Our Community News

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

Read, download, and search all the OCN back issues at www.ocn.me.

Local Events

See pages 28-31 for details of these and many other local events.
- County’s Annual Treecycle: Sat.-Sun., Jan. 7-8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- NEPCO Meeting: Sat., Jan. 7, 10 a.m.-noon. Local development plans and issues.
- Tri-Lakes Little League Spring Season Registration: Mon., Jan. 9
- Tri-Lakes Land Use Committee Meeting: Mon., Jan. 9, 6:30-8 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce Monthly Education Series: Identity Theft, Tue., Jan. 10, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Jan. 11
- Palmer Lake Art Group 2017 Winter Art Show Opening Reception, Fri., Jan. 13, 6-8 p.m.
- Monument Library Family Fun: Black Falcon School of Arms, Sat., Jan. 14, 2:30-3:30 p.m. 15th century armored combat demonstration.
- Tri-Lake Community/Centura Blood Drive, Tue., Jan. 17, 2:30-7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society and WMMS, Tue., Jan. 17, 7 p.m. Jack Anthony will repeat his presentation of “A Tale of Two Hutors.”
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: Annual Potluck Dinner and Membership Meeting, Thu., Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Jan. 20
- Heartsavers CPR/AED/First Aid certification course, Sat., Jan. 21, 1 a.m.-4 p.m.
- CDOT 1-25 Improvements Public Meeting, Tue., Jan. 24, 5-7 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Jan. 27
- Monument Library: Bloods Blood Center Blood Drive, Sat., Jan. 28, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Branson on the Road Concert at TLCA, Sat., Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
- Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), Mon. nights Feb. 6-March 6, 5:30-9:15 p.m.

In this issue

County News 1
Monument News 1-8
Palmer Lake News 8
Water & San District News 9-16
School District News 16-18
Fire District News 18-19
Baptist Road News 20
Woodmoor News 21
Weather 21
Letters and Columns 22-24
Spotlight 24-27
Notices and Calendar 28-31
OCN Information 1, 19, 27, 31

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Above: Singers from Palmer Ridge High School entertained with traditional carols in the library on Dec. 13. Photo by Harriet Halbig. See page 22 for the monthly library events article.

Flying Horse North rezoning approved despite opposition

By Lisa Hatfield

In a quasi-judicial land use hearing continued from Nov. 15, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted 4-1 to permit the rezoning of Flying Horse North from RR-5 (5-acre lots) to a Planned Unit Development (PUD). The proposed development will eventually consist of 13 phases between Highway 83 and Black Forest Road south of Hodgen Road, at the eastern edge of the OCN coverage area that ends at Highway 83.

PRI 2 LLC’s proposed PUD development plan includes about 1,417 acres for 283 single-family residential lots with a minimum lot size of 2.5 acres, 114 acres of open space, and a 199-acre 18-hole golf course. Access to the development is proposed via an extension of Stagecoach Road from State Highway 83 on the west to Black Forest Road on the east. Other proposed access is the inclusion Holmes Road and Hodgen Road.

On Oct. 18, the El Paso County Planning Commission recommended denial of this rezoning application from RR-5 to PUD by a vote 5-2. Its resolution included statements that the application was (Continued on page 2)

Water infrastructure plans in progress; eminent domain proceedings approved

By Lisa Hatfield

The Dec. 5 meeting of the Monument Board of Trustees included approval of the 2017 budget and a detailed discussion of five pending water infrastructure projects for the town. The trustees approved using the eminent domain process to try to remove the covenants on the piece of land where they want to build a new water tank, which is the subject of litigation between the town and Forest View Estates Neighborhood Association Filing IV.

Also, when public comments rolled around at 10 p.m., a resident asked for clarification on what actually happened at the Nov. 7 meeting when Trustees Shea Mediscott, Greg Coopman, Dennis Murphy, and Jeff Bromein attempted to vote Mayor Jeff Kaiser and Mayor Pro-Tem Don Wilson back to their elected trustee positions. Town Attorney Gary Shapp said, “(Kaiser and Wilson) are in their positions and will remain in their positions and beyond that, unless the board directs, I don’t have any other comments.”

As noted on the agenda, at the beginning of the meeting, the trustees voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation and the threat of litigation. When the meeting went back (Continued on page 3)

Our Community News needs your help!

For 16 years, our volunteers have provided unbiased reporting on important local issues, including real estate development, fire departments, school districts, and water availability. We have provided a very favorable platform for advertising local businesses. 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 local issues where we could use your help:
- Ad sales coordinator. We are looking for one dedicated volunteer who loves OCN. Commitment is about 45 hours a month and is very busy on the second half of each month.
- Bookkeeping assistant. Reporters. Reporting on local meetings, what they talked about and what they decided.
- Mailroom assistant. Counting and lifting tubs of papers to take the mail to the post office and sorting stacks of papers to local businesses, loading and unloading mailing tubs from a truck at two locations, preparing postoffice paperwork, tub labels, subscription labels, etc. (three hours once a month)
- Drivers. Driving rental truck to various post offices once a month.
- Backup managing editor. Keeping track of content and word counts and preparing the new content spreadsheet each month.

The time and skills involved vary greatly from job to job. OCN will provide whatever equipment and training you need. Please join us today! Meet a group of interested and committed people. Learn new skills or skills you may have and the opportunity can be a great way to contribute to us.

Please call Managing Editor Lisa Hatfield at (719) 339-7831, or email editor@ocn.me to see how you can contribute. Contact us today! We are waiting to hear from you. If you can spare some time to help ensure that OCN continues to provide a vital service to our wonderful Tri-Lakes community, please contact us as soon as possible, preferably by Saturday, Jan. 14.

Flying Horse North (Cont. from p1)

not in general conformity with the Master Plan for the county, did not meet the stat-
ed purposes of Chapter 4, Section 4.2.6 of the El Paso County Land Development
Code, the subject property was not suit-
able for the intended uses nor harmoni-
ous with the character of the surrounding area and neighboring community, and the
proposed development will overburden the capacities of existing or planned road,
utilities, and other public facilities includ-
ing police and fire services, and water and
sanitation.

Terry Stokka, representing the
Friends of the Black Forest Preservation
Plan (FOPPP), reported after the Dec.
13 hearing that about a dozen neighbors
spoke in opposition to the proposal, al-
most all against the proposed Stagecoach
Road intersection at State Highway 83.
District 1 Commissioner Darryl Glenn
also voiced strong opposition because of
traffic safety issues at that intersection,
where Highway 83 is only two lanes wide
and has very short sight distance.

Two neighbors submitted petitions
in favor of the rezoning. One was Da-
vid Wismer, owner of Shamrock Ranch,
which sold the land to the applicant. Wis-
mer supported the rezoning but strongly
objected to Stagecoach Road becoming
an arterial road instead of a collector. The
other supporter was the Donald Wescott
Fire Protection District (DWFPD), which
has its Shamrock Station 2 at the corner
of Highway 83 and Stagecoach Road.
Note: DWFPD will lose over half of its
current district and property tax revenue
in the next two years and might need to
limit operations on some days from Sta-
tion 2 starting this month. See related
DWFPD article on page 18.

About 50 residents and the High
Forest Ranch Home Owners Association
Board of Directors had sent comments
against the rezoning to the Planning and
Community Development Department
before the hearing. Their concerns in-
cluded increased traffic on Highway 83,
which could now exceed 1,500 trips per
day. They objected to the applicant’s re-
quest for an exemption to established
traffic norms.

An official finding of sufficiency re-
garding quality, quantity, and dependab-
ility of water is not required at the zoning
stage of development. BOCC will make
the final decision on the adequacy and
reliability of the planned supplementary
water lease contract based in part on the
Colorado State Engineer’s water supply
analysis. However, neighbors who testi-
fied did voice many concerns about the
anticipated future strain on the already-
depleting Dawson Aquifer by this influx
of an 18-hole golf course and 283 homes.

The BOCC resolution said that some
of the water indicated as a supply for the
development is not owned by the appli-
cant but is leased by the applicant from
the State Board of Land Commissioners.
The lease depends upon an annual payment to
the State Board coupled with a fee for
the amount pumped. Staff concerns resulted
in a recommended condition of approval
stating that the State Board can terminate
the applicant’s right to possession of the
leased water if the applicant does not
comply with the covenants, conditions,
and requirements of the lease. Because of
this risk of default, the applicant will have
to provide assurances of an alternative vi-
able water source prior to the approval of
the preliminary plan.

The first four of the 13 proposed de-
velopment phases include:

• Phase 1 – Pave Stagecoach Road
from Highway 83 to the 35 lots in the
center south of the High Forest Ranch
development. East of there, Stagecoach
will be a gravel emer-
genous access and construction road
that will be extended to Black Forest
Road. Possible golf course grading.

• Phase 2 – Pave eastern stub of Stage-
coach Road at Black Forest Road.
Build eight lots west of that re-
section.

• Phase 3 – Land north and east of
Westcott Fire Station 2 is plated for
about 30 lots immediately adjacent
to High Forest Ranch. Access to
State Highway 83 is controlled by
the Colorado Department of Trans-
portation, so improvements to State
Highway 83 will be required then.
The golf course should open during
this phase.

• Phase 4 – Complete paving Stage-
coach Road from Highway 83 to
Black Forest Road. Build five more
lots near the west side of the devel-
opment.

The BOCC resolution did not agree with
any of the objections stated by the Plan-
ning Commission or the neighbors. First,
Glenn made a motion to deny the appli-
cation, but this failed by a vote of 1-4, with
Commissioners Sallie Clark, Dennis
Hisey, Peggy Littleton, and Mark Waller
opposed.

Then Hisey made a motion to ap-
prove the rezoning request, including all
conditions and notations and the three ad-
ditional recommendations, one added no-
tation, an early grading permit, and two
modifications. It was approved 4-1, with
Glenn opposed.

See http://bec.elpasooco.com/Pages/de-
fault.aspx for minutes and recordings of
past meetings and future agendas.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at
lisa@hatfield@ecn.com.
Monument (Cont. from p1) into open session at 7:15 p.m., no announcement was made nor vote taken.

Mayor and mayor pro tem will keep their roles

Resident Nancy Swearengen asked about the “huge elephant in the room” regarding what had happened in meetings last month where Trustees Medcalf and Coopman made motions to move the mayor and mayor pro-tem back to their trustee positions and replace them with Trustees Dennis Murphy and Jeff Borstein. “I don’t think there has been any clarification or finality...no resolution made in public record,” Swearengen said.

Wilson said he thought clarifying the result was important for transparency to the community, and Trustee Kelly Elliott agreed. Shapp said, “We can close it by simply stating that they are in their positions and will remain in their positions.” See http://www.ocn.me/v16n12.

2017 budget, appropriations, and property tax mill levy approved

Town Treasurer Pamela Smith presented an ordinance for adopting the town’s 2017 budget and one for appropriating the associated funds. Smith also presented a resolution for the trustees to certify the town’s property tax mill levy to the county assessor so they can collect property taxes for 2017. It was calculated at 6.289 mills to comply with TABOR for the allowable dollar amount for 2017. The trustees unanimously approved the resolution. No members of the public spoke with respect to any of the ordinances.

Smith said the final version included changes from the public budget workshops held this fall. Town Manager Chris Lowe said the town always “budgets to zero,” so any money left over would be allocated to a specific reserve fund.

Note: Below is OCN’s attempt to summarize the 91-page budget. For details, contact Smith or see pages 64-155 of the Dec. 5 Board of Trustees packet at http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com.

Smith’s statements regarding the general fund included:

- Total expenditures — $6.3 million
- Total general fund revenues — $8.4 million
- Sales tax revenue represented 58 percent of revenue.
Proposed reagent removal treatment process changed
Well 9 is an essential component of the town's water supply, and according to Forsgren's technical memorandum given to the trustees at the Oct. 11 meeting, reagent concentrations in the water from Well 9 have been detected for many years. Until recently these concentrations were within the limits of the Safe Drinking Water Standards (SDWS) set by the EPA. Now that the levels have exceed these standards, the town needs to remove the reagent from the water. See www.ocn.co/v6n9.htm#water, www.state.col.gov/ci/06nl11.html#bmd1003, and www.ocn.co/v6n11.htm#bmd1017.

Farsah said waste disposal issues can be very difficult but that the town is currently working with CDPHE to clear up some regulatory uncertainty about which type of treatment would be best to treat any health concerns in the potable water as well as addressing any concerns with the wastewater system. Background: In October, Forsgren Associates had proposed using Hydrus Manganese Oxide (HMO) filtration "which used to be pretty common in the state." However, Farsah said now different groups within CDPHE are not as confident in the HMO process as they have been in the past because of implications on the waste side. Forsgren is trying to gain consensus from CDPHE on which treatments will benefit everyone involved. An alternative Koger mentioned would be the ion exchange process also listed in the October technical memo, which is more expensive than HMO. It would require pre-arranged disposal for the various used substances that could contain low-level radioactive material and could cost $275,000 plus an annual $14,000 in operations and maintenance (O&M), according to the memo.

