4-5:15 p.m. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.

- **Monument Library Family Fun: Amber Isaac and Cody, the Teeny Tiny Alpaca**, Sat., Nov. 14, 2:30-4 p.m. Local children’s author Amber Isaac will share her book about Cody (www.codyalpaca.com). Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Tween Time Game Day**, Fri., Nov. 20, 4-9 p.m. Enjoy fun games and food. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Family Program—LEGO Club**, Sat., Nov. 21, 10-11:30 a.m. Duplos for the littles ones, Legos for the rest. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Fourth Fridays Kids Crafts**, Fri., Nov. 27, 4-5 p.m. Ages 5 and up, make “What I’m Thankful For” wreaths. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Homeschool Program: Pinecone Christmas Ornament Making**, Mon., Nov. 30, 1-2 p.m. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Girl Scout Monthly Meeting**, Fri., Dec. 4, 4-5:15 p.m. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library Family Program: An American Nutcracker Ballet**, Sat., Dec. 5, 2-2:30 p.m. Five girls will each celebrate her unique American heritage while dancing to Tchaikovsky’s timeless classic. The entire performance of *An American Nutcracker* can be seen Dec. 13 at Palmer Ridge High School. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Pikes Peak Library District’s Kids Web**: Kids Web at www.ppld.org features resources for school reports and homework, Tumblebooks—free on-line read-along books, and a Fun & Games link. A “grown-ups” link has information about local school districts, home-schooling, and more.

Adult programs

- **Monument Library: Socrates Café**, every Tue., 1-3 p.m. This group focuses on a deeper look into philosophy, religions, spirituality, and the common threads among humanity. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Senior Chats**, every Wed., 10 a.m.-noon. All seniors are welcome to share conversation and a cup of coffee in this casual discussion group. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Beginning Computer Classes**. Check at the desk for the schedule of free classes Wed. mornings for beginner computer users. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Palmer Lake Library: Palmer Lake Knitting Group**, every Thu., 10 a.m.-noon. Knit with other knitters. Palmer Lake Branch Library, 66 Lower Glenway. Info: 481-2587, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Colorado Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Free Documentary Film Screening**, Sun., Nov. 8, 1-4:45 p.m. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Yoga Class**, Wed., Nov. 11, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Come Write In!** Sat., Nov. 14, 12:15-1:45 p.m. Adults, teens: Celebrate National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) by writing alone or with friends at the library. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: The Life and Times of Gen. Wm. Jackson Palmer: Founder of Colorado Springs**, Sun., Nov. 15, 2-3:30 p.m. Local filmmaker Jim Sawatzki will show his one-hour documentary, followed by Q & A. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Life Circles**, Mon., Nov. 16, 9:30-11 a.m. Get inspiration and structure for writing your memories or history. Meets 1st & 3rd Mon. each month. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Monumental Readers Book Club**, Fri., Nov. 20, 10-11:30 a.m. All are welcome to this spirited group. Meets 3rd Fri. each month.

Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.

- **Monument Library: Come Write In!** Fri., Nov. 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Adults, teens: Celebrate National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) by writing alone or with friends at the library. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Tri-Lakes Knitters & Crafters**, Fri., Nov. 20, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Drop in to share ideas, get help. Meets 1st and 3rd Fri. each month. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: Clare Wissinger, 481-8442, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Irene Sutherland Book Signing**, Sun., Nov. 22, 2-4:45 p.m. Monument author Irene Sutherland will give a presentation on her book, *Martin’s Memoirs by Martin Delohery*. Followed by a meet & greet and book signing. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Come Write In!** Sat., Nov. 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Adults, teens: Celebrate National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) by writing alone or with friends at the library. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Bonfils Blood Center Community Blood Drive**, Sat., Nov. 28, 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Tri-Lakes Knitters & Crafters**, Fri., Dec. 4, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Drop in to share ideas, get help. Meets 1st and 3rd Fri. each month. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: Clare Wissinger, 481-8442, www.ppld.org.
- **Monument Library: Life Circles**, Mon., Dec. 7, 9:30-11 a.m. Get inspiration and structure for writing your memories or history. Meets 1st & 3rd Mon. each month. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- **The Library Channel (Comcast 17) broadcasts 24/7**. See live simulcasts of programs, recorded presentations, a schedule of Library events, children’s story times, an adult literacy program, El Paso County Commissioners meetings, and much more. Find the schedule online at ppld.org, then click on the link “Happenings @ Your Library,” then click on the “Comcast 17” link to search the schedule.

