

# Our Community News

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



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Free



## Local Events

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

HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Feb. 11

Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) Heritage Lecture and Exhibit Opening, Thu., Feb. 12, 6:00 p.m.

WireWood Station Americana Sweetheart Dance Valentines Concert, Fri., Feb. 13, 7 p.m.

9th Annual Free Chess Tournament, Sat., Feb. 14, 8:30 a.m.

El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Feb., 14, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Palmer Lake Art Group Valentine Art Show & Sale, Sat., Feb. 14, 10 a.m.

On Ensemble, a Taiko Society event, Sun., Feb. 15, 3 p.m.

Drummers! Mon., Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m.

Amateur Radio WOTLM (Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Radio Association), Mon., Feb. 16, 7 p.m.

Senior Tea, Tue., Feb. 17, 1-3 p.m.

College Information Night, Tue., Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m.

AARP Smart Driver Course, Wed., Feb. 18, 12:30-4:45 p.m.

Palmer Lake Historical Society: The Battle of New Market, Thu., Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

Monument Library: Tri-Lakes Knitters & Crafters, Fri. 20, 3:30 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining & industry (WMMI): PUBLISH! Sat., Feb. 21, 9:00 a.m.

HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Feb. 27

Monument Hill Farmers Market Winter Market, Sat., Feb. 28, 9 a.m.

Rocky Mountain Music Association Concert: Mana Saxophone Quartet, Sun., March 1, 3 p.m.

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**Above:** The Monument Town Hall board room was filled to capacity with citizens on the night when many of them spoke to the Monument Town Council about the pending water rights dispute with the Town of Palmer Lake. The two OCN reporters sat behind the trustees to make room in the audience for more people to sit down. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.* See page 27 for additional photos from this meeting.

### Monument Board of Trustees, Jan. 20

## Monument and Palmer Lake in dispute over water rights

By Michael Justice

Mayor Rafael Dominguez recognized and thanked past board members Stan Gingrich and Betty Konarski, both of whom were in attendance at the Jan. 20 Monument Board of Trustees meeting. Representatives from Palmer Lake and Monument voiced their opinions about the water rights battle between the two towns. The trustees clarified a mill levy document regarding Lake of the Rockies Metropolitan District. Trustee John Howe also gave a shout-out to the Lewis-Palmer High School band students who were selected for the All-State Band group.

Trustees Becki Tooley and Kelly Elliot were absent.

### Public comments on Palmer Lake

Dominguez opened the meeting for public comments regarding the Palmer Lake water rights debate with the Town of Monument. He allowed a three-minute time constraint based on the standing-

room-only attendance. Comments lasted for about one hour.

Community and Tradition—the common cry voiced by the citizens who spoke out of concern for Palmer Lake. Eighteen local residents commented in favor of filling Palmer Lake, while one citizen opposed filling the lake if it interfered with the area's drinking water.

Commentary included emphasis on the relationship between Palmer Lake and Monument residents and their equal enjoyment of the lake for fishing, festivities, and fireworks. Many shared childhood memories of Palmer Lake. They expressed a desire to see Palmer Lake restored as a means of teaching the young community the importance of preserving a natural resource and providing an area for family recreation.

After one citizen asked for the legal facts in the situation, Town Attorney Gary Shupp provided clarification and

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### Monument Planning Commission, Jan. 14

## Jackson Creek zoning changes approved despite public concerns

By Kate Wetterer

Vision Development Inc. sent Rick Blevins to represent its interests at the Jan. 14 Monument Planning Commission meeting, advocating approval of a 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Regency Park Development and Zoning Plan between Leather Chaps Drive, Jackson Creek Parkway, and Higby Road. Unlike the currently zoned 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment, this proposal would keep Higby Road in its current location and right-of-way, consolidate commercial and multi-family parcels along Jackson Creek Parkway, and have slightly less overall

density than what is currently zoned but would change current PRD-2 areas on the east side to PRD-4.

The zone change would change the distribution of housing density on the land, as the currently zoned PRD-2 lots are not selling, Blevins said. This amendment impacts about 253 acres of Regency Park. Homes and lots would follow a pattern of increasing size, beginning with apartments at the west and north and steadily climbing the hill to very posh housing developments at the top.

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Palmer Lake Town Council,  
Jan. 22

## Trustee resigns; Inn at Palmer Divide to become addiction recovery center

By James Howald

At the Jan. 22 meeting, the Palmer Lake Town Council heard the resignation of Finance Trustee Jennifer Martin, granted two new business licenses, heard a report about water damage to the Vaile House, approved a contract with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District to get ambulance service on a per-call basis, and got an update on the Awake the Lake project.

### Trustee Jennifer Martin resigns from council

Economic Development Trustee Trisha Flake read a brief letter of resignation to the council on behalf of Finance Trustee Martin. The letter said: "To the Palmer Lake Town Council and residents: It is with great regret that I must resign my position due to an unforeseeable event in which my family must remain my number one priority. Thanks for this opportunity." Parks and Recreation Trustee Cindy Allen thanked Trustee Martin for her service and pointed out she had accomplished a lot during her time on the council.

### New business license approved for Recovery Village at Palmer Lake

Stewart Gold, the legal officer for Recovery Village, and Alice Walsh, an executive in charge of business development and marketing for the company, presented the plan for their business to the council. They were introduced by Al Fritz, the owner of the Inn at Palmer Divide and MoZaic Restaurant. Recovery Village at Palmer Lake will convert the Inn at Palmer Divide, at 443 S. Highway 105, to a treatment center for patients 18 years and older with substance abuse, addictions and eating disorders, who will reside at the center for an average of 30 days.

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## OCN needs volunteer ad coordinator

This non-paid position involves about 45 hours per month with lots of emailing and phone calls with local businesses to finalize ad graphics and costs. Experience with Excel would be a plus. Training is available. Please contact Lisa Hatfield at 339-7831 or editor@ocn.me if you'd like to become one of our enthusiastic and committed OCN volunteers! □