Upgrade wells 4 and 5
Farsah said another project in the works is to upgrade the treatment capacity of wells 4 and 5. Those wells are not in service right now and need upgrades to be able to treat the iron-rich water from the alluvial wells, but if they were operating they could help meet peak water demands in the summer. Costs and options for this project are not complete yet, but Farsah said they hoped to go online next summer.

Water storage tank explained; eminent domain approved
Moore explained about the town's need for a second town water storage tank so that the first one could be taken offline for much-needed repairs. It would also provide storage for daily demand fluctuations, water leaks, and fighting fires. He said the second tank would provide water at a lower pressure, reducing the need for mechanical pressure reduction valves (PRVs), and would improve system reliability in case of electricity failure when pumps couldn't run.

Moore said after a failed attempt to obtain a tank site on national forest land, the town purchased property at 744 Forest View Way for the new tank. This is outside the town limits at a particular elevation that Forsgren's studies recommend. It would require building water transmission lines from the tank directly east to the town, and "the alignment is yet to be determined." The tank would be painted forest green, screened by 14-foot trees, and partially buried in the ground to make it less noticeable, Moore said. It would cost an estimated $3.9 million.

Moore said the pre-application meeting held with El Paso County went well regarding the required 1041 permit, which eventually must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Lowe said the purpose of the 1041 process was to identify that a public purpose was being served by placing a water tank in that area, since "there is not water tank zoning" in the area.
county,” he said.

For CAIA Associates and the town have held public neighborhood meetings in both Forest View Acres and Red Rock Ranch to address objections from neighbors about the proposed tank. For example, see www.ocn.me/143187/tank/rm/1220314 and www.ocn.me/143495/tank/rm/1220317.

Later in the meeting, Lowe presented a resolution to the trustees regarding the property in Forest View Estates the town that had purchased for the new water tank. “We have the issue of restricted covenants that we would like removed from that piece of property. We would need to authorize the eminent domain proceedings on that parcel. It’s a very nice site where tank can be made very inconspicuous. There are a number of good reasons for this parcel that have already been explained. We intend to do this in the most respectful way that we can in that neighborhood but also protecting our ability to have a decent water system that has redundancy in future,” Lowe said.

Lowe explained further, “Forest View HOA, which is outside the town boundaries and water service area, filed suit against us asking for a temporary and permanent injunction preventing us from constructing a tank in that location, citing restrictive covenants. However, at the advice of counsel, the town determined that it was necessary to condemn the property, which would remove the applicability of the covenants. Our counsel is confident that this is an appropriate way to respond to the lawsuit, which will also allow us to ultimately construct the tank. We are confident that the site, upon completion, will be very inconspicuous and will actually add to the value of the neighborhood as it may be accessed by some resident for emergency fire suppression,” with the addition of pressurized hydrants along the water transmission line.

He said that alternative sites that have been proposed but are not acceptable for various reasons, and if the court disallows the condemnation petition, “which we feel unlikely,” it could delay the construction of a second tank.

The trustees unanimously approved the resolution authorizing the acquisition of certain interests in real property through eminent domain proceedings for the construction of water storage facilities and related improvements.

At 10 p.m., during public comments at the end of the meeting, Raymond Decker, who is a resident of Forest View Estates IV, said, “I don’t live in town limits, but I feel like I am part of this community. It saddens me that you are going to go with eminent domain with this. What if someone built a water tank or sewage treatment or methadone clinic next to your property? We all bought property up here because we had a certain ideal of where we were going to live and what we wanted to be around, and this water tank is not part of it. I met with all the property owners here in the last week and it was unanimous, we are going to oppose this legally; we don’t want to do that. … I just wondered if maybe you are getting bad advice!”

Maggie Williamson also spoke on this issue during public comments, saying she respected Decker’s views, but said they are campaigning the tank with all the trees and making the ground look good.

Note: Because OCN’s coverage focuses on the deliberations of governmental entities and Dec. 5 was the first time the litigation was discussed during a public meeting of the Monument Board of Trustees, this is the first time OCN has covered this litigation. A letter to the editor would have been another way of including this topic in OCN, but none on the topic has been received.

Emergency interconnection

Moore explained the pros and cons of constructing an emergency water interconnection. “I hope you never need to use it, ever!” he said, but since Monument’s current water supply is all from wells and is a “stand-alone” system, it would give the town “peace of mind” to have options in case of a waterline break, fire, or problem with system security.

Of all neighboring districts, WWSD stood out in terms of accessibility, cost, and compatibility with possible interconnecting projects with Colorado Springs Utilities or the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA). Moore said it would benefit WWSD to team up with other entities to pipe the renewable water they own in the IV Ranch up to its customers here. He said the PPRWA Area 3 report is looking at those options now.

On the other hand, WWSD is also a stand-alone system and in an emergency their first priority would be to serve their own customers before helping Monument.

Parks master plan update and possible sales tax vote

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish explained about the current proposed updates for the four town-managed parks west of I-25. Some of the plans are similar to those previously proposed for Limbach Park (with a water splash pad), Dirty Woman Creek Park (with a skate park and another playground north of the creek), and Lavelette Park (with exercise equipment), but the idea for Park Trail Park has changed completely from a BMX dirt bike trail to a set of tennis courts.

The town has applied again for a $350,000 GOGO grant and hopes to use that money to pay for the Limbach park features. Tharnish also added that voters might be asked to approve a sales tax with a five-year sunset clause to help pay for improvements at all four parks, for which the total cost could be $1.7 million. He hoped that the improvements could be done on an aggressive time line so that people could see the results sooner.

For more details on the proposed parks feature improvements, see page 5 of the Dec. 5 OCN packet for Dec. 5 at http://monumenttownco.minutestomorrow.com/.

Triview discussed

Trustee Kelly Elliott had several questions about the methods used in the Triview Metropolitan District and how much oversight the town has in monitoring its water quality, managing its long-term water supply, and paying its huge debt. She wanted to know if Triview could present information to the town on a more regular basis and if the town could work more closely with them.

Lowe said, “It takes two to tango,” and that his biggest frustration was that voters who have the same level of service to town residents depending on where they lived. He said Tharnish had already been assisting Triview with advice.

Kaiser said he had already been arranged for joint meetings between the town and Triview, and that Triview District Manager Valerie Remington would speak about the “State of Triview” at the Jan. 17 Board of Trustees meeting.

Koger said that Triview has been a participant in the first two phases of the PFPW regional water supply system and that the state limits how much water is pumped from Denver Basin aquifers and maintains safe drinking water standards.

See related Triview Metropolitan District article on page 14.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.
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 Dec. 19 meeting was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 17. Call 884-8804 or see www.townofmonument.org for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets for the Monument Board of Trustees or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see http://monument-townco.minutesondemand.com and click on Board of Trustees.

If you would like to help OCN cover the Monument Board of Trustees by recording meetings or writing articles, please contact Lisa Hatfield at lisa.hatfield@ocn.me.

Monument Planning Commission, Dec. 14

By James Howald

The Monument Planning Commission (MPC) met on Dec. 12 to consider three developments currently underway in its jurisdiction. Commissioners Kathy Spence, Ed Delaney, Michelle Glover, and John Dick were present. Commissioners Jim Fitzpatrick, David Givodalla, and Daniel Ratliff were excused.

Two Sanctuary Pointe filings approved

The MPC began by considering the preliminary final plat for Carriage at Sanctuary Pointe Filing 2. This development is located north of Baptist Road and west of Fox Run Park. Filing 2 will consist of 48 lots in four tracts on 12 acres.

Monument town staff recommended approval of the preliminary final plat as it met all requirements, and pointed out that the developer had obtained a will-serve letter from Trivis Metropolitan District (TMD).

During the comments from citizens on this project, resident John Bender asked about the status of a trail indicated in the site plan and expressed skepticism that TMD actually had the water required to serve the development. Residents Tom Olson and Susan Petti both commented on the potential impact to traffic and availability of water.

Joe Loidolt of Classic Homes, the developer of the project, responded that the plans did include a trail on the Fox Run side of the development.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the preliminary final plat for the project.

The board then took up the preliminary final plat for Sanctuary Pointe filing 3, which is located to the west of filing 2 and consists of 84 residential lots on 58 acres. Town staff pointed out that filing 3 also has a will-serve letter from TMD and that there is an unresolved question about access to a water tank that will be built on land that is part of filing 3. Commissioner Glover remarked that the access to the water could conflict with the construction of a trail. Town staff recommended approval with the stipulation that the access question be resolved.

During public comments on the project, Bender pointed out that construction of the trail would be the responsibility of the developer according to the municipal code. Resident Ann Howe pointed out that there were upcoming meetings to discuss the widening of I-25 scheduled for Jan. 24 at Library 21C at 1175 Chapel Hills Dr. in Colorado Springs and Jan. 26 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

The commissioners voted unanimously to conditionally approve the preliminary final plat for the project, with the stipulations that the trail and access issues be resolved.

Jackson Creek Townhome replat advances

The Jackson Creek Townhome development will consist of 40 townhome lots on 4.1 acres located on the south side of Irons Tail Road just northeast of the King Soopers store at Jackson Creek Crossing. The developer requested a replat of interior lot lines to adjust the size of some of the individual lots by about three feet. Town staff recommended approval with the condition that the developer acquire a will-serve letter from TMD.

Commissioner Michelle Glover pointed out that the original approval for the development was given in 2008 and argued that the developer should have to go through the entire approval process again. Town Attorney Gary Shupp said that once approval is granted, it becomes a vested property right and can’t be revoked simply because development does not proceed after approval.

Chris Bremer, representing Global Homes, confirmed that the replat was requested primarily to allow for two-car garages for each townhome.

Bender argued that the development should include a road that would allow townhome residents to drive to King Soopers without driving onto Jackson Creek Parkway, which is already congested at the entrance to King Soopers. Several other residents felt the development would increase traffic congestion.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the replat with the condition that the developer acquire a will-serve letter from TMD.

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The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the replat with the condition that the developer acquire a will-serve letter from TMD.
Impact of new marijuana taxes debated

By James Howald

In December, the Palmer Lake Town Council met only once, on Dec. 8. The meeting included a session of the Palmer Lake Liquor and Marijuana Licensing Authority as well as a Town Council meeting.

Once again, the council wrestled with the question of how to properly tax marijuana businesses, this time in light of the new license fees approved by the council earlier in the year. The council also passed ordinances to adopt a previously approved budget for fiscal year 2017 and to extend the town’s sales tax, and granted a new liquor license.

New fee on marijuana licenses

Wednesday, Jan. 11 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/

The next Monument Planning Commission meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on

By James Howald

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**Palmer Lake Town Council, Dec. 8**

**Impact of new marijuana taxes debated**

Trina Shoock, RN
Aesthetic Nurse Certified
719 271-1999

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4 Highway 105, Palmer Lake

Celebrate a more BeYOUtiful 2017
Buy 3 Microderm and get 2 peels free! ($130 or free micro ($85)
Live demonstration January 17th 4-7 pm
Cheek & lip augmentation, Kybella & Juvederm
Over $5000 of FREE product will be given away!
$99 Davinci laser teeth whitening

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New liquor license granted to Arlene’s Beans

The council voted unanimously to approve a liquor license for Arlene’s Beans, a Mexican restaurant and convenience store at 56 Highway 105. The convenience store portion of the business will sell beer, wine and spirits, but the alcohol may not be consumed on the premises, according to the license granted.

The two meetings for January will be at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 12 and 26 at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me

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**MONUMENTAL MICRODERM**

Microderm at the loft

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4 Highway 105, Palmer Lake

Celebrate a more BeYOUtiful 2017
Buy 3 Microderm and get 2 peels free! ($130 or free micro ($85)
Live demonstration January 17th 4-7 pm
Cheek & lip augmentation, Kybella & Juvederm
Over $5000 of FREE product will be given away!
$99 Davinci laser teeth whitening

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Monday Evenings from February 6 through March 6
5:30 pm – 9:15 pm
Light Snacks provided

Class modules will include:

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- Disaster Medical Operations
- Deep Wound First Aid
- Live Hands-on Fire Extinguisher Practice
- Terrorism Awareness
- Disaster Psychology
- Light Search and Rescue

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**BE PREPARED**

2016 budgets amended; 2017 budgets approved, mill levies certified

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Dec. 5 meeting, the joint boards and simultaneous meetings of the Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD) and Pinon Pines Metropolitan District 1 (PPMD 1), Pinon Pines Metropolitan District 2 (PPMD 2), and Pinon Pines Metro District 3 (PPMD 3) approved amendments to the 2016 budgets, approved the 2017 budgets, and certified mill levies now totaling 55 mills for all three Pinon Districts. See the map on page 10.