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS

- **Monument Hill Kiwanis Club Breakfast Meeting**, every Sat., 8 a.m., Monument Hill Country Club, 18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument. Guests are welcome to the weekly meetings that feature speakers on a variety of topics and a free hearty buffet breakfast. Join the 140+ men and women of the Tri-Lakes area who work together on a wide variety of projects to support our community. Info: Bill Healy, 278-8393.
- **Monument Community Yoga**, every Sat., 9 a.m., Woodmoor Community Center, 1691 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. All levels. Cost: cash donation. Info: BePresentYogaLLC@gmail.com.
- **Free Workshop at Monument Natural Grocers**, every Sat., 10-11:30 a.m., 655 W Hwy 105, Monument. Patty Moore, MNT, presents various health-related topics. Info: 487-0448.
- **Bingo by the American Legion**, every Sat., game sales start at 6 p.m., games start at 7 p.m., the Depot Restaurant, in Palmer Lake. Proceeds go to scholarships and other community support activities. Info: 481-8668, www.americanlegiontrilakespost911.com/bingo.htm.
- **Outdoor Plein Air Oil Painting Demo, with art class afterward**, every Sat.-Sun., 3-5 p.m. For plein air art fun join Janet Sellers and get free local scene coloring pages while she demos at Monument Lake, Palmer Lake, and other local scenic spots. RSVP & Info: janetsellers10@gmail.com, 387-1890.
- **Holy Trinity Anglican Church Sunday Worship**, every Sun., 8:30 a.m.; teaching & community time (preschool-adult), 10 a.m.; family service with children’s church, 10:45 a.m. 13990 Gleneagle Dr. Nursery available all morning. Info: 505-8021, www.HolyTrinityAnglicanChurch.org.
- **Tri-Lakes Reformed Church Sunday Worship**, every Sun., 9:45 a.m., Woodmoor Community Center, 1691 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Info: www.trilakes-reformed.org.
- **Catriona Cellars Sunday Brunch**, every Sun., 9:30-noon, 243 Washington St., Monument. Lunch and dinner Tue.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. RSVP & Info:

481-3477.

- **Cathedral Rock Church Sunday Service**, every Sun., 10 a.m., Tri-Lakes YMCA, 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy, Monument. Info: www.cathedralrock-church.org.
- **Best Dog Free Puppy Socialization Sessions**, Monument Plaza, 481 W. Hwy 105, #203, Monument. Find out about the full range of classes offered. Info: 648-9122, www.bestdogltd.com.
- **Women’s A.A. Step Study**, every Mon., 6 p.m. Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 675 W. Baptist Rd. Info: 481-0431.
- **Yin Yoga Classes**, every Mon., 6:30-7:45 p.m., Yoga Pathways Studio, 755 Hwy 105, West End Center, Suite A (3/4 mile west of Safeway). A slow yoga practice; all levels welcome. First class always free. Info: Deb Harano, 338-8467; DimensionsYoga@gmail.com.
- **Monument Hill Kiwanis Bingo**, every Mon., 7:30 pm, Carefree Bingo, 3440 N. Carefree Circle, Colo. Springs. All proceeds benefit those in need in the Tri-Lakes Community. Info: mark.zeiger@gmail.com.
- **Senior Lunches**, every Mon. & Thu., except the 1st Thu. each month and holidays, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Administration Complex, 166 Second St., Monument. Arrive 11:30 a.m., dine at noon. Stay for free bingo the 2nd Thu. each month. Cost: \$2. Info: Dorothy Myers, 481-4189; Maggie Nealon, 488-3037.
- **Transmission Meditation: Group Meditations** every Mon. & Thu., 7 p.m., in Palmer Lake. The simplest, most potent way to serve humanity and help transform our world. Dynamic aid to personal growth. Info: 303-494-4462, TransmissionMeditation.org.
- **Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI)**, open Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., daily guided tours at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. (included in admission). Cost: \$8 adults, \$7 military/AAA, \$6 seniors & students, \$4 children 3-12, free to children under 3 & museum members. WMMI is located at 225 North Gate Blvd. (I-25 Exit 156 A). Info: 488-0880, info@wmmi.org, www.wmmi.org.
- **HAP Thrift Store**, open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 790 Suite D, Hwy 105 (between Palmer Lake and Monument). Nov. specials: 20% off all picture frames and toys, 50% off all books; Nov. 27-Dec. 5: 25% off all Christmas items. Periodic 1/2 price sale on selected items. Every Wednesday, Every Month Senior Discounts: 20% off everything for 62 years or older. All proceeds support Tri-Lakes Senior Programs. If you have furniture to donate, call 488-3495 for a pickup. Info: www.trilakeshap.org.
- **Tri-Lakes YMCA Senior Coffee**, every Tue., 9:30-11:30 a.m., 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy, Monument. Members and non-members are welcome. Seniors, come socialize and have coffee and snacks in the front lobby. Sign up to bring snacks. Free. Info: 630-2604, hbrandon@ppymca.org, www.ppymca.org.
- **Yarny Birds Stitch Group**, every Tue., 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., 790 Hwy 105, #C, Palmer Lake. An open group for knitters, crocheters, and fiber arts of any type. Classes starting soon. Info: 377-0403, yarnbirdfibers@gmail.com.
- **Al-anon Meeting: Monument Serenity**, every Tue., 7:30-8:30 p.m., Ascent Church, (formerly the Tri-Lakes Chapel) 1750 Deer Creek Rd., Monument. Info: Kay, 481-9258.
- **The Villa Palmer Lake**, 1/2 price bottles of wine (select wines, with entrée purchase) every Tue., open mic on Thu. Nights, 8-10 p.m. 75 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. RSVP & Info: 481-2222, www.theVillaPalmer-Lake.com.
- **Gleneagle Sertoma**, every Wed., luncheon meeting at Liberty Heights, 12105 Ambassador Dr., (off Voyager Blvd in Colorado Springs). Interesting speakers and programs; all are welcome. Info: Call Garrett Barton, 433-5396, Bill Bristol, 481-3366, www.gle-neaglesertoma.org.

