

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

- Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild 51st Annual Spring Show & Sale, Thu.-Sun., Apr. 30-May 3, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Thu.-Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sun.**
- Palmer Lake Wildfire Preparedness Day, Sat., May 2, beginning at 8 a.m.**
- Pine Forest Show: Antiques, Home Décor, and Garden Sale, Sat., May 2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., May 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**
- Palmer Lake Art Group: Mother's Day Fine Art & Fine Handcrafted Gifts Show & Sale, Open Reception, Fri., May 8, 4-7 p.m.; Show, Sat., May 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.,**
- Black Forest Regional Park Restoration Work, Sat., May 9, 9 a.m.-noon**
- Foot Care Clinic, Wed., May 13**
- Monument Parks Plan Open House, Thu., May 14, 4-8 p.m.**
- Art Hop, Thu., May 14, 5-8 p.m.**
- Noxious Weeds in Palmer Lake, Fri., May 15, 6 p.m.**
- Kevin J. Anderson at TLCA: "Building My First Lightsaber," Fri., May 15, 7 p.m.**
- Gleneagle Sertoma's Spirits of Spring Wine and Food Tasting, Sat., May 16, 6-9 p.m.**
- Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive, Tue., May 19, 3-7 p.m.**
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: "American Bison," Thu., May 21, 7 p.m.**
- Town of Monument Memorial Day Ceremony, Mon., May 25, 10 a.m.**
- Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Picnic-N-Planes-N-Burros, Thu., May 28, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., May 29**
- MVEA Annual Meeting, Thu., Jun. 4, Registration, 5:30 p.m., meeting, 7 p.m.**
- Palmer Lake Art Group's Fine Art Show Opening Reception, Fri., Jun. 5, 6-8 p.m.**
- Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI), Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show, Fri.-Sun., Jun. 5-7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**
- Kids' Fishing Derby, Sat., Jun. 6, 8 a.m.-noon,**
- Larkspur Settler Days, Sat., Jun. 6, 1-10 p.m. ☐**



Above: The Palmer Ridge Robotics Team includes, from left, Coach Ashley Pollard, Ryan Kravchin, Shelby Kravchin, Jimmy Grammel, Cailin Foster, Sean Bowers, Danny Troutt, Quinn Tirpak, Tommy Upchurch, and Jasper Howald. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.* See D-38 article on page 20 for details on the team.

Tri-Lakes Facility Joint Use Committee, April 14 Woodmoor files lawsuit; expansion project approved

By Jim Kendrick

On April 14, Tetra Tech engineer Steve Tamburini presented his analysis of the formal bids from four pre-qualified contractors for the facility's new tertiary total phosphorus (TP) chemical removal clarifier expansion to the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Coordinating Committee (JUC). He recommended that the JUC only approve the lowest base bid of \$3.059 million from Aslan Corp., stating the base bid scope of work is sufficient to ensure compliance with the state Health Department's Control Regulation 85 TP discharge limit of 1 milligram per liter (mg/l) in November 2019. The other base bids were:

- \$3.292 million – RN Civil Construc-

- tion
 - \$3.508 million – Garney Construction
 - \$3.585 million – Stanek Construction
- Tetra Tech's original construction cost estimate in 2013 for the TP expansion was \$1 million.

Tamburini also announced an additional cost of \$252,000 for construction contract management by Tetra Tech—\$18,000 per month for 14 months. The JUC decided to add a 10 percent contingency of \$305,900 for construction costs and \$25,200 for contract management to further increase the total base bid cost to \$3.642 million.

Tamburini also recommended that

(Continued on page 5)

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors,
April 25

The Great Chicken Debate

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board meeting saw a larger than usual attendance level at its April 25 meeting after an online discussion on Nextdoor.com led to an invitation to the community to attend and voice their opinions. Also, the board filled an empty slot by appointing a new board member, assigned board roles, and approved both a new YMCA expansion plan and the Dunes plot. Treasurer Tom Schoemaker was absent.

Chicken debate spurs discussion on resident involvement

A spirited online discussion about the possibility of backyard chickens led a number of residents to attend the April 25 meeting of the WIA board. Nicole Anderson, who asked the initial question online at Nextdoor.com, attended to learn more about how the WIA covenants are structured and how they can be changed.



Above: Nikole Anderson started the debate about "Chickens in the Neighborhood."

Photo by Jackie Burhans.

President Hale explained the history of the WIA governing documents, which can be found at this link: <http://www.woodmoor.org/content/governance-con-rules-regs-main.html>. The top level documents are the Covenants, followed by the Articles of Incorporation and then Bylaws. The covenant Article 5 section 13 says, in part, "No animals, livestock or poultry of any kind shall be housed, raised, or kept on any tract or property either temporarily or permanently...." Per Article VI, Section 3, WIA covenants can be "amended by an instrument signed by not less than 75 percent of lot owners." With about 3,000 lots, it would take about 2,250 lot owners to approve any change. Several board members relayed examples of low resident voting for board members and covenant changes, including an effort to modify them to conform to state standards, which require 67 percent to

(Continued on page 3)

In this issue

- Woodmoor News, 1-4
- Water & San District News, 1, 5-11
- Monument News, 11-17
- Palmer Lake News, 18-19
- Fire District News, 19
- D-38 News, 20-21
- County News, 21-22
- Weather, 22-23
- Letters, 23
- Books, Library, NEPCO, History, Gardening, and Arts, 23-25
- Snapshots, 25-26
- Our Community Notices, 27-28
- Our Community Calendar, 29-31
- OCN Info, 31

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Above: Bill Mantia of Black Forest Together showed his burned-out home site in Black Forest to participants in the Community Wildfire Event on April 18. Palmer Lake Fire Chief Margo Humes led a tour of the Black Forest Fire burn area. Mantia hopes to find more volunteers to help Black Forest Together help the residents who need to cut down all the blackened trees and get them chipped, and do good control with log erosion barriers. Their website is www.blackforesttogether.org, where people can sign up to help. The event was organized by the Emergency Preparedness Group of Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*