*Note:* Forest Lakes Metropolitan District has no relationship with the separate Forest View Acres Water District in the foothills to the north.

Secretary James Bolton was exculsed.

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**Background on Forest Lakes Metro District and taxing districts PPMD 1, 2, and 3**

FLMD, west of I-25 at the end of West Baptist Road, is a service district in El Paso County established in 1987; the residential portions are not part of the town of Monument, but the commercial section of PPMD 3 is within the town limits. FLMD holds joint board meetings with PPMD 1, 2, and 3, which were established in 2004

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Forest Lakes Metropolitan District and Pinon Pines Metro Districts 1, 2, and 3, Dec. 5

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When FLMD was reorganized into its current half-acre size.

Board members for all four boards are: President George Lenz, executive vice president of finance, Classic Homes; Secretary James Bolton, vice president/project manager, Classic Homes; Assistant Secretary and Treasurer Doug Stimpke, CEO of Classic Homes; and Assistant Secretary Joe Loidolt, president of Classic Homes. One board member vacancy exists now. Ann Nichols is the district manager for all four districts. District Counsel Rusty Dysktra and Tom Blunk of CP Real Estate Capital, representing Forest Lakes LLC and Forest Lakes Residential Development, also attended the Dec. 5 meeting.

FLMD and the three Pinions plan to eventually include 467 residential lots in PPMD 1 and 2 and 215 acres of commercial development in PPMD 3. FLMD is the operating district responsible for water and wastewater services, drainage and stormwater discharge, roads, parks and trails, and landscaping and street lights for the three Pinions. The residents of Forest Lakes will reside in three taxing districts, PPMD 1, 2, or 3, and all of
the property tax revenue will flow to the Pinon Pines districts in 2017.

FLMD will hold and control all the public infrastructure and will provide all necessary utility and general government services to the residents of the Pinon Pines districts subject to the terms of an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the districts. From 2007 to 2014, FLMD financed construction of the public utility infrastructure through the use of Developer Advances provided to the district at 8 percent interest. FLMD has no outstanding general obligation debt, but the Pinons have already or will incur debt along the way as construction proceeds in each district.

The Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UM-CRWTF) is owned jointly by Donal Water and Sanitation District, Triview Metropolitan District, and FLMD. FLMD has contracted with Donal to operate the water and sewer systems. Donala operators and staff personnel will also provide meter reading and billing services, respectively, to Forest Lakes customers. FLMD has contracted with other providers for maintenance of the other infrastructure such as the Waterfront Park.

2016 budget amendments do not apply.

On Dec. 5, after a public hearing at which no member of the public spoke, the board unanimously approved amended 2016 budgets for both FLMD and PPMD 1. Nichols said this was necessitated by the fact that they did “a pretty good-sized” bond issue in October. FLMD added a bit over $6 million to its original budget, and PPMD 1 added two more funds and the capital projects fund, which is the size of the bond issue. Nichols said. The 2016 amended budgets include:

- FLMD – $12.9 million
- PPMD 1 general fund – $19,000
- PPMD 1 debt service fund – $70,000
- PPMD 1 capital projects fund – $8.3 million

Nichols explained after the meeting that the bonds are limited tax general obligation bonds sold to bondholders in minimum increments of $500,000. The total amount held is $8.3 million, resulting in charges of 5.25 to 5.375 percent, and will eventually be paid back using revenue from the property tax mill levies in each district and the facilities development fees charged by PPMD 1.

Mill levies increased

The board considered a resolution to set mill levies for 2017 for FLMD 1, 2, and 3. (FLMD does not impose a mill levy.) They unanimously approved the resolution certifying 10 mills for operations and maintenance for the non-utility systems and 40 mills for debt service, totaling 50 mills each for PPMD 1, 2, and 3.

Simplex’s oncologist was, “The mills will hopefully be stabilizing now.”

2017 budgets and appropriations approved

No member of the public spoke at the public hearings on 2017 budgets for FLMD and PPMD 1, 2, and 3. Topics mentioned during the budget discussion covering all four districts included:

- Lodi: Forteen homes are occupied now in the Forest Lakes development. We are now getting to the point where we will be able to see approximately how much it costs to run the water and wastewater systems.
- Nicholas: The surface water treatment plant will cost about $6 million total, and $4.5 million of that is included in the 2017 budget for FLMD, which will own and operate the plant. The drinking water plant, transmission line, and surface water intake from Besstecleone Lake will be started in 2017. Engineering is being done by Wright Water Engineers.
- Nicholas: Money has been set aside for landscape maintenance, which will be performed by the same company that installed it, Bear Claw. They are required to maintain it for one year after they install it.
- Nicholas: PPMD 1 is under construction now. It pays FLMD for expenses. I am still in the process of determining the methodology for allocating costs back to the three Pinos so that when assessed valuation is more substantial, this methodology will be in place.

Citizens advisory committee

Nichols said that the FLMD service plan required an attempt to form a citizens advisory committee when there are more than 50 homes owned by third parties. She anticipated reaching that number of rooftops in PPMD 1 by next summer.

Lewis-Palmer School District Safety Protocols

Students and staff require safe environments in order for undistracted learning to take place. Lewis-Palmer School District maintains a proactive stance around safety and security preparedness, reviewing and updating emergency plans annually and running drills monthly. LPSD also partners with local and county law enforcement and emergency responders in order to stay appraised of current safety protocols.

In January, Dennis Coates will fill Lewis-Palmer School District’s new Chief of Safety and Security position. Deputy Coates, a School Resource Officer (SRO) with the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office for seven years, has worked closely with LPD staff and schools in this capacity over the past decade. Twelve of Coates’ twenty years in law enforcement have found his time spent on school matters. Additionally, Coates served as a DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) instructor, police academy instructor, hostage negotiator, high school teacher, coach, and athletic director. These experiences equip him well to continue anticipating and meeting the safety needs of LPSD.

This expanded role allows Coates to oversee and coordinate the implementation and updating of emergency plans and the training of the District’s SROs: Superintendent Karen Breffil says of Coates, “His leadership provides an even greater emphasis on the safety and security measures we need to consider.” His personal experiences with LPD students and staff along with his extensive knowledge of Colorado law and the Tri-Lakes and Colorado Springs area only enhance Coates’ preparedness for his new position. He relates, “I feel like I have been training for this position my entire career. I am grateful for LPD’s commitment to our students’ safety.”

Teacher Spotlight: Missy Monroe

Many Lewis-Palmer School District teachers begin their career with LPDS right out of college and stay for years. Missy Monroe, Social Studies teacher at Lewis-Palmer High School, is one of these individuals. She began teaching at LPHS when she was 22, straight out of UNC where she earned a BA in History and her certification. As a secondary education. A 20th Century History. She grew up as a rival of LPHS. She knew then that she wanted to be a part of LPHS because she and her classmates understood that LPHS was good at everything.

She loves teaching high school students and believes that they are the most passionate learners on the planet. Missy especially loves teaching her students about 20th Century History. She says after learning about the Foreign Policy. Missy loves teaching especially Caucon recipes and loves traveling to historical sites. She grew up as a rival of LPHS because she and her classmates understood that LPHS was good at everything.

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Serving El Paso, Teller, and Douglas Counties

The commercial area PPMD 3 is within the town of Monument, but the residential areas (PPMD 1 and PPMD 2) are in El Paso County but outside the town limits. The PPMD 3 infrastructure is responsible for the public infrastructure and utility and general governmental services for the Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD). Nicholls said the service plan also required that one of the citizens advisory committee members becomes an ex officio member of the FLMD board.

PPMD 3 infrastructure fee discussed

The board also discussed the possibility of an Add-On Public Infrastructure Fee (PIF) for the PPMD 3 commercial property, which is inside the town of Monument. The PPMD 3 board would be the collection agent for the PIF, if it were adopted, and PPMD 3 would issue bonds to reimburse the cost of its share of the public infrastructure. FLMD would end up owning the infrastructure.

Stimple said he hoped the town of Monument would be very responsive to this idea as a sales tax generator, but that there was “a level of unpredictability where they are going to go on any given issue.” Dykstra noted whatever the final decision was, it would be recorded before any property is sold in that district. The consensus was to wait and see what the change in administration at the federal level might have on this topic before making a decision.

Other items approved

The board unanimously approved the following actions:
- Engagement letters with Hoenig & Co. for the 2016 audit for both FLMD and PPMD 1
- Seventeenth Amendment to Professional Services Agreement between FLMD and Ann Nichols, extending her contract to Jan. 2, 2018
- 2017 Annual Administrative Resolution
- 2017 Transparency Notices for FLMD and PPMD 1, 2, and 3. This information will be listed on the Special Districts Information (SDIA) website as well as the FLMD website.
- The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The next joint meeting of FLMD and PPMD 1, 2, and 3 is scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 6, in the Classic Homes office at 6385 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Colorado Springs. Meetings are usually held first Monday of each month. Meeting notices are posted on the district website at forestlakesmetrodistrict.com and at 3625 Mesa Top Drive, Monument, which is an open space tract owned by all four districts. For general questions, contact Ann Nichols at 719-330-5810 or at annnicholsduffy@aol.com.

For questions about operations, billing, or meter reading, contact Contract Operator, Donalda Water and Sanitation District, at 719-488-3603. The Donalda Office is at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs. For after-hours emergencies call: 719-488-3603.

For recreational matters or to request a permit, contact the Forest Lakes Residential Owners Association, Steve Emery, Hammarsmith Management, 719-389-0700, semery@hammersmith.com.

The Forest Lakes Residential Owners Association manages Bristlecone Park and Lake and enforces covenants explained at www.forestlakescolorado.com, which is separate from the metropolitan district website.

Lisa Haftfield can be reached at lisa@haftfield@ocn.net.
By Jim Kendrick

On Dec. 8, the Donala Water and Sanitation District unanimously approved five resolutions for the 2017 budget—the 2017 appropriation, setting both Donala 2017 property tax mill levies (unchanged), a 4 percent increase across all water use rates tiers, and a $1 sewer service rate increase to $31 per month. The board opted to add a 10 percent increase to each of the eight commercial water tap fees as well as the commercial sewer tap fee for 2017. Those commercial tap fees were last increased in 2007. The commercial water development fee was also increased by $1,500 to $6,500 to equal the existing residential water development fee.

End-of-year finance update

District General Manager Kip Petersen reported that total 2016 revenues might be 5 to 6 percent less than the total amount budgeted, while total 2016 expenditures expenses would be about $3.5 million and total revenue for 2016 will be about $180,000 more than budgeted due to the fall being drier than forecast, resulting in higher 2016 irrigation sales. The district will use an additional $829,000 from a low-interest loan from the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority by the end of 2016 for a total of $1.4 million to pay for Donala capital projects. Wastewater revenues and expenses for the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility through November were down 28.4 and 25.9 percent respectively for the totals budgeted for 2016.

2017 budget discussion

Petersen said that there were no citizen comments on the 2017 budget prior to this meeting. There were no citizen comments during the open portion of the public 2017 budget hearing as well.

Petersen noted that Donala’s property mill levies in the first two resolutions will not change in 2017. The 2 mill levies on the front ranges of the district property owners will raise $1.63 million. The 10.648 mill rate that applies to Chaparral Hills property owners will raise $3,047. These two mill levy resolutions were unanimously approved.

The board unanimously approved the third resolution for 2017 as presented, which estimated that total expenditures will be about $41.3 million and total revenues would be about $20.7 million. Petersen said the difference represents money already held by Donala “in the bank” in several mandatory cash reserve accounts.

The board unanimously approved the fourth resolution for the 2017 appropriation of this overall total of $20.7 million as presented. The board also unanimously approved the fifth resolution for 2017 rates as amended for the commercial fees noted above. Board President Dave Powell said, “Well done.” The other directors and Petersen concurred.

Petersen said that it is likely that Colorado Wa- ter Conservation Board low-cost loan availability will be significantly reduced for the next few years. He also noted that the 2017 Pikes Peak Regional Water Author- ity budget had been approved at the authority’s Nov. 2 meeting.

Laughlin Ditch water right due diligence

Petersen gave an overview of the ongoing due diligence work for the proposed renewable surface water right purchase agreement from the Gray Family Trust for a potential water right from Laughlin Ditch flows of 324 acre-feet of consumptive use surface water per year. This offer was presented to the district board by trust water broker Gary Barber at a special district board meeting on Oct. 5. This renewable ditch surface water could be reused to extinc- tion. The trust also offered to provide seller financing for Donala’s purchase.

On Oct. 20, the Donala board unanimously approved a resolution for Petersen and Donala’s water attorney Rick Fendel to conduct due diligence investigations for the trust’s proposed sale to Donala and the final draft of the proposed sale offer from the Gray Family Trust. The purchase price for this water right was $3.8 million.