Skunks-Coons-Squirrels-Snakes-Woodpeckers



ANIMAL MOVERS

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- **Senior Citizen Luncheons**, every **Wed.**, noon-1 p.m., D-38 Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership (HAP) invites area seniors for lunch & activities. Free blood pressure screening 1st & 3rd Wed. \$3 donation requested. Info: 484-0517.
- **Tri-Lakes Church of Christ Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Free) & Classes**, every **Wed.**, 6-7:30 p.m., 20450 Beacon Lite Road, Monument (Corner of Beacon Lite & County Line Roads). Info: 488-9613, gregsmith@trilakeschurch.org, www.trilakeschurch.org.
- **Al-anon Meeting: Letting Go**, every **Thu.**, 9-10:10 a.m., Tri-Lakes Chapel, room 209, 1750 Deer Creek Rd., Monument. Info: Kay, 481-9258.
- **A.A. Big Book Study**, every **Thu.**, 7 p.m., Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 675 W. Baptist Rd. Info: 481-0431.
- **Foot Care Clinic**, **Wed., Nov. 11**, Senior Center located across the street from the Tri-Lakes YMCA, on the Lewis-Palmer High School campus. A registered nurse examines your feet and provides foot care advice, toenail trimming. Cost: \$30 for a 30-min. visit. Meets 2nd Wed. and last Fri. each month, by appointment only. Info & appointments: call the Visiting Nurse Association, 577-4448.
- **Black Forest AARP Potluck Lunch & Meeting**, **Wed., Nov. 11**, noon, Black Forest Lutheran Church, 12455 Black Forest Rd. All ages welcome. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: Chuck, 749-9227, or aarp-chapter1100blackforest.weebly.com.
- **Senior Bingo at Old Monument Town Hall**, **Thu., Nov. 12**, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Administration Complex, 166 Second St., Monument, after the noontime senior lunch. Come for lunch at 11:30 a.m., then stay and play. Free! Prizes! Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: Maggie Nealon, 488-3037.
- **Bridge**, **Thu., Nov. 12**, 12:30-3:30. Tri-Lakes Senior Center located on Lewis-Palmer High School campus. Walk-ins are welcome. Meets 2nd and 4th Thu. each month. Reservation suggested: call Roger and Syble, 488-2669.
- **Legacy Sertoma Dinner Meeting**, **Thu., Nov. 12**, 6:30 p.m., Monument Hill Country Club, 18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument. New members and visitors welcome. Meets 2nd & 4th Thu. each month. Info: Ed Kinney, 481-2750.
- **Ben Lomond Gun Club, Tri-Lakes Chapter**, **Thu., Nov. 12**, 7 p.m., Tri-Lakes Fire Station 1, 18650 Hwy 105 west of Monument near the bowling alley. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 481-3364.
- **Palmer Lake Art Group**, **Sat., Nov. 14**, 9 a.m., Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. A variety of art programs are offered after the social gathering and business meeting. Guests welcome. Meets 2nd Sat. each month. Info: 487-1329, www.palmerlakeartgroup.com.
- **El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility**, **Sat., Nov. 14**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 3255 Akers Dr., Colorado Springs. Open the 2nd Sat. each month as well as Mon.-Thu., 7 a.m.-5 p.m., accepts porcelain fixtures, common recyclable items, household hazardous waste, various electronics, and TVs up to 19-inch diagonal. Accepts documents from private households for shredding, up to two legal paper-sized boxes. Bring a nonperishable food item for Care and Share. Info: 520-7878, http://adm.elpasoco.com/Environmental_Services/Solid_Waste_Management
- **Alzheimer's Support Group**, **Sat., Nov. 14**, 10-11:30 a.m., Church at Woodmoor, 18125 Furrow Rd. Meets 2nd Sat. each month. Info: LaVonne Putman, 488-2557.
- **NEPCO Meeting: Commissioner Darryl Glenn speaks on County Issues**, **Sat., Nov. 14**, 10 a.m.-noon, New Monument Town Hall & Police Building, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. All are welcome to this bi-monthly meeting of local homeowners associations. Info: 481-2723 or visit www.nepco.org.
- **Amateur Radio W0TLM (Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association)**, **Mon., Nov. 16**, 7 p.m. All amateur radio operators or those interested in becoming amateur radio operators are welcome. Meets 3rd Mon. For meeting place and info contact Joyce Witte, 488-0859, Joycewitte@gmail.com; or visit www.W0TLM.com.
- **Tri-Lakes Home Educators' Support Group**, **Mon., Nov. 16**. Meets 3rd Mon. each month for support, information, field trips, and special events. Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TLHESGmembers> or

