

ers are now ready to be incorporated into recipes,” from *Cooking with Dandelion Flowers* by Peter A. Gail, Ph.D.

Got voles? Pocket gophers? Varmints? Super kitty cat patrol to the rescue. They don’t just kill, their predator pheromones keep vermin out of the area. I spoke with the reps at our Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region about the new “working cats” program.

The program has already placed a number of working cats in Palmer Lake, Monument, and Woodmoor, and seeks to

educate us about how to keep the cats in the specific area, how the program and the cats work, and more. This program is quite different than the TNR/trap, neuter, release feral cat colony program, which is focused on limiting proliferation of cats while availing the areas of the cats’ helpful qualities for vermin control. Ask for more info via our Humane Society, www.hsppr.org.

Gardeners in our area with the varmint problems have been very creative for raised beds, using wire mesh, likely half inch, on the bottom and sides of the raised

beds. Even hugelkultur fans have opted for the mesh to protect as much of their raised bed mound gardens as possible. The mesh does not keep out rabbits, but any of the underground critters don’t seem to get into the garden, at least not easily.

My scrub oak trees have announced via flowering and leafing out that we’ll not have any more frost, so get to soaking your seeds overnight and plant them in the garden bed next day. Soaking helps hasten the sprouting process for most seeds. If you remember from last year, I wrote about the

hugelkultur, keyhole gardens and worm towers that help create mega-soil health. These are all basically in-ground raised beds with self-composting areas. I have countless directions and information from the Monument Community Garden Facebook page for references for those interested. Enjoy!

Janet Sellers can be reached at JanetSellers@OCN.me.

Art Matters

This is your Tri-Lakes on art



By Janet Sellers

Wow! is my comment for the first Art Hop. I think it may take all summer to visit each venue—there are over 30 venues supporting the event this year. I visited the 300 days of shine, Bliss Gallery, and Bella Art and Frame and sure enjoyed the walk about town as part of the fun. The Historic Monument area was abuzz with activity, people strolling about, buying art and enjoying the shops, and it seems everybody had a shopping bag or two in hand.

Art Hoppers enjoyed art, convivial

pursuits and live music all around town, and the event stretches from Palmer Lake at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) south to Historic Monument. Our beautiful outdoor public art sculptures, located throughout the Tri-Lakes community, are on view 24/7 and many Art Hoppers stopped to view and enjoy the artworks on their waltz around town. New outdoor art goes up this month!

June art events

At TLCA, Palmer Lake Art Group 51st An-

nual Fine Art Show and “Four of a Kind,” (Lucy Owens Gallery). Both shows, May 31 to June 25, opening reception was June 3. 304 Highway 105, north end of town in Palmer Lake.

Bella Art and Frame art show June 1-29, featuring Sara Richardson. Reception June 16, 5-8 p.m. at the Art Hop; 183 Washington St., Historic Monument.

Bliss Studios Art Gallery—Owner/artist Jodie Bliss has a lovely art gallery of her works in metal and glass adjacent to her working studio. The Art Hop events prom-

ise lots of art and music and fun as well. 243 Washington St.

TLCA Call for Entries—Monochrome Photography Exhibition. Photo show—vision, interpretation and using monochrome photography. Final entry deadline Aug. 6.

Janet Sellers is an artist and art teacher; her paintings and public art sculptures are on exhibit in city and museum venues in Colorado and the Tri-Lakes area.

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Above: Seen at Art Hop, May 19: Pam Aloisa, the May featured artist at Bella Art and Frame Gallery, is shown here with her “Urban Edge” style of innovative portraits on shaped surfaces. Aloisa is the art gallery director and art professor for the U.S. Air Force Academy and has served there in that capacity for the past 25 years.



Above: Jodie Bliss is pictured with some of her large metal and colored glass sculptures on exhibit now at her studio and gallery, Bliss Studios. Bliss was on hand to welcome guests to her spacious venue that includes outdoor gardens, a splendid gallery, and large working studio on site. Lonnie Dilan and his band played throughout the Art Hop. *Photos by Janet Sellers.*

Snapshots of Our Community

After Prom held at the high schools, April 24



After Prom are annual events that immediately follow Prom at the high schools (pictured left: LPHS, right: PRHS) and provide fun, safe alternatives for kids to play games, eat food, and win prizes by spending points won at minute-to-win-it, carnival, and casino

games. Thanks to all the parent, student and community volunteers who organized, decorated, set-up, staffed, and cleaned up. For acknowledgements of the sponsors of the LPHS event see page 23. Thanks for the PRHS event go to the Palmer Ridge Foundation and sponsors who provided food, money, gift cards, and other items. PRHS sponsors included: Coca-Cola, Domino’s Pizza—Gleneagle, Dr. Norma Longo & Associates Dentistry, Fadooger, First National Bank Monument, Fitness Systems, FSI Direct, Hamula Orthodontics, Home Depot, Jim Taylor, JJ Tracks, King Soopers, Michael Winton and Joan Cunningham, Palmer Ridge Dentistry & Orthodontics, Papa John’s Pizza, Papa Murphy’s



Pizza, Pizza Hut, Suntronics, Taco Bell, The Historic Pinecrest, Thomas E. Hughes DDS, and Tri-Lakes Printing. *LPHS photo supplied by Karen Shuman. PRHS photo by Jackie Burhans.*