Petersen said he and Fendel had met with repre- sentatives of Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) in early November to discuss possible CSU assistance in treating Laughlin ditch water and delivering the potable water to Donala. CSU was still reviewing Donala’s paperwork.


Annual addendum to CSU treatment agreement approved

The board unanimously approved an addendum for the second year of a three-year agreement, including a 6.5 percent CSU rate increase for month-to-month water ser- vice by CSU for Donala during 2017. CSU transports 86 percent Donala’s renewable surface water from Wil- low Creek Ranch near Leadville that is stored in the fed- eral Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation’s Pueblo Reservoir in CSU’s pipeline to a CSU water treat- ment plant. After treatment by CSU, this new-potable water is transported to an interconnection with Donala’s distribution system for direct delivery to Donala’s water customers.

Operations report

The Holbein and Hull water treatment facilities will un- dergo annual cleaning during low demand over the next few months. Some control system upgrade and replace- ment work will also be performed at the Hull facility.

The Lattrobe water tank line extension project is es- sentially complete. The line is active and moving water within the district. When the weather warms up, some asphalt work will be done on the Holbein Tank driveway.

Vocam Construction has completed the secondary Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treat- ment Facility access road that goes under the adjacent railroad trestle to the north gate of the facility. Reseeding the area will be completed when the weather is warm enough.

The meeting went into executive session to discuss specialized details of security arrangements at 2:45 p.m. No announcements were made or votes taken after the executive session concluded before adjournment.

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The next board meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 19 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603 or www.donalawater.org. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jinkendrick@comcast.net.

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By Chris Pollard

The Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board met on Dec. 8 to hear the results of a further review of the water rate structure that had been prepared by Rafthis Financial Consultants, and to get updates from Randy Gillette, the assistant district manager. The board also approved the 2017 budget.

A motion to excuse Rich Strom from the last meet- ing was approved along with one to excuse Directors Brian Bush and Tommy Schwab from this meeting.

Public meeting on proposed water rates—revised proposal

A revised water rate proposal was presented to the board by Rick Giardina, executive vice president, and Rob Wadowski, senior consultant, of Rafthis. They had been tasked by Assistant Manager, Tim Quist, to relook the cost of service for non-potable customers and adjust other parts of the rate structure due to a misalignment in allocation of costs among the five categories of customers in the district. Residential customers were basically subsidizing the costs for the non-potable water system customers. Giardina said that he noticed that the charges would be less than previously proposed rates but would still provide the needed 1 percent increase in overall district revenue. The question was how to achieve that among the various customer classes.

Two adjustments had been made since November.

One new non-potable customer, a homeowners association (HOA), was classified as residential but should have been in the non-potable class (The district has only three non-potable customers: the golf course, the high school, and the new HOA). The other change was to the alloca- tion of service charges that had been weighted toward individual customers, which made the residential class pay a disproportionate amount of the costs. The revised proposal bases costs on use and in particular commercial and non-potable irrigation customers that have a higher proposal bases costs on use and in particular commercial and non-potable irrigation customers that have a higher

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Dec. 8

Board approves new water rates, 2017 budget

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Donala Water and Sanitation District, Dec. 8

2017 budget approved, water rates up 4 percent, commercial taps up 10 percent

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The consultants reminded the board that the cost of ser-
vice may change over time due to unforeseen circumstances
and changes in growth, so the numbers in all five categories
might need to be revisited in the future. Wadsworth summarized
that as far as most residents are concerned, the monthly service
charge goes from $9.01 to $9.20.

Better than spreading it out over
and, more!

Washer / Dryer

The consultants reminded
the board about further training
plans for treatment of radium in
the chemical storage area.

They stated a long series of comments
related to the radium treatment op-
tion system is fully installed.

One construction invoice in
the almost-complete total phos-
phorus (TP) chemical removal
clarifier expansion. Also, Jonas-
than Moore, a water resource
engineer from Forsgren Asso-
ciates, attended the meeting to
listen to JUC members, which was
the first step toward commu-
nication with the town of
Monument and the engineers on
questions about the town’s plans
for treatment of radium in the
town’s drinking water wells.

TLWTF operates as a separate
joint venture public utility and
is owned in equal
thirds shares by Monument
Sanitation District (MSD),
Palmer Lake Sanitation Dis-
trict (PLSD), and Woodmoor
Water and Sanitation District
(WWSD).

The three-member JUC acts
as the board of the facilit-
y and consists of one director
from each of the three owners’
districts’ boards: WWSD board
Director Rich Bergh, president;
MSD board Chair-
man Ed Delaney, vice pres-
ident; and PLSD board and JUC
Secretary/Treasurer Ken Kowith.

Other board and staff members of
the three owner districts also
attended, including MSD Dis-
trict Manager Mike Wicklund,
PLSD District Manager Becky
Orcutt, and WWSD Assistant
District Manager Randy Gillette.

Monument Sanitation District
board members Marylee Reese
and John Howe and WWSD board
President Jim Taylor also
attended the meeting.

Financial and
construction report

Facility Manager Bill Burke said
Tetra Tech, the facility’s engi-
nneering firm, had missed send-
ing one construction invoice in
July for the TP chemical remov-
elar clarifier expansion (The check
was included with the checks for
November). He said as of Dec.
13, Aolab Construction had not
sent its final invoice, either,
but he was optimistic it would
receive so he could write a
final check to them before Dec.
31, as budgeted by all three
of the owner districts.

Burks explained that the new TP clarifier expansion had
undergone four fire inspections without getting a written check-
list on what still needed to be
done and that Tri-Lakes Monu-
ment Fire Marshal John Vincent
had apparently not been sharing
correct information about the
construction with the Pikes Peak
Regional Building Department.
The Colorado Springs fire mar-
shall was also participating in
the inspections.

These Tri-Lakes/Monu-
ment Fire Protection District fire inspections have been an is-
 sue since 2015, when Tetra Tech
was first surprised by the un-
precedented requirement from
the fire marshals to include a
backup electrical generator for
ventilation and temperature con-
trol in the chemical storage area.
Several other requirements have
surfaced since then. See www.
ocn.me/v15n11.htm#idfa1013
for more details.

Burks said Tetra Tech was
working on forwarding the
missing emails to a representative
at Regional Building so that it
would have the information needed
for a required department approval on TLWTF’s expansion as well.
He said Asian Construc-
tion would receive the written report from the building inspec-
tor.

Note: On Dec. 16, Fire Chief
Chris Truty notified OCN that
Vincent was no longer with TLWTF, but no further expla-
nation was given.

Conversation about
town’s radium treatment with
consulting engineer

After noting that GMS Engi-
nneering has already dealt with
radium in other districts, Wick-
land said he had asked Roger
Sams of GMS to set up a meet-
ing in January to be attended by:
GMS engineering staff
Steven Farabaugh, the ra-
dium project manager from
town water engineering consult-
 ing firm
TLWTF’s Tetra Tech en-
gen eers
All three JUC member dis-
 trict managers
Burks
The three JUC directors
“We have not really been in the
loop about the town’s proposed
treatment process for radium in
the town of Monument’s wells,
Wickland said.

The board went into execu-
tive session for a discussion
to negotiation, legal discussions
regarding the joint use agree-
ment and contract for consulting
engineers with Wadsworth &
EI Engineers Inc., and personnel
matters

The next meeting is scheduled
for Jan. 12 at 1 p.m. Meetings
are usually held at the district
office at 8:45 a.m. Drive on the
second Thursday of each month
at 1 p.m. See www.wood-
moor.com or call 488-2525

Chris Pollard can be reached at
chrispollard@ocn.me.
no impact on anybody else. That should be included in your scope of work with the town. MSD Environmental Compli-
ance Coordinator Jim Kend- rick’s comments included:
• We are just trying to be transparent with you so that we can complete up against a start date where we have not had a chance to do all the necessary MSD and TLLWTF engineering work and research. It’s a lot better when everybody is working toward the same goal.
• So far we have heard noth-
ing from the town about what radium treatment methods are being consid-
ered.
• TENVORM is federally regulated, and this pre-
treatment might involve AI Garcia of the Environ-
mental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 Pretreat-
ment Unit.
Questions that were asked, with answers desired at the expect-
ed January meeting that Sams would be coordinating, includ-
ed:
• Was the $100,000 Colorado Rural Water Association (CRWA) grant the town ap-
plicated for going to be used for hydrous manganese oxide (HMO) treatment or for ion exchange treatment?
• Would the Colorado De-
partment of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) come to MSD and/or TLLWTF directly to have Wick-
lund and/or Burks sign off on any kind of treatment?
• Would the town be paying for TENVORM testing at TLLWTF since the town is creating this new require-
ment, not MSD?
The consensus of the JUC mem-
bers was to start doing its own baseline radonucleide testing in January before it is required as self-protection. The members gave Burks several suggestions on other entities to consult with that already had experience with radium. Gillette said that base-
line testing should be paid for by the JUC, not the town, since it was just to see where the plant was with Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) (not federally regulated) before the Town of Monument did any testing of radium into TEN-
ORM.
Plant manager’s report
Burks said CDPHE had just changed its position on when TLLWTF had to start test-
ing and treating for phospho-
rus ahead of its new TP limits, which take effect Nov. 1, 2019. The facility’s discharge permit states that it has to meet the rolling annual median (the median for the previous 12 cal-
endar months) on that date, but without 12 months of prior data, it would have no annual median to report to CDPHE on the TL-
WWTF Discharge Monitoring Report.
Burks said $200,000 in chemicals could be saved if he waited until November 2019 to start treating for phosphorus with the new TP clarifier expansion, but Wicklund said it made sense to start treating ahead of time to make sure the plant would not have a violation in the first month of its new permit, would have enough monthly data for an annual median, and had already proven to operate reliably in all kinds of weather.

Colorado Wastewater Utility Council report
Multiple metric indexing (MMI) aquatic life studies have been used for over a decade to assess the biological response of fish and macro invertebrates to nutrients in different stream segments. Members of orga-
nizations such as the Arkansas River/Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AF CRE) and SP CURE (South Platte) have paid for nu-
merous independent studies us-
ing both U.S. Geological Survey and CDPHE standards to collect and publish MMI and instream concentration data to show CDPHE whether the nutrient levels, including various forms of nitro-
gen and phosphorus, are af-
flecting the naturally occurring amount and variety of aquatic life species in a given stream segment. The basic premise of the CDPHE policy is that the “more” aquatic life of preferred types, the healthier a stream seg-
ment is, whether it is a warm, low-flow, shallow, sandy bottom stream such as Monument Creek or a cold, fast-flowing alpine stream above Lake Dillon.

\[\text{Despite this news, Chris Theel of the CDPHE Water Quality Control Division Stan-
dards Unit talked about the pro-
posed extension and expansion of Aquatic Life Policy 10-1 at the Colorado Waste Water Util-
ity Council on Nov. 9. Theel’s message was that CDPHE is working on recalibrating the MMIs requirements, includ-
ing increasing the spectrum of which type of aquatic life and what quantity of each type of orga-

The consensus of the JUC mem-
ers indicated that a stream was “healthy” and that they planned to increase the number of different organisms tested for by 67 percent. Kendrick reported this new set of standards would be done with no accommodation for variations in the state’s eight separate geographical regions.

Kendrick said this MMI recalibration would directly impact the replacement interim values for TP and total nitrogen stream standards, which would affect TLLWTF’s discharge permit in the near future.

“Mike (Wicklund) and at-
torney John Hall and I have been doing this for seven years,” Kend-

ruck said, referring to stake-
holder attempts to inform and solidify decisions from CDPHE so that stakeholders such as TLL-
WWTF could plan future capi-
tal investments without having the requirements increased as the years go by, causing the up-
grades to be insufficient by the time they are built. Stakeholder groups also keep advocating for requirements that make sense for each specific discharger’s location, geology, naturally-
occuring stream aquatic life, temperature, etc. as well as be-
ing achievable, affordable, and sustainable with reasonable user fees.

Kendrick and Wicklund said that Hall, who used to work with nutrient stakeholders in the Colorado Nutrient Coalition and the Colorado Rural Commu-

nizations such as the Arkansas River/Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AF CRE) and SP CURE (South Platte) have paid for nu-
merous independent studies us-
ing both U.S. Geological Survey and CDPHE standards to collect and publish MMI and instream concentra-
tion data to show CDPHE whether the nutrient levels, including various forms of nitro-
gen and phosphorus, are af-
flecting the naturally occurring amount and variety of aquatic life species in a given stream segment. The basic premise of the CDPHE policy is that the “more” aquatic life of preferred types, the healthier a stream seg-
ment is, whether it is a warm, low-flow, shallow, sandy bottom stream such as Monument Creek or a cold, fast-flowing alpine stream above Lake Dillon.