- tlhesgmembers-owner@yahoogroups.com.
- **Senior Tea**, **Tue., Nov. 17**, 1-3 p.m., Senior Center at Lewis-Palmer High School (across from the YMCA). Come early to socialize, bring a salad or dessert to share. Meat dishes and tea provided. Voluntary donations welcome. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: Irene C., 484-0517.
- **Caregivers Support and Brainstorming Open House**, **Tue., Nov. 17**, 2-4 p.m., Lifting Spirits Adult Day Center, 755 Hwy. 105 Unit C, Palmer Lake. Meets 1st and 3rd Tue. each month. Info: Linda, (303) 579-8114.
- **Fibromyalgia Support Group**, **Tue., Nov. 17**, 5 p.m., Police Station, 7850 Goddard (1 block off Academy on Kelly Johnson near Chapel Hills Mall), Community Room just inside main entrance. A DVD will play 5-6 p.m.; meeting starts at 6 p.m. Share concerns and success stories and talk to a D.O. Learn how you can become pain-free. No charge, no products sold. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: 481-2230.
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7829**, **Tue., Nov. 17**, 7 p.m., Monument Hill Country Club 18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument. New members welcome. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: Post Commander Joe Carlson, jcarlson@vfw7829.org, 488-1902, www.vfw7829.org.
- **Ladies Auxiliary to V.F.W. Post 7829**, **Wed., Nov. 18**, 7 p.m., Monument Hill Country Club, 18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument. New members welcome. If you are a female relative of a veteran who served on foreign soil during war or other military action, you may be eligible. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: Kathy Carlson, 488-1902, carlsonmke@aol.com.
- **Drummers!** **Wed., Nov. 18**, 6:30-8 p.m., Yoga Pathways, Suite A, West End Center, 755 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Free and open to the public. Bring any kind of drum or other hand percussion instrument. Beginners welcome! Usually meets 3rd Wed. each month. Verify date & time: Char, 488-3138.
- **Tri-Lakes Lions Club**, **Thu., Nov. 19**, 6:30 p.m. social, 7-8 p.m. meeting, Sundance Mountain Lodge, 1865 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Meets 3rd Thu. each month. Info: David Prejean, 434-7031.
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society: "Orphan Train,"** **Thu. Nov. 19**, 7 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Jane Milne brings this true hardship story to life. The program is free to the public. Meets 3rd Thu. each month except December. Info: Pat McCarthy, 659-1363; www.palmerdividehistory.org.
- **Monument Hill Farmers Market Winter Indoor Market**, **Sat., Nov. 21**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Grace Best, 66 Jefferson St., Monument. Many new vendors plus all your old favorites! Local honey, jams, pastries, cheese. Meets every third Sat. through April. Info: 592-9420.
- **Little Log Kitchen Free Meal**, **Sat., Nov. 21**, noon, 133 High St., Palmer Lake. Sponsored by Little Log Church every 3rd Sat. Info: 481-2409.
- **Senior Social**, **Wed., Nov. 25**, 1-4 p.m., Fellowship Hall of the Black Forest Lutheran Church, 12455 Black Forest Rd. Meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: aarpchapter1100blackforest.weebly.com.
- **Foot Care Clinic**, **Fri., Nov. 27**, Senior Center located across the street from the Tri-Lakes YMCA, on the Lewis-Palmer High School campus. A registered nurse examines your feet and provides foot care advice, toenail trimming. Cost: \$30 for a 30-min. visit. Meets 2nd Wed. and last Fri. each month, by appointment only. Info & appointments: call the Visiting Nurse Association, 577-4448.
- **Caregivers Support and Brainstorming Open House**, **Tue., Dec. 1**, 2-4 p.m., Lifting Spirits Adult Day Center, 755 Hwy. 105 Unit C, Palmer Lake. Meets 1st and 3rd Tue. each month. Info: Linda, (303) 579-8114.
- **American Legion Tri-Lakes Post 9-11**, **Tue., Dec. 1**, 6:30 p.m., Depot Restaurant, Hwy 105 & Primrose St., Palmer Lake. New members welcome. Meets 1st Tue. each month. Info: 481-8668, www.americanlegiontrilakespost911.com.
- **Monument Homemakers Club Monthly Potluck Lunch & Meeting**, **Thu., Dec. 3**, 11:30 a.m., Tri-Lakes Fire Department Administrative Building, 166 Second St., Monument. Meets 1st Thu. each month except Jan. and unless D-38 is delayed or closed due to bad weather. Newcomers welcome. For a ride to the meeting, call Faye Brenneman, 488-0076. RSVP & info: Irene Walters, 481-1188, or Bev Wells, 488-3327.
- **Palmer Divide Quiltmakers**, **Thu., Dec. 3**, 7 p.m.,

