

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

Dec. 9: Artichoke chicken over rice, salad.

Dec. 16: Spaghetti and meatballs, Caesar salad, garlic bread.

Dec. 23: No lunch (Merry Christmas!)

Dec. 30: No lunch (Happy New Year!)

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.

Support Tri-Lakes Cares on Colorado Gives Day, Dec. 8

The value of every dollar donated increases on **Dec. 8** through the \$1 Million Incentive Fund. Donate online, at www.coloradogives.org/tri-lakescares or www.tri-lakes-cares.org.

Donations and volunteers needed for Feed the Children event, Dec. 12

El Paso County's 15th annual Feed the Children event is a one-day event just before Christmas where the families already receiving help from the Department of Human Services enjoy a day of celebration and receive food, toys, books, and toiletries. Last year about 4,300 of the neediest people in our community were served. Monetary donations are needed cover the costs of supplies and materials. New toys are needed for children from infants through age 12, as well as new or gently used books. Gift cards in \$10 increments will be given to teenagers. To donate, please contact Rebecca Jacobs at 444-8191 or at RebeccaJacobs@elpasoco.com. Volunteers are needed also. To sign up, go to <http://dhs2.elpasoco.com/ftc/FeedtheChildrenForm.asp>.

Tri-Lakes Land Use Committee seeks volunteers, Dec. 14

The Tri-Lakes Land Use Committee is being reinvigorated as a result of the current resurgence in local development activity. The group was established by the 2000 Tri-Lakes Comprehensive Plan and receives a copy of development applications submitted to the town and county. The committee then has the opportunity to provide comments on proposed developments in the Tri-Lakes area while it is still early enough in the process to have a chance at influencing the direction of growth. Ideally, this group should include representatives from across the Tri-Lakes area. With all the development going on, citizens should be aware of the existence of this vehicle for community involvement in the process. The first meeting will be **Dec. 14**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the YMCA business meeting room, 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy., Monument. For more information, contact Jerry Hannigan, hannigan.and.assoc@gmail.com.

Santa on Patrol toy drive, ends 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 Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, 166 Second St., Monument; Monument Tree Lighting, Dec. 5, 4:30-6 p.m., Limbach Park; Monument Police Department, 645 Beacon Lite Rd.; Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Department (TLMFD) stations 1, 2, and 3 in Monument. For more information, contact Chief Shirk, 481-3253.

The Tri-Lakes Economic Development Corporation seeks executive director

The Tri-Lakes Economic Development Corporation (TLEDC) is seeking an executive director to represent the organization throughout the Pikes Peak Region. This high-profile position requires a candidate with executive-level experience in the private, public, or nonprofit sectors; who has a passion for the Tri-Lakes business community; and can advocate effectively on the TLEDC's Board of Directors' and our community's behalf. Please send inquiries and resumes to edposition@trilakesedc.com.

Register for Winter Basketball at Tri-Lakes Y Ages preschool-8th grade. Practices begin the week of **Jan. 4**. Financial assistance available. Register at www.pymca.org or at the Y, 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy., Monument. Information: 481-8728.

Exercise Deep Freeze '16, Jan. 9

Volunteers like you are needed on **Jan. 9** to help El Paso County exercise "Deep Freeze" from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to portray stranded motorists and distressed citizens requiring assistance during a blizzard. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate the ability of all the emergency responders in northern El Paso County to coordinate rescue activities during a major blizzard. Volunteers must be willing to stick to the script they are given, drive their own vehicles to designated rescue locations, and use their personal cell phones to place a simulated distress call. Contact Andre' at epg@tlumc.org or text/call Lisa at 339-7831 to ask questions or to sign up soon, so they know they have enough volunteers. If you are the least bit curious, please call!

Election judges needed

The Town of Palmer Lake is looking for five volunteers to serve as election judges in the upcoming election on April 5, 2016. If you are interested please contact the town office at 42 Valley Crescent or call 481-2953.

Local students collect trash for cash

Students at Prairie Winds Elementary School in Monument are making a difference this school year by collecting empty applesauce pouches for recycling in the TerraCycle GoGo squeeZ Brigade®. The school is among the top GoGo squeeZ collectors of 2015, having collected 2,134 this year. Since signing up for the program, Prairie Winds students have collected 4,216 pouches, earning nearly \$100 for their school. For every unit of waste sent to TerraCycle for recycling, collectors earn points which can be redeemed as a charity gift or cash donation for their school or nonprofit of choice. TerraCycle offers more than 30 different Brigade programs, allowing schools, organizations, and individuals to recycle everything from Capri Sun drink pouches to Entenmann's and Hain Celestial snack bags. The waste collected through these programs is recycled into new plastic products such as trashcans, picnic tables, and park benches. For more information, visit www.terracycle.com.

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.

Three steps to recycle right

Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans, and paper. Keep foods and liquids out of the recycling. Keep plastic bags out of the recycling. These three steps have a big impact on getting the right things in the recycling bin. Did you know that plastic bags can shut down an entire recycling plant? So keep plastic bags out of the recycling and when in doubt, leave it out. For more information, visit recycleoftenrecycleright.com.

LEAP—Help for heating bills

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally funded program that provides cash assistance to help families and individuals pay a portion of winter home heating costs. The eligibility period for LEAP runs through April 30. Application packets will automatically be mailed to residents who received LEAP assistance last year at the address where they were living at that time. To find out if you qualify for LEAP, call 1-866 HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) or visit www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap.

Save your sewer system!

Fats, oils, and grease problems

Grease from cooking, gravy, cooking oil, and sauces may look harmless as a liquid, but when it cools it gets thick and sticky. That means if you pour grease down your drain, it sticks to pipes and eventually can cause clogs and messy overflows. Prevent backups in your home by pouring all grease from bacon, fried chicken, and other cooking grease into a can, putting in the freezer, then tossing it in the trash.

Tri-Lakes men's a cappella singing group

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 for preschool-eighth grade

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 for preschool-eighth grade

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.

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.

SafeCare Colorado services now in El Paso County

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFS) now provides SafeCare Colorado Services in El Paso County.

Snowplowing
Contracts only. 20 yr. experience
Call Jeff at Sharpest Cut 491-4811

Lightning Electric
For ALL Your Electrical Needs
Residential • Commercial • Industrial
Service Calls • Reasonable Rates • Free Estimates
Fully Insured & Licensed
Master Electricians
David Lambert (719) 243-2257 Keith Profita (719) 243-2258

Dan Elders
P.O. Box 652
Monument, CO 80132
719.650.4249
Fire Proofing
Free Estimates (Of Course)
Since 1995
ANGRY SQUIRREL TREE SERVICE

Public Works Equipment Up for Bid

The Town of Monument Public Works is accepting sealed bids for used shop equipment and material that is no longer needed. Details on items up for bid can be seen on the Town of Monument website, www.townofmonument.org, under the "Town Bulletin" tab. Sealed bids can be dropped off at the front desk of Town Hall. Deadline for submission of bids is December 16, 2015. Sealed bids will be opened at Monument Town Hall board room 9:00 am, December 17, 2015. All equipment and material can be viewed by appointment only. Please call 481-2436 for appointment.