However, Kendrick said that at the Colorado Regulation 85 Nutrient Management Stakeholder Work Group meet-
ing on Nov. 1, Water Quality Control Commission Adminis-
trator and state attorney Trisha Oeth told the stakeholders that the EPA has declared MMI “not scientifically valid” for setting the interim nutrient values of Reg. 31-17. See www.oecn/ me/ v161/2.l.htm?tfac1108.

Despite this news, Chris Theel of the CDPHE Water Quality Control Division Stan-
dards Unit talked about the pro-
posed extension and expansion of Aquatic Life Policy 10-1 at the Colorado Waste Water Util-
ity Council on Nov. 9. Theel’s message was that CDPHE is working on recalibrating the MMIs requirements, includ-
ing increasing the spectrum of which type of aquatic life and what quantity of each type of or-
vise and reduce some of the actions that the EPA that have been achieved solely through executive orders.

Kendrick said that when he, Wicklund, and other Fountain Creek watershed wastewater plant operators first started AF CURIE, the original mission statement was to aggregate specific data for advocacy concerning Reg. 85 to have the Colorado Data Sharing network forward to both CDPCHE and EPA. He said mission cream has occurred since then, but more and more data is now needed “to know how to defend ourselves” against arbitrary decisions from CDPCHE and the EPA. However, some members of AF Curse are balking at spending more money on additional studies as the data required every month now includes a discussion about whether to turn AF CURIE into a 501c3 and hire someone to manage its numerous additional programs.

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

The next meeting will be held Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of January, but are open to the public. For information, call Bill Burks at 719-481-4053 or go to www.tlwastewater.com.

If you would like to help CDPCHE cover the TLRWTF JUC by sending meetings or writing articles, please contact Lisa Hatfield at lisahatfield@co.coinc.

Triview Metropolitan District, Dec. 13

Plans for capital improvements and new water rates and fees summarized

By Lisa Hatfield

On Dec. 13, the Triview Metropolitan District Board of Directors approved the 2017 budget, which includes plans for roads maintenance starting this spring and continuing planning and investment in a non-potable water reuse plant. They also increased the fee charged of developers when they do not have sufficient water rights on the land they are developing. They summarized the increases in residential and commercial water and waste-water rates and in the one-time fees charged to developers for residential and commercial tap/impact fees that will take effect soon.

A large portion of the meeting included questions and answers from Town of Monument Public Works Director Tom Tharnish and a list of updates on current Triview capital projects from Engineer John McGinn of JDS Advisors.

After this meeting, a Dec. 16 Triview press release stated that Triview acquired 500 shares of renewable water in the Fountain Mutual Irrigation Co. (FMIC) for $6.5 million.

Director James Barnhardt was excused.

Triview, on the east side of I-25, includes two-thirds of the population of Monument and is still growing at a rapid rate. Triview was created as one of the first Colorado Title 32 developer special metropolitan districts within the Regency Park development. Regency Park was annexed into the town in 1987. Triview provides roads, parks, and drainage maintenance, as well as water and sanitation utility services, to the residents of Jackson Creek, Promontory Pointe, and Sanctuary Pointe. Triview’s water system is the independent of Monumen’s Public Works water system located on the west side of I-25. The Town of Monument provides land use planning, police, and general governance for the district’s property owners.

2017 budget approved

At the public hearing for the 2017 budget, resident Jason Gross asked what moved lower on the priority list in order to balance the 2017 budget. The answer was that a generator, two new wells, and some other items have been postponed. Also, cash was taken from reserve funds (savings) to pay for over $1 million of capital improvements in projects in 2017. Cathy Fronk, Director of Special District Solutions, the district’s accountant, explained.

Capital expenditures planned for 2017 include $830,000 in street improvements and at least $570,000 in water system improvements. The cost of the non-potable water reuse system will be determined this spring. The 2017 budget also includes two new full-time employees who will be starting in operations in March.

After briefly going into executive session in the middle of the meeting to confer with the district’s attorney, the directors brought the meeting back into public session and unanimously approved a resolution summarizing the revenues and expenditures for each fund, adopting the 2017 budget, and appropriating sums of money to funds and authorizing the general fund property tax mill levies of 35 mills.

Estimated for 2017:
- General fund revenue – $5.2 million
- General fund expenditures – $4.4 million
- Transfers to enterprise fund and capital projects fund – $1.3 million
- Water, Wastewater and Reuse Enterprise Fund revenue – $3.0 million
- Water, Wastewater and Reuse Enterprise Fund expenditures – $3.4 million
- Capital projects fund revenue – $845,000
- Capital projects fund expenditures – $1.7 million

Water development requirements modified

The directors unanimously approved a resolution modifying the water development requirements and the “in-lieu-of” fee that is paid by developers when they do not have sufficient water rights on the land within Triview that they are developing, said Water Attorney Chris Cummings of Monson, Cummings & Shohet LLC. The fee has been $6,500 per single-family equivalent (SFE), or $13,000 per acre-foot, which was substantially below market value. The new one-time fee will now be $8,500 per SFE, or $19,000 an acre-foot, which is more reasonably close to the costs for renewable water, Cummings said.

New 2017 water, wastewater rates and tap/impact fees outlined

In the manager’s report, District Manager Valerie Remington and the directors reviewed the new district tap fees and water rates that were already approved at several board meetings in 2016 and will go into effect in 2017. Here is just a summary:

On Feb. 1, new base rates and volumetric water rates for residential, commercial, and commercial irrigation and new wastewater rates for residential and commercial entities will take effect. The consensus of the directors was that conservation of water was very important as the district is still working on new sources of water besides well water from aquifers. McGinn said the rates “will have the number one impact on water use, so continuing to ratchet the rates will help user characteristics change in hopes that the demand curve will flatten out over next few years.”

On May 1, new residential tap/impact fees that will only apply to new development will go into effect. They include water tap fee, wastewater tap fee, and a loan and tap fee, drainage impact tap fee, landscaping fee, road and bridge fee, review and comment fee, water meter fee, and sewer impact fee starting at $19,000 for each apartment and $35,745 for each single-family home. Fees in Sanctuary Pointe and in the Creekside development off Leather Chaps Road (still in planning phases) are slightly higher.

New commercial, office, and industrial tap fees that will only apply to new development will go into effect May 1 also. They include water tap fee, sewer tap fee, and a loan and tap fee. These fees are calculated based on water tap size, beginning at $55,000 for a 1-inch tap and range up to $1 million for a 4-inch tap, but then more fees are added for drainage impact, road and bridge, and review, with those calculations based on the type of business and the square footage of the building.

For more details and exact calculations for any tap fees, impact fees, and other fees, contact Remington for the complete set of five charts that show all the residential and commercial figures for the different sections of Town.

Town public works director asks questions

Tharnish attended the meeting, as he has before, but this time he also brought a list of questions about operations in Triview.

Note: Employees of the town of Monument took over daily operations for Triview, and Triview’s employees became town employees, from 2009 to 2012 in order to save money. For more information, go to www.ocm.me/vn1.html/mtd , www.ocm.me/vn6.html/mtd.

Remington will be presenting a more detailed “State of Triview” to the Monument Board of Trustees on Tuesday, Jan. 17 in an effort to increase transparency and communication between the two government entities. Meanwhile, some of the staff’s and board’s answers to Tharnish’s questions:
- JDS-Hydro is doing preliminary planning for using non-potable water reuse for irrigation in eight of the district’s nine parks east of I-25. See details below.
- By Jan. 16, the district hoped to make an announcement about purchasing renewable water. See details below.
- The district is working on a detailed five-year capital project plan including water, wastewater, stormwater, and roads.
- Water Superintendent Josh Cichocki performs...
Tharnish also shared with the district some basic projects the town has for its water system west of I-25, including:

- The town has a water mas- ter plan in place. The town’s con- cept through projected full build-out in 2035 that was adopted by the town.
- The town plans to have a potable water reuse project operating by summer 2020, which will involve sharing the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation (WWSD). The town’s system will also include a new treatment plant on land owned by the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Fa- cility that will pump this treated town of Monument wastewater effluent up to Monument Lake before it is subsequently withdrawn from Monument Creek downstream of the existing WWSD pumping station at the Arnold Avenue bridge and pumped back into town for use by the town’s drinking water plant treatment to meet state drinking water standards.
- In the end, when Triview is built out and debt is paid off, its systems will become the responsibility of the town (if both boards agree to dissolve the district).
- We have a vested interest as community in your capital de- velopment.
- Maybe down the road the town could assist Triview on infrastructure or from an operations standpoint.
- The town is working on a five-year parks improve- ment plan for the four parks west of I-25. Triview’s nine parks east of I-25 are not the town’s responsibility.

*Note: Construction of a new town-owned treatment facil- ity within the special district- owned Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility property has never been brought up to the Tri- Lakes Joint Use Committee. See related TLWTW JUC article on page 12.

While this discussion cleared up a lot of basic ques- tions between the two entities, the consensus was that some other issues still need further communication, including:

- The town Planning Depart- ment approves applications for new development within Triview, such as roads, parks, and housing develop- ments, but Triview does not know what is planned until it is all built and takes over maintenance. The need for closer coordination of planning was expressed by both entities.
- Town Engineer Tom Mar- tinez is the one Tharnish holds accountable for all in- spections on new construc- tion, but Triview Water Su- periintendent Josh Cichocki does other inspections. Better communication is needed between Tharnish and Remington so he can submit annual inspections reports to the state.
- Tharnish mentioned a grading problem near the new irrigation business plan on Jackson Creek Park- way. McGinn said a natural drainage point had been cut off and that the town originated with errors in the planning drawings ap- proved by the town.
- Tharnish gained consensus from the Triview board to participate with the town in a matching-grant project to widen Jackson Creek Parkway to four lanes from Baptist Road north to Highway 105 around 2020. Triview maintains the road from Baptist Road to Highgy Road, and the town main- tains the section from Hwy- 105.
- Two of the town’s water operators, Steve Shellyfeld and Nick Harris, spent time working on Triview’s water system from 2009 to 2012 and have input they could share about its operation. President Reid Bolander was receptive to inviting town staff and the Board of Trustees on tours of the current facilities and the idea of mutual assistance between the town and Triview.

Bolander suggested creating a document to guide all town and Triview staff in giving correct answers to residents with ques- tions about which utility is in charge of what. In the case of plowing Baptist Road, Highgy Road, and Highway 105, it is neither Monument nor Triview, but actually El Paso County that is responsible.

*Water tank, reuse, and other project*

McGinn presented an update on a few of the projects JDS-Hydro is working on with Triview. His comments included:

- After two years of work, the new 11-million-gallon water tank in Sanctuary Pointe is online now and is well within budget.
- Finishing the upper Sanctu- ary zone will allow con- struction in all of Sanctuary Pointe Phase I and por- tions of Phase 2.
- Well 9 will be the next well to be drilled, but it has been delayed beyond 2017 due to the district’s budget.
- Using reuse water would make less impact on aqui- fers and help the district meet peak demands by increas- ing more capacity in your potable system. By mov- ing forward with reuse, we postpone the need to drill a new well.
- Triview already has some of the infrastructure in place for doing non-potable water reuse at the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Fa- cility (UMCRWTF). (It had been used for non-po- table irrigation of Glenae- gle golf course that is now closed.)
- Triview needs to do either reuse or a new well in 2017.
- With change to water base rates and volumetric rates, in the next three or four years, you will start seeing the demand curve flatten as people conserve water to save money.
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) upgrades for the existing potable (drinking) water system are going out to re- quest for proposal. A bid just based on lowest cost is not suitable for this project.
- State-mounted upgrades must be made to the UM- CRWTF wastewater treatment plant in the next few years. The non-potable reuse water would only be used to irrigate the district’s parks, but due to the infrastructure, that water would not be available for resi- dential irrigation.
- McGinn said the second phase of the reuse plant could potentially add to irrigation for the elementary school. It might also include potable water, but the limitation right now was that the district did not have a place to store the water. He said two possi- ble pond locations were being considered.
- Tharnish made several pointed suggestions to Mc- Ginn about specific technical requirements for the upcoming SCADA upgrade. Several times McGinn said to Tharnish, “I am way ahead of you.” Monument Town Manager Chris Lowe in- terjected, “That would be a first! Sorry I shouldn’t have said that, but it’s true.” He left the meet- ing soon after this exchange. See related Dec. 5 Monument Board of Trustees article on page 1.

The consensus of the board was that this spring, they needed to finalize the details of their five-year capital plan. It will include two to four wells, modifications and extensions to the existing non-potable wa- ter reuse plant, and upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant to meet new state standards. A multi-year roads maintenance plan will also be included using the input from Terracon Consultant Inc.