- Church at Woodmoor, 18125 Furrow Rd. Meets 1st Thu. each month. Info: pdq504@gmail.com.
- **Tri-Lakes MOMS Club Monthly Meeting**, **Fri., Dec. 4**, 10 a.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Normally meets 1st Fri. each month. Info: monumentmomsinfo@gmail.com, <https://m.facebook.com/MonumentMomsClub>.
- **Lifting Spirits Adult/Senior Day Service Open House**, **Mon., Dec. 7**, 1-4 p.m., 755 Hwy. 105 Unit C, Palmer Lake. Caregivers, find out how to make your lives easier. Refreshments served. Meets 1st Mon. each month. Info: Linda, (303) 579-8114.
- **Guitar Lessons: New students buy three, get one free**. All ages, levels, styles. Info: Mike, 487-8435.
- **Lupus Support Group**. If you suffer with an autoimmune disease and want to connect with others, you are welcome to join this group. Info: dmbandle@hotmail.com.
- **Myasthenia Gravis Association of Colorado Support Group**. Location varies. For information, call Carolyn, 488-3620, www.4-mga.org, 303-360-7080, 4mga@4-mga.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild Fall Show & Sale**, **Thu.-Sun., Nov. 5-8**, **Thu.-Sat.**, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; **Sun.**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. (just N. of Shoup. Please note that Black Forest Road is closed north of the Community Center.) The free show offers crafts, baked goods, and more from more than 90 artisans and culinary guild members. A portion of all sale proceeds will benefit the guild's scholarship fund and the Black Forest community. Info: 495-3035 or www.BFACG.org. Info: 495-3035, <http://bfacg.org>.
- **Downtown Monument Holiday Open House**, **Fri.-Sat., Nov. 6-7**. Catch the holiday spirit with special promotions, refreshments, holiday decorations, and door prizes. Info: www.monumentmerchants.com.
- **Lillian's of Monument Holiday Open House**, **Fri.-Sat., Nov. 6-7**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Sat.**, 251 Front St., Suite 4, Monument. New fashions, \$10 deals. Info: 488-3550, www.lillians.com/monument, www.facebook.com/lilliansofmonument.
- **Opening Reception for 2015 Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) Member Artist Exhibition**, **Fri., Nov. 6**, 6-8 p.m., Great food, drinks, and live music, free! Exhibition runs until Jan. 2, 2016. Info: www.trilakesarts.org, 481-0475.
- **Holiday Open House Book Signings at Covered Treasures**, **Sat., Nov. 7**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 105 2nd St, Monument. Nancy Jurka and Kay LaBella will sign their collectible children's book, The Bright Star of Palmer Lake. Info: 481-2665, www.coveredtreasures.com.
- **Pine Creek Bazaar & Silent Auction**, **Sat., Nov. 7**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 10750 Thunder Mountain Rd., Colo. Springs. The annual holiday craft bazaar benefits the Pine Creek High School Instrumental Music Program. Grandma's Kitchen opens 11 a.m. Info: www.pcbandboosters.com/bazaar.html.
- **History of the Palmer Lake Star & Dinner**, **Mon., Nov. 9**, 6-9 p.m., Colorado Springs Masonic Hall, 1150 Panorama Dr. Jack Anthony, presenter. Cost: \$17. RSVP & Info: posse@dewittenterprises.com.
- **Monument Academy Veterans' Day Assembly: "Honoring All Who Have Served,"** **Wed., Nov. 11**, 9:45 a.m., 1500 Village Ridge Point, Monument. All are invited to a tribute performance by students, a keynote speaker, and music by The United States Air Force Academy Band, Academy Winds. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. for veterans and active duty along with one guest. RSVP & info: 481-1950 ext. 1240.
- **Tri-Lakes Economic Development Corporation State of the Region**, **Thu., Nov. 12**, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., District 38 Administration Building, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Speakers are Sam Bailey from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Dirk Draper from the Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance, and Danette Lilja from the Tri-Lakes Economic Development Corporation. Cost: \$30. RSVP & Info: www.trilake-schamber.com, Julie Matalus, 481-3282, icontact@trilakesedc.com.
- **Lewis-Palmer High School Musical: "Urinetown,"** **Thu.-Sat., Nov. 12-14**, 7 p.m.; also a 2 p.m. **Sat.**, 1300 Higby Rd., Monument. Cost: \$10, Students/seniors \$8. Tickets: www.showtix4u.com (search for Urinetown). Info: jclark@lewispalmer.org.
- **Veterans' Yoga Project National Fundraiser All-Levels Yoga Class**, **Fri., Nov. 13**, 5-6 p.m., Yoga

Pathways Studio, 755 Hwy. 105, Suite A (West End Center, 3/4 mile west of Monument Safeway). Class led by Raleigh Dove. Free to vets and active-duty military. Suggested donation \$10. Info: 481-4137, www.YogaPathwaysStudio.com.

- **Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage headlined by Dakota Blonde**, Fri., Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m., Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. at Shoup Road. Cost: \$10 general, \$5 BRAS members, \$5 nonmember students with ID. Info: Joe Maio, 528-6119, jrmtn@comcast.net, www.blackroseacoustic.org.
- **St. Peter Holiday Boutique**, Sat., Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 124 First St., Monument. More than 50 local vendors showcase handcrafted jewelry, sewn creations, arts and crafts, bake sale, and other handmade goodies. Lunch available. Exciting raffle baskets. Free admission. Info: 481-1855, www.petertherock.org.
- **Help for the Holidays in the Midst of Loss**, Sat., Nov. 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m., The West End Center, 755 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. The holiday season can be a stressful time for those who have experienced a loss—whether a loved one, a relationship, a job, or your health. Learn ways to cope and bring hope back into this season. Free. RSVP & Info: Annie Campanaro, 358-1010.
- **Tri-Lakes Y Parents Night Out**, Sat., Nov. 14, Dec. 5, Dec. 12, 4:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy., Monument. For ages 3-10, must be potty trained. Dinner, bounce house, gym games, crafts, a movie, swimming for ages 7 up. Cost: Members \$18, non-members \$28. RSVP & Info: 481-8728.
- **Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive**, Tue., Nov. 17, 3-7 p.m., Tri-Lakes Cares, 235 Jefferson St., Monument. No appointment needed, just walk in. Please bring driver's license or ID. Info: 776-5714.
- **Gleneagle Women's Club Arts and Crafts Fair**, Fri., Nov. 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holy Trinity Church, 13990 Gleneagle Dr. Free admission. Info: Tsilla, 599-9046.
- **Buffalo Grass Acoustic Society Open Stage featuring Jody Adams Band, John McGann, Rob Tobiassen**, Fri., Nov. 20, Show starts at 7 p.m., free jam session starts at 5:30 p.m., Cowboy Church of Peyton, 15504 Bradshaw Rd., Peyton. Cost: Adults, \$5; Members, \$3; Kids under 16 free. Info: 495-0733, info@buffalograssacoustic.org, www.buffalograssacoustic.org.
- **Stars Alive: An Evening with the Legends at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA)**, Fri., Nov. 20, 7 p.m., doors open 6:30 p.m., 304 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Live performances with tribute artists performing the music of the legendary stars they impersonate: Patsy Cline, Roy Orbison, Marilyn Monroe, and Elvis. Advance tickets: TLCA Members \$16, Non-members \$20. Day of show: TLCA members \$20, Non-members \$24. Tickets & Info: www.trilakesarts.org, 481-0475.
- **Alpaca Holiday Extravaganza**, Sat.-Sun., Nov. 21-22; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun., Black Forest Community Club, 12530 Black Forest Rd. Meet alpacas and shop for clothing and accessories as well as fleece, yarn, and more. Free; children welcome. Info: 495-6693, <http://secab-extravaganza.weebly.com/>.
- **Rocky Mountain Music Alliance (RMMA) Concert: Piano Concerto Night**, Sat., Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church, 20256 Hunting Downs Way, Monument. Grieg and Rachmaninov 2nd Piano Concertos. Reception follows concert. Cost: \$10 online, \$12 at door. Students with ID and children free. Tickets & Info: rmmaonline.org, Coleen Abeyta, 630-8165, Coleen.Abeyta@gmail.com.
- **Free Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner at Rosie's Diner**, Thu., Nov. 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 411 Hwy. 105, Monument. Tri-Lakes and Black Forest residents who, for whatever reason, will be unable to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with friends or family at home, and first responders on duty Thanksgiving day are invited to enjoy a free Thanksgiving dinner at Rosie's Diner. Reservations are suggested because seating is limited. Reservations must be made by Nov. 13 with Madeline at the Town of Monument, 963-1524. More information is also available at www.TriLakesHAP.org/CCT.
- **Tri-Lakes Y Black Friday Drop n Shop**, Fri., Nov. 27, 12:30-5:30 p.m., 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy., Monument. For ages 3-10, must be potty-trained.

Lunch, bounce house, a movie, other fun holiday activities, swimming for ages 7 up. Cost: Members \$30, non-members \$40. RSVP & Info: 481-8728.