**Checks over $5,000**

The directors unanimously ap- proved the following checks over $5,000:

- JDS-Hydro, Sanctuary Pointe pump station $9,853
- Kempton Construction, Sanctuary Pointe transmis- sion line $18,455
- Schmieser & Associates, Sanctuary Point pump sta- tion, October $254,556
- Schmieser & Associates, Sanctuary Point pump sta- tion, November $198,825

**Colorado Special Districts Property & Liability Pool** $38,335
- Applied Ingenuity LLC, Well A4 pull and video $6,812
- Mech One, replacement heater $6,240
- Bradley Excavating Inc., Agate Creek Drive and Sa- ber Creek Drive stormwa- ter projects $54,288
- Terracon Consultants Inc., geotechnical engineering services $15,600
- Monson, Cummins & Shohet LLC $5,340

**Operations report**

Remington’s report included:

- Drainage pipe installation is complete at Agate Creek Drainage.
- Detention pond clearing is complete.
- District operators recently earned one Class D water operator certificate.

**Thrift Store**

**January Special**

During the month of January, all furniture and appliances are 20% off!

**Plus:**

Every Wednesday we offer a 20% discount to seniors 62+

735 Highway 105, Suite N
in the old IME Center (next to Firefly)
treatment and one Class 2 distribution certificate, and “they continue to strive for further advance-
ment.”
• Well A-4 equipment is being repaired.
• Water operators will assist with streets and parks maintenance work until a new full-time landscap-
ing staff starts this spring.
• Contractors and water operators are on standby to assist with plowing when the district accumulates 4
or more inches of snow.
At 8:38 p.m., the meeting went into executive session to confer with the district’s attorneys. Remington told
OCV that no announcements were made after the execu-
tive session.

*****
Renewable water and bond refinancing announcements, Dec. 16
On Dec. 16, Remington sent out a press release noti-
=a fying the public that Triview acquired 500 shares of
renewable water in the Fountain Mutual Irrigation Co.
(FMIC) for $6.5 million. FMIC owns eight water rights,
with the most senior one originating in 1861. FMIC is
run by an elected Board of Directors and overseen by all
FMIC shareholders. “This water purchase is part of our
ongoing strategy to ensure long-term water needs are
met for our residents. We are especially pleased to find
renewable water resources as the wells in the Denver Aquifer have a finite life,” said Triview Board President
Reid Bolander.
This is the third major water purchase for Triview
in the last two years, Remington said. The two previous purchases were for ground water.
Remington also announced that the district process
of refinancing its general obligation (GO) bonds closed
on Dec. 16. “This will save the district over $800,000 in
2017 alone and approximately $3 million over the next
five years. It was a big week for Triview with a lot of
positive news,” Remington told OCV.

The next Triview meeting will be held Jan. 10 at 5 p.m.
at the Fairfield Inn, Mt. Herman Conference Room, 15275
Struthers Road, Colorado Springs. Meetings are normal-
ly held on the second Tuesday of the month. Informa-
tion: 488-6868 or see www.colorado.gov/triviewmetro.
See “TRIVIEW METRO” on Facebook, or Twitter.com/@TriviewMetro.
If you would like to help OCV cover Triview Metropolitan District by recording meetings or writing articles, please contact Lisa Hatfield at lhatsfield@ocn.me.

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

Pfoff resigns as president, remains on board; board discusses long-range planning, information security

By Harris Hallig
The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education discussed long-range planning and information security among other issues at its Dec. 15 meeting. Board President Mark Pfoff said he was resigning as president but will remain on the board. Also, several individuals and groups were recognized for their achievements.

Long-range planning discussion
Doug Abernethy of RTA presented a long-range plan-
ing update to include the steps the firm will take to for-
mulate an action plan.

The group was analyzing the demographics of the dis-
}
forwarding one’s own agenda. If you feel misunderstood, you should ask for clarification.

Pfoff then read a letter to the board saying that he is much busier than he expected since his retirement from law enforcement and founding his own business. He said that effective Jan. 19 he will resign as president of the board but will remain on the board.

He said in this way the board would have a month to reorganize as needed.

The board voted to accept the letter and thanked Pfoff for his leadership.

Applied Trust technology audit
Brollof reported on an audit of the district’s information technology (IT) by Applied Trust. The firm examined many aspects of the district’s IT and determined which areas required improvement. They examined possible vulnerabilities that would allow outside individuals and commercial entities to gain access.

Applied Trust determined that it is very difficult to access personally identifiable data in the district’s system, and that the district can determine who can control the data and how it can be controlled.

Brollof stressed that the district requires a confidentiality agreement with the auditor before the study could be done.

Director Sarah Sampayo said that the district sent an email to the community announcing the hiring of Applied Trust and saying that there was no data breach. She wished to know the time period to which the email referred.

Director of Instructional and Informational Technology Liz Walhoff said that she would look into the issue of whether in fact there was a breach, but an investigation at the time determined that there was none.

A Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wanganen said that the firm determined that no breach occurred. They did an audit to determine what they need to target for investigation.

Walhoff commented that individuals continue to form their own opinions on the issue of a breach. She encouraged Sampayo to wait for the final report before drawing conclusions. Too much transparency in the process of investigation could increase vulnerability.

Board Secretary Matthew Clawson said that the district should have an annual audit by a third party to ensure that processes are up to date and secure.

Walhoff said that it is also necessary to see the human part of the equation and not assume that any problem is technological. Ongoing professional development is necessary. In answer to a question from Clawson, Walhoff said that passwords for staff and secondary students were changed every 180 days, with longer intervals for younger students.

Board Treasurer John Magiero also commented on the necessity to not share passwords.

Superintendent evaluation update
Magerko explained that the process for evaluating the superintendent’s performance was similar to that for teachers.

Pfoff said that the board had approved the midyear evaluation and had asked Clawson to perform any necessary negotiations with the superintendent.

Magerko praised Brollof for her efforts in getting to know the staff and said that the staff now feel that they are being heard.

Clawson said that he has met administrators from other districts that feel that the district is fortunate to have her. He thanked Magerko for his time and effort in doing the evaluation.

Pfoff said that he has heard from many teachers how much they like her and her support of them and the kids.

Sampayo commented that the district was high performing before the arrival of Brollof and therefore all credit should not go to her. She said that teachers and parents are also important.

Clawson agreed but said that Brollof is important in that she provides direction.

Pfoff said that the resolution is simply to recognize the superintendent and show the board’s commitment to her.

The board voted to approve the resolution, with Sampayo opposed.

Later in the meeting, the board approved the automatic one-year renewal of Brollof’s contract. The initial contract was for three years.

Policy discussion
The board approved a revision of policy DCB regarding graduation requirements, to include mention of district-provided online instruction.

The board discussed a new policy DCB regarding debt management. Wanganen said that this policy was created on the advice of the district’s financial advisor. The audit committee was also involved in its creation. The policy includes forms of debt, implications on creditworthiness, a debt issuance checklist, legal review, and other issues. The policy will be reviewed every five years.

The board recognized Palmer Lake Elementary School fifth-grader Lauren Baker for winning the Tri-Lakes Phone Book art contest. Lauren will receive a plaque and other items from the publisher, and the school will receive $500.

The board recognized the Palmer Ridge High School Cross Country Team, coach Larry Rudnicki, and assistant coach Rob Collins for winning the state 4A championship. Rudnicki said that the team also came in second in a national meet in California.

The board recognized Phyllis Robinet and Janet Sandstrom for renewing their national board certification. The renewal process includes submission of written documents, videos, and other analyses of their teaching abilities.

Public comments
Lewis-Palmer High School student Mailing Melzer read a statement objecting to the choice of Thoroughly Modern Milly as the high school’s fall musical because she said it presents Asians as villains. She felt offended and unwelcome and found it especially offensive that this would be chosen as the musical during a year when the district is hosting a Chinese exchange teacher.

The teacher who chose the musical told Melzer that it was meant to prompt discussion.

Frank John commented that his son and others were on an alphabetized list that included family members, locker combinations, and grades and that the list was first hacked last December. He asked why the administration had not addressed the issue.

Consent agenda
Before passing the consent agenda, that board discussed a few individual items:

• Sampayo asked where student fees go when they are collected. Wanganen said that the fees go into the general fund and then for purchase of supplies. In the case of technology, the fees cover licensing and software. Bob Foster, director of Personnel and Student Services, also commented that such sports supplies as balls and arrows are consumable. Wanganen said that students on free/reduced lunch or otherwise disadvantaged are exempt from fees. She said that, during the recession, parents surveyed said that they would rather have fees and keep programs than cancel programs.

• Sampayo expressed concern about the density of development around the middle school. Wanganen said that the district wishes to be a good neighbor and is adding an access point at the middle school. The district is also talking with El Paso County about the access road leading to Palmer Ridge High School. Developers in the area are discussing ways to create projects in the area to keep the kids from having to walk...
2017 budget approved; Shamrock Station 2 day-to-day operations will be reduced

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Dec. 6

By Lisa Hatfield
The Dec. 6 Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) Board of Directors meeting included approval of the 2017 budget, discussions about the status of Wescott’s Shamrock Station 2 at Highway 83 and Stagecoach Road, and future staffing constraints. The recent City of Colorado Springs’ full annexation of the southern half of the formerly dual-taxed area of the Wescott district will result in a drastic drop in future Wescott tax revenue in 2018. All revenue from the dual-taxed area will cease in 2019.

The board also agreed to delay putting Wescott Station 3 up for sale while adjacent neighbors researched their claim on the title to the Station 3 property now that the district no longer has a use for it.

Director John Fredell was exasperated.

2017 budget and appropriations approved

Chief Vinny Burns said that almost all overtime pay has been eliminated for 2017 as a cost-saving measure; however, some overtime could be authorized at his discretion to cover a catastrophic day with multiple sickness or true “red flag” fire danger days. The recent intergovernmental agreement between DWFPD and the City of Colorado Springs will cut the district’s service area in half and permanently reduce its revenue by about 33 percent in 2018 and by 66 percent in 2019. He said by the end of 2017, the district plans to have $1.3 million total in savings to help get through the next few years. See www.ocn.me/v16612.htm/dwpfd115.

The meeting included thoughtful questions from some of the directors and from five district residents: former Wescott board treasurer and volunteer paramedic Dennis Feltz, Glenleane North Hom- owner’s Association Treasurer Gary Rusnak, Glenleane Civic Association representative Bill Lowes who is a former Wescott board president, Lois Williams, and Chris McCloy. Burns and Executive Administrator Stacy Popovich tried to view in the 2016 and 2017 budgets how much savings were being set aside in anticipation of leaner revenue years ahead and in what line item(s) those amounts showed up.

• Funds rolled over from 2016—$1.07 million
• Total 2017 revenue — $2.28 million
• Total 2017 expenditures — $2.68 million
• Reserves set aside in 2017 — $311,900

Burns explained that because the district’s property owners had previously voted in favor of “de-Brucing,” the Wescott board did not have a TABOR requirement to worry about and would be allowed to keep those extra funds in reserve.

The directors unanimously approved the 2017 budget, the resolution appropriating funds for the budget, and the resolution certifying the 2017 mill levy at 7 mills.

President Greg Gent read the 2017 district budget message, which included:

• It will hold the process of lean budgeting to ensure sustainability through December 2017
• Maintain operational expenses for two fire stations
• Decrease vehicle maintenance
• Provide salary step increases for career firefighters
• Eliminate all overtime pay except for unforeseen fire danger and sickness
• Station 2 may not be staffed continuously due to reduction in staffing

The district is chartered to provide fire protection and first response medical services

Burns clarified that the goal is to keep five staff members on each shift. One of them is the American Medical Response (AMR) paramedic paid for by AMR. DWFPD outsources its district ambulance service. A Wescott emergency medical technician (EMT) drives the AMR ambulance, and the contract with AMR helps defray the cost of that EMT/Driver’s salary. AMR’s paramedic is not cross-trained as a firefighter. Assistant Chief Scott Ridings said that Wescott is a combination district — also includes volunteer firefighters, and said the district would be able to supplement the staffing next year when a firefighter is out sick or on vacation.

Shamrock Station 2 to remain open for now

Eliminating most overtime pay means that, “there will be times when staffing will be reduced,” and on those days, all staff would operate together out of Station 1 on Glenecigle Drive. “But Station 2 will not be closed,” Burns said several times.

District homowner Rusnak stated that if the district starts losing employees, it might become necessary to consider closing Station 2 earlier. Ridings said, “I don’t think we are closing anything. We might sometimes redistribute the staff,” and have volunteers fill in.

Note: Wescott calls Station 2 the “Shamrock Station.” It opened in 2012 at 15505 Highway 83 after the land was donated to the district by David Wissner, owner of the adjacent 500-acre Shamrock Ranch property. The only debt the district holds now is a $1.2 million loan to pay for the building’s construction. See www. ocn.me/v199.htm#wpfd and www. ocn.me/v126.htm#shamrock.

Mill levy steering committee in the works

The residents in attendance re-peatedly expressed interest in helping the district with its planning for publicizing the reasons
for the mill levy ballot measure they intend to place on the November ballot. Burns said the steering committee would start in January. The committee would also help determine the proposed mill levy increase that would have the most chance of success with voters.