- **Wisdom Tea House Holiday Afternoon Tea**, Fri., Nov. 24-Jan. 16, 65 Second St., Monument. Cost: \$30. RSVP & Info: 481-8822, www.wisdomteahouse.com.
- **Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI): The Gold Assay Process: Magic or Chemistry?** Sat., Nov. 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 225 North Gate Blvd at 1-25 Exit 156A. Discover how ore is processed to extract gold. This fast-moving, interactive assay demonstration will overview the math, mechanics, and chemistry of this exciting process. Cost: adults \$8, military/AAA \$7, seniors/students \$6, children 3-12 \$4, free to children under 3 & museum members. RSVP to rsvp@wmmi.org or 488-0880. Info: www.wmmi.org.
- **Small Business Saturday Book Signings at Covered Treasures**, Sat., Nov. 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 105 2nd St, Monument. Heather Buchman will sign her two series, "And Then You..." and "Linger," 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and Anna Blake will sign her book Stable Relation noon-2 p.m. Info: 481-2665, www.coveredtreasures.com.
- **Palmer Lake's Traditional Chili Supper & Annual Star-lighting Festival**, Sat., Nov. 28, 4:30-7 p.m., Star-lighting at 7 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Join the tradition and enjoy chili, potato soup, fresh-baked cinnamon rolls, and more. Cost: \$8 adults, \$3 children under 12. Proceeds go to the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department. There will be hayrides, roasting marshmallows over an open fire, Christmas carols, Santa, bucket drawings and silent auctions, with one lucky winner chosen to light the star! Info or to donate prizes: Jeannine at the Rock House Ice Cream shop, 488-6917; or Toni, 481-2953.
- **Monument Hill Kiwanis Club's 10th Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair**, Sat., Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Grace Best, 66 Jefferson St., Monument. Browse hundreds of handcrafted items perfect for holiday gifts and stocking stuffers. Holiday music by various D-38 school groups throughout the day and the Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Cookie Walk. Admission is free with nonperishable food items, toys, or cash donations for Tri-Lakes Cares. Info: www.monumenthillkiwanis.org, or contact Bob Nissen, 304-8705, Bob@mifigroup.com.
- **Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Cookie Walk and Craft Sale**, Sat., Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Grace Best School, 66 Jefferson St., Monument. Come early to get your choice of delectable homemade Christmas cookies and unique crafts! Proceeds benefit the Tri-Lakes Neighborhood Nurse Program, TLUMC Scholarship Fund, and other local charitable causes. Info: women@tlumc.org.
- **Small Town Christmas**, Sat., Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Celebrate the season with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus along with activities and crafts for children, hayrides, open houses, and other special events in Historic Downtown Monument. Tree-lighting at Limbach Park 5-6 p.m. Info: 425-8889, info@monumentmerchants.com.
- **Small Town Christmas at Covered Treasures Bookstore**, Sat., Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 105 2nd St, Monument. Stop in for refreshments, browse books and gifts, meet some children's authors. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Janelle Diller and Lisa Travis will sign their young reader series, "The Pack-and-go-Girls;" Leslea Wahl will sign The Perfect Blindside, a young adult adventure novel set in Colorado. Carmella LaVigna Coyle will visit 1-3 p.m. Her latest title from the "Do Princesses..." series is, Do Princesses Make Happy Campers? Info: 481-2665, www.coveredtreasures.com.