On Dec. 6, the 2017 ballot measure will ask district property owners to approve a mill levy increase to help pay for budget shortfalls due to the annexation of the new Shamrock Station 2. Since it has been discussed on and off at least 15 times since then, finally culminating in last month’s decision by the board to hire a realtor and list the property for $195,000. See www.ocn.mn/v1/541.htm#6wpd and www.mn.gov/612.htm#M115.

However, on Dec. 6, the neighbors immediately ad-jacent to the project asked the board to delay putting the property on the market, because they had just become aware of the fact it might be sold. They said they knew of two people who said a 1984 warranty deed document stipulated that if the building ceased to be used as a fire station, it would revert the property back to the grantor, which was their property.

“We need to have a chance to do our due diligence,” George German said. He and his wife Ruth were also concerned that the easement language in this deed required a legal covenant that would violate covenants that exist in that neighborhood, and they were disappointed not to have been notified that the property was being marketed.

President Greg Gent and Burns both explained the legal searches they had already done, and that this war-rant deed had not turned up then. Also, Burns said it was not mentioned on the original copy of the deed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. *********

The next Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 17 at Station 1, 15415 Gleengale Dr. Meeting are usually on the third Tuesday of each month. For information, call Executive Administrator Stacey Popovich at 888-8680 or see www.wescottfire.org. The district is also on Face-Book.

If you would like to help OCN report on the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, contact Lisa Hatfield at lisahatfield@ocn.mn.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Dec. 7

2017 budget, wage increase approved

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Dec. 7 meeting of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD), the directors approved a 2017 budget that includes a 6 percent wage increase and discussed the current hiring process and a proposed inter-governmental agreement (IGA) with Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD).

2017 budget approved

The directors unanimously approved a resolution finalizing the 2017 budget.

• Total revenue – $6.1 million
• Total expenditures – $6.0 million
They also approved a resolution appropriating funds for that budget and a resolution formally setting the mill levy at 11.5 mills.

Then they unanimously approved a 2017 wage scale that reflects a 6 percent increase in base wages for all personnel with the exception of the chief and deputy chief, whose salaries will remain the same as 2016. Fire Chief Chris Truty said this increase puts wages 8 to 10 percent below comparable district areas, but this was better than the 20 percent below average it was a few years ago. See www.ocn.mn/v1/540.htm#1t0dpd026.

The plan is to increase wages again next year to bring them closer to the average of those in comparable districts. Truty said he thought the current mill levy could handle that.

Truty said that the 2017 budget is the sec-ond in a row that sets aside less than $100,000 for future capital expenditures such as vehicle purchases or station improvements.

Hiring process under way

Deputy Chief Randy Trost said that of 87 applicants in the recent hiring process, 47 had correctly completed the application, making them eligible to take the writ-ten exam. Of those 47, 34 of those people passed that exam. The staff has decided to conduct oral boards with those 34 and continue with psychological exams, physicals, etc. as they work to fill the four open positions and line up other qualified candidates for future hiring. Trost said the goal was to send new hires to the West Metro Denver Fire Academy at the end of January.

Wescott FPД requests IGA

Truty told the directors that of 34, the district re-ceived a letter from DWFPD advising TLMFPD that an IGA would be needed between the two fire protection districts by the end of January regarding fees TLMFPD would pay DWFPD for the disproportionate amount of ad DWFPD is providing. Mutual aid for fire calls would remain intact, but automatic aid is different and in need of clarification, Truty said. Note: This topic was not discussed in the public session of any recent DWFPD meeting.

Truty said that in the Jackson Creek and Fox Run areas of TLMFPD, it is DWFPD that answers a majority of the calls. “They are providing a level of service to us that we do not do on our own,” Truty said. Wescott’s Sta-tion 1 on Gleengale Drive is minutes closer in response time to the southern portion of TLMFPD’s service area.

The directors and Truty discussed many other de-tails of these negotiations during the public session of the meeting. Vice President Roger Lance said he had heard from a Wescott board member that DWFPD’s Sham-rock Station 2 would be closing and therefore sending all those staff members to Station 1 on Gleengale Drive starting Jan. 1. Note: This information contradicts what was said at the Dec. 6 DWFPD meeting.

President Jake Shink said he had already talked with one of the DWFPD board members to request an infor-mal relationship-building meeting between the two dis-tricts. Note: This information is inconsistent with what was said at the Dec. 6 DWFPD meeting.

See related Dec. 6 DWFPD meeting on page 18.

Truty said DWFPD’s Chief Vinny Burns requested an answer by Jan. 31, but the consensus of the TLMFPD board was that TLMFPD would have to set test questions and clarifica-tions to answer before they could come up with an agree-ment, and the next DWFPD board meeting is not sched-uled until Jan. 25. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m. ****

On Dec. 16, Fire Chief Chris Truty notified OCN that Fire Marshal John Vincent was no longer with TLMFPD. The interim fire marshal will be Battalion Chief Jamey Bumgamer, who can be reached at jbumgamer@tlmfirr.org or 719-484-0911.

*********

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 High-way 71S. For information, contact Jennifer Martine, at 719-484-0911 or see www.tlmfire.com.

If you would like to help OCN report on the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District by recording meet-ings or writing articles, contact Lisa Hatfield at lisahatfield@ocn.mn.

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Questions? Call John Heise at 488-3455.
BRRTA bows out

By Jim Kendrick

On Dec. 9, the directors and county staff for the Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority board (BRRTA) completed their final administrative, final, and management actions. The board then unanimously approved the final resolution, which stated that BRRTA had completed all the design, finance, and construction requirements for all its improvement projects, fully repaid all the bonds used to finance the construction, achieved all of its purposes, and formally dissolved BRRTA. Paragraph 9 of BRRTA’s creating contract requires a vote of concurring approval of both El Paso County and the Town of Monument to terminate the creating contract and dissolve BRRTA.

The county staff and BOCC will now administer all BRRTA’s assets that have now been officially transferred to El Paso County and supervise the spending of BRRTA’s remaining $1.3 million on completing prioritized capital improvement projects within the county’s Baptist Road right-of-way.

After this last BRRTA meeting adjourned, the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners formally concurred on the BRRTA dissolution on Dec. 20 by unanimously approving a resolution to terminate the county’s contract creating BRRTA and to dissolve the authority. The Monument Board of Trustees is scheduled to perform the same actions at the regular Jan. 3, 2017 meeting to complete this dissolution.

For more information see:
www.ocn.me/V6sl2.htm/brta
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xcu4MAeDnMQ
www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZ68X_L4De

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

Above: This pre-2009 view of Baptist Road looks east from I-25 toward Jackson Creek Parkway and Family of Christ Lutheran Church and shows how the road looked before BRRTA widened the road and made a variety of other improvements. Photos courtesy of El Paso County.

Above: This recent view of Baptist Road was taken from near the same spot as the photo on the left and shows how the road looks now. Tari Drive is in the trees near the top of the distant hill. Photo by Lisa Hatfield.

Above: This recent view of Baptist Road looking west past Desiree and Kingswood Drives shows how one of BRRTA’s projects starting in 2009 expanded the road from two to four lanes from Tari Drive to Jackson Creek Parkway. Photo courtesy of El Paso County.

Project highlights of the I-25/Baptist Road Exchange expansion in 2008-09 included widening Baptist Road close to the interchange to four lanes and adding turn lanes, widening the road over I-25 to eight lanes, adding new traffic signals and modifying the ramps, and installing new water and sewer lines.

Above: The old I-25 bridge on the left and the new one on the right. Below: Removal of the old bridge. Photos courtesy of El Paso County.

Between 1997 and 2016, BRRTA completed multiple projects to improve the Baptist Road corridor. The most recently completed were the new bridge from Old Denver Road west over the railroad tracks and the roundabout at Old Denver Road. In 2006, voters approved a 1 percent sales tax collected by businesses and administered by BRRTA to fund the improvement of the interchange at I-25 and West Baptist Road. The sales tax started in 2008 and ended in the summer of 2016 done.

Above: Yellow shows the BRRTA boundaries. The crosshatched area shows the portion within the Town of Monument. Map courtesy of El Paso County.
awoke to a winter wonderland on Christmas Day after snow fell overnight. This
above:
parking lot is stable and being designed so that runoff
that evening through early the next afternoon.

December Weather Wrap

December Weather Wrap
Above: After a sunny Christmas Eve in the upper 40s, the Tri-Lakes area
December 2016 Weather Statistics
Average High
38.7° (+0.2°)
100-year return frequency value max 50.5° min 32.6°
Average Low
13.2° (+0.8°)
100-year return frequency value max 22.4° min 5.4°
Monthly Precipitation
6.0" (-33.2", 31% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max 2.82" min 0.00"
Monthly Snowfall
9.7" (-8.0", 45% below normal)
Highest Temperature
68° on the 15th
Lowest Temperature
-11° on the 17th
Season to Date Snow
15.0" (-24.9", 62% below normal)
(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)

December 14, 2016
Board hears Toboggan Hill concerns, plans annual meeting

By Jackie Barbaru
The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on Dec. 14 to hear owner concerns about Tobog-
gan Hill and its new parking lot, to discuss the upcoming annual meeting and elections, and to finalize the 2017 budget.

Toboggan Hill concerns
Resident Jane Selkis spoke during the owner’s com-
ments section to express concern about the parking lot work being done for Toboggan Hill. The back of Sellers’
property overlooks the popular sledding area off Deer Creek Road. Sellers raised concerns about the cutting
down Indian sacred trees, unstable soil under the parking
lot, lack of compliance with no-parking signs, and the impact of people from outside the neighborhood. She
also noted that people use the hill at night and disturb the peace.

Board member Rich Wetscho noted that the plan is to replace any trees that are removed and said that the
parking lot is stable and being designed so that runoff is better controlled. The board’s concern is community
safety with the current situation making it difficult for emergency vehicles to pass. President Erik Steensland
noted that there was community outreach to survey im-
pacted homeowners. This was sent out via email, noted
on the website and Facebook, and mentioned in the lo-
cal paper. Each property owner was sent a postcard. Woodmoor Public Safety Chief Kevin Nielsen noted that a local news channel and online web sites mention Toboggan Hill as a great sledding hill.
WIA is not able to prevent people from outside the area coming to use public spaces, he said.

Annual meeting
The annual meeting will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 30 at Lewis-
Palmer Middle School, 1776 Woodmoor Drive. There will
be food and door prizes—you must be present to win. Elections will be held via mail-in ballot and dur-
ing the annual meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Board report highlights
• The board unanimously approved the 2017 budget, which will be posted on the website at https://www.
woodmoor.org/budget-statements/.
• Fire hazard levels continue to be high; the board
asks residents not burn pine needles or garbage
in their yards and be careful about disposing of
coals from any fire pits.
• There have been a number of reports of packages
stolen from porches in Woodmoor Park.
• Home surveys continue. WIA has a 25% dis-
count for Monument residents available till Jan. 31 using the code 3monument (all lower case). Product
information is available at www.ring.com.
• Residents are reminded to check the ID of anyone who claims to be from a local utility such as water,
phone, or cable—or anyone who shows up on your property unexpectedly. Call the utility or Wood-
moor Public Safety to verify identity.

The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m.
on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1696
Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting will be
on Jan. 25. The WIA calendar can be found at https://
www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/. WIA board meet-
ing minutes can be found at https://www.woodmoor.org/
meeting-minutes/ once approved and posted.

Jackie Barbaru can be reached at jackiebarbaru@comcast.net.

Board hears Toboggan Hill concerns, plans annual meeting

December Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel
Temperatures were almost exactly normal during De-
cember, but it was drier than normal once again, with
about half as much snowfall as normal. We did see a wide range of temperatures, bouncing from well below zero to the low 60s.

December started off a little cooler than normal, with
some light snow on the 2nd. Highs held below freezing
that afternoon as well. Temperatures warmed to normal
levels over the next couple of days, with highs reaching
the upper 30s to mid-40s. Winds kicked up as well ahead of
a strong surge of Arctic air. This pushed in around 6
p.m. on the 5th with temperatures dropping from the 40s
to the single digits by midnight. Cold air continued to
filter into the region over the next couple of days, with
light snow as well.

Highs only reached the low 20s on the 6th, then only the upper single digits to low teens on the 7th and
8th. Low temps dropped well below zero as well each morning. During the period, 2 to 4 inches of powder
snow accumulated. The cold air mass was pushed out by
gusty westerly winds starting on the 9th. This allowed
residents to quickly jump to above-normal
levels over the next few days, reaching the upper 40s to
upper 50s.