- **Psychic Fair and Christmas Sale at The Open Door Books and Gifts**, Sat., Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., 251 Front St., Suite 8, Monument. Info: 487-9076.
- **Palmer Lake Yule Log Pot Luck Dinner**, Tue., Dec. 8, 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Circle. Please bring a potluck dish to share and place settings for your family. Info: 481-2953.
- **Annual Handbell Christmas Concert**, Sat., Dec. 12, 7 p.m., Monument Community Presbyterian Church, 238 Third St., Monument. Bells, chimes, organ, brass, saxophones, recorders, and vocal selections. Free; everyone is invited! Info: Betty Jenik, 488-3853.
- **Annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt**, Sun., Dec.

13, 1 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Trek up the mountain in search of the Yule Log. Hunt participants should arrive 11 a.m.-noon. The winner will ride the Yule Log back to town and get the first cup of wassail. Non-hunters can stay warm indoors with carols and stories. Info: 481-2953.

Our community calendar carries listings on a space-available basis for Tri-Lakes events that are sponsored by local governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations. We include events that are open to the general public and are not religious or self-promotional in nature. If space is available, complimentary calendar listings are included, when requested, for events advertised in the current issue. To have your event listed at no charge in Our Community Calendar, please call (719) 339-7831 or send the information to calendar@ocn.me or P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132.

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Letters to Our Community

Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest. We do not knowingly print letters that have previously appeared in substantially the same form elsewhere, and our editorial board limits each letter writer to a maximum of six letters per calendar year to ensure that OCN contains a variety of viewpoints. To submit a letter, please:

- Identify your submission as a letter to the editor.
- Include a suggested headline or title.
- Limit letters to 300 words or less.
- Include your full name, home address, and day and evening phone numbers.
- Email your letter to editor@ocn.me or mail it to P.O. Box 1742, Monument, CO 80132-1742.
- Send your letter at least 10 days before the "first Saturday of the month" when the paper is printed.

If you have not received an acknowledgement of your letter, call Lisa Hatfield, Managing Editor, at (719) 339-7831. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and accuracy.

Look for our next issue

Saturday, December 5,

Ad space reservations due: **Fri., Nov. 13**

Finished ad artwork due: **Fri., Nov. 20**

Calendar items due: **Fri., Nov. 27**

Letters to the editor due: **Fri., Nov. 27**

Visit our website to read, download, and search all the back issues at **WWW.OCN.ME**

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

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Editorial content: editor@ocn.me
Event information: calendar@ocn.me

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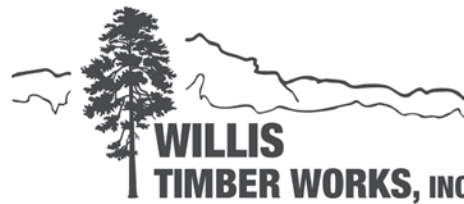
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