The second week of December started off normal
even with high temperatures a little above average
on the 12th, reaching into the 40s. Cooler air worked in
over the next few days, with highs holding in the
30s on the 13th and 14th, slightly below nor-
mal for mid-December. Then, as often happens in
our region, winds kicked up out of the west/south-
west over the next two days ahead of a strong
storm system. These westerly winds produce
downslope (descending) wind airflow off the Rocky
Mountains to the west. As air descends it warms and
dries. This is what we called earlier with temperatures well
above average on the 15th and 16th, with highs
hitting the 50s to low 60s.

But a big change was
on the way as Arctic air was moving
down from the Plains states to our north and just waiting for the
storm system to kick out of the region and the winds to turn to come from the west to the north. This
driving the temperature down quickly during the
evening of the 16th as the Arctic front moved in. Tem-
peratures dropped 30 to 40 degrees in a few hours, hit-
ing the single digits above and below zero by midnight.
Cold air continued to filter in at the same time the atmo-
sphere began to moisten up. The extremely cold air was
very efficient at squeezing out any moisture available,
with 3 to 6 inches of fluffy snow accumulating from late
that evening through early the next afternoon.

Cold air held a tight grip on the region on the 17th,
with daytime highs barely breaking zero degrees. Lots
of sunshine returned that afternoon and into Sunday the
18th, but temperatures only managed to warm into the
mid-20s to end the week.

The week of Christmas started quiet and season-
ably cool but ended with snow and wind just in time for
Christmas Day. Temperatures started off the week on
the 19th on the cool side, as some fresh snow and clear skies
allowed morning temperatures to drop well into the sin-
gle digits. However, plenty of sunshine and gusty winds
warmed things up quickly on the 20th. Highs reached
the low 50s that afternoon and, because the winds continued
through the night, low temps were not very far behind
staying above freezing in many locations. Cooler air be-
gan to work into the region over the next couple of days,
knocking temperatures back to normal. Also, a switch to
east/southeasternly winds allowed a little fog and a few
flurries to develop during the afternoon of the 22nd.
Westerly winds along with lots of sunshine quickly re-
turned on Friday 23rd. Each property owner warmed tem-
peratures back to above-normal levels, with highs hitting
the upper 40s to low 50s each day.

But this was ahead of a very powerful storm system
that was dropping in from the northwest of Colorado.
Unfortunately for those of us who love lots of snow,
this storm moved just a little too far north and too
quickly through the region to knock us out of it, even
though the mountains did well. But it did pack enough
pressure to produce 1 to 3 inches of snow early Christmas
morning, making for a beautiful white Christmas. The storm
really strengthened just to our east, and the tight pressure gradient from the storm allowed winds to blow
hard most of Christmas Day. Wind gusts reached over
70mph in some spots so far north Palmer Divide and over
100mph near Boulder. The storm was quite energetic,
as evidenced not only by the winds but also the fact that
a few thunderstorms developed that morning in south-
ern Elbert County; pretty unusual for December—good
thing Santa was already done in the area.

The month ended on a quiet note with temperatures
generally above normal. Highs reached the mid- to
upper 40s on the 27th and 28th, then cooled slightly to the
30s on the 29th. But gusty winds on the 30th allowed low
50s to return before one final dip to the 30s on New
Year’s Eve. From the 26th through the 31st, no precipita-
tion fell, ending the month on a dry note and just what
was expected after a near record dry fall and early winter.

A look ahead
January temperatures can be the coldest temperatures of
the year, but there is often a proverbial “January thaw”
where mild temperatures make a brief appearance. Pre-
cipitation is on the low side, with amounts generally less
than an inch. The month has numerous sunny and windy
days, with quick shots of snow in between.
Letters to Our Community

By the staff at Covered Treasures

Want to make 2017 the best year ever? Here are some great reads to get you started, from exploring our world to living well.

**Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders**
By Joshua Foer, Dylan Thuras, and Ella Morton (Workman Publishing) $35

Inspiring equal parts wonder and wanderlust, Atlas Obscura celebrates over 600 of the strangest and most curious places in the world. It reveals in the weird, the unexpected, the overlooked, the hidden, and the mysterious. Every page expands our sense of how strange and marvelous the world really is. And with its compelling descriptions, hundreds of photographs, surprising charts, and maps for every region of the world, it is a book you can open anywhere.

**Parent Hacks: 134 Genius Shortcuts for Life with Kids**
By Arla Link (Workman Publishing) $12.95

Here’s an indispensable collection of 134 simple, unexpected solutions to kids-related problems. Drawn from a community of real-life MacGyvers—parent-heroes who share their flashes of problem-solving genius—these inspired hacks cover all phases of life with kids, including pregnancy, sleep, eating, bath time, travel, and more.

**Mindset: The New Psychology of Success**
By Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D. (Random House) $16

Dweck explains why it’s not just our abilities and talent that bring success—but whether we approach our goals with a fixed or growth mindset. She makes clear why praising our children’s intelligence and ability doesn’t foster self-esteem and lead to accomplishment but may actually jeopardize success. With the right mindset, we can motivate our kids and help them to improve in school, as well as reach our own goals, personal and professional.

**Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear**
By Elizabeth Gilbert (Riverhead Books) $16

Sharing her unique perspective on creativity, the author offers potent insights into the mysterious nature of inspiration. She asks us to embrace our curiosity and let go of needless suffering. She shows us how to tackle what we must love and how to face down what we most fear. Balancing between soulful spirituality and cheerful pragmatism, Gilbert encourages us to uncover the talents that are hidden within each of us.

**Play Anything: The Pleasure of Limits, The Uses of Boredom, and The Secret of Games**
By Ian Bogost (Hachette Books) $25.99

Life is boring: filled with meetings and traffic, errands, and emails. Nothing we’d ever call fun. But what if we’ve gotten fun wrong? In Play anything, visionary game designer and philosopher Ian Bogost shows how we can overcome our daily anxiety: by transforming the boring, ordinary world around us into one of endless, playful possibilities.

**Younger Next Year for Women and Younger Next Year for Men**
By Chris Crowley and Henry S. Lodge, M.D. (Workman Publishing) $12.95

Bestselling references for over 15 years, each edition addresses the specific aging issues of men and women. Menopause, cardiac disease, osteoporosis, prostate issues, sexuality, and many other topics are covered. These books are bibles of information on aging. “A must-read for anyone interested in being active and living well when they are seventy, eighty, and ninety-plus.”

**Food Anatomy: The Curious Parts & Pieces of Our Edible World**
By Julia Rothman (Storey Publishing) $16.95

Get your daily allowance of recommended facts and fun with Rothman’s third installment of her best-selling Anatomy series. Delve into the culinary world with this delightful visual tour of cookery and international cuisine. Histories and curiosities of food around the world are illustrated and explained with Rothman’s uniquely charming style.

**Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist’s Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations**
By Thomas Friedman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) $28

Friedman exposes the tectonic movements that are reshaping the world today and explains how to get the most out of them and cushion their worst impacts. His thesis: to understand the 21st century you need to understand that the planet’s three largest forces—Moore’s law (technology), the Market (globalization), and Mother Nature (climate change and biodiversity loss)—are accelerating all at once. These accelerations are transforming five key realms: the workplace, politics, geopolitics, ethics, and community.

We at Covered Treasures wish each of you a healthy and interesting 2017. Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at books@ocn.me.

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**Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore**

**A new year, a new you?**

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**January Library Events**

**Get involved in 2017**

---

**Practice materials are provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials. Some instruction is provided for those new to knitting.**

---

**The January Second Thursday Craft on Jan. 12 from 2 to 4 is origami. Taught by Connie Stanton, all materials will be provided. Registration is required and opens a week before the class.**

---

**The Monument Library Teen Advisory Board will meet on Friday, Jan. 13 from 3 to 5 p.m. to discuss future events and parties for teens at the library.**

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**The Teens Arts and Crafts Open Studio will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 25 from 4 to 6. Come use our meeting room as space to create. Supplies will be provided for free; however, feel free to bring whatever materials you are currently working with and use the space. No registration required.**

---

**Teen programs**

Come to the library for Teen Gaming on Saturday, Jan. 7 from noon to 2 p.m. Join us for table top games, card games, and Wii video games. We encourage attendees to bring any kind of game they would like to play. Please keep things age appropriate. For teens ages 12 to 18, no registration is required.

---

**January’s Homeschool program on Monday, Jan. 30 from 1:30 to 2:30 is All About Insects. Adam Strong and Kellie Kuhn from the Air Force Academy Biology Department will bring insect specimens and explain their role in nature and their life cycles.**

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**Adult programs**

**Join us on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 3 to 4:30 for an intergenerational knitting group. Practice materials are provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials. Some instruction is provided for those new to knitting.**

---

**The Monument Library Readers will meet from 10 to 11:30 on Saturday, Jan. 21. We provide the Legos and you bring your imagination.**

---

**The January Second Thursday Craft on Jan. 12 from 2 to 4 is origami. Taught by Connie Stanton, all materials will be provided. Registration is required and opens a week before the class.**

---

**Join Pikes Peak Library District’s first established yoga group at the Monument Library every Thursday from noon to 1. The first class of the new year will be held on Jan. 12. Classes are held following D-38’s calendars.**

---

**The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, Jan. 20 to discuss Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book group, and no registration is required.**

---

**Join paper-crafting teacher Theresa Pingel on Feb. 3, 4 from 10:30 to noon for Valentine’s Day card making and other paper crafts. Anyone age 14 and up is welcome. Please bring scissors and your favorite adhesive if possible. Space is limited and registration is required online or at 488-2370.**

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**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.

**True holiday spirit in action**

“Oh what fun it is ...” to be bell ringing at Safeway on a Friday morning just before Christmas. Spirits were bright and faces smiling as the folks approached the doors. I was so very pleased at the response as coins and dollars were generously pushed into the red kettle. Individuals and families were filling the kettle and parents or guardians were teaching their children to joyfully put in a donation. All of this made me smile and “blessings and Merry Christmas” fall easily off my tongue the two hours I spent ringing that tiny bell.

During this time, the holiday spirit was exhibited in an incident that needed some of the staff of Safeway to assist a lady who had fallen ill. The staff held her and consoled her and her friend while an emergency call was made. Monument police and Tri-Lakes EMT responded quickly. I was pleased to see the gentle way each handled the situation until the lady was taken in the ambulance to the hospital.

Congratulations to them. The true holiday spirit. Thank you everyone.

**John Howe**

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**An intergenerational knitting group meets at the library on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 3 to 4:30. January meetings will be on the 4th and the 18th. Practice materials are provided but attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials. Some instruction is provided for those new to knitting.**

---

**By Harriet Halbig**

Make a resolution to get involved at the library during these fun and Wiivi games. We encourage attendees to bring any kind of game they would like to play. Please keep things age appropriate. For teens ages 12 to 18, no registration is required.

---

**The Legos Build Club will meet from 10 to 11:30 on Saturday, Jan. 21. We provide the Legos and you bring your imagination.**

---

**The January Second Thursday Craft on Jan. 12 from 2 to 4 is origami. Taught by Connie Stanton, all materials will be provided. Registration is required and opens a week before the class.**

---

**The second Friday of each month, come to the library between 9 and 10 for our Computer Help Lab. This is an informal session to help with your computer questions. Registration is required and opens one week before the class.**

---

**Join Pikes Peak Library District’s first established yoga group at the Monument Library every Thursday from noon to 1. The first class of the new year will be held on Jan. 12. Classes are held following D-38’s calendars.**

---

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---

**Art on the walls and in the display case during January will be provided by Palmer Ridge High School art students.**
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. All patrons are invited to attend this monthly book group.

The Third Saturday at Palmer Lake program on Saturday, Jan. 21 will be a craft program presented by the Palmer Lake Art Club. The program is open to all ages, and no registration is required.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facilities will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Harriett Halbig may be reached at harrietthalbig@ocn.co.

See also the photo on page 1.

Palmer Lake Historical Society, Nov. 17

By Sigi Walker

On Nov. 17, 20 local people gathered during a snowstorm to hear local historian Jack Anthony present the debut of his new program, A Tale of Two Husteds, as part of the Society’s Monthly History Series. Anthony included slides and a short video in his presentation.

A Tale of Two Husteds documents the two adjacent “tank towns” of East Husted and West Husted. Beginning in the late 1890s, the two Husted depots, midway between Colorado Springs and Palmer Lake, became a place for the D&RG and ATSF railroads to pick up passengers and shipments of agricultural products. The towns grew into thriving communities until the 1920s, when they went into decline as the number of automobiles increased.

In the mid-1950s, the development of the U.S. Air Force Academy resulted in the removal or demolition of the remaining buildings. Only the Reynolds Ranch House remains in its original location and can be seen east of Interstate 25 on the property of the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) on Colorado Springs’ north side.

Anthony is well-known for his advocacy to list the Palmer Lake Star on the State Register of Historical Properties. He is a graduate of the Air Force Academy and for almost 40 years has served in various military, intelligence, and NASA roles as an engineer, educator, leader, and operator.

Mark your calendars for two dates in January. On Tuesday the 17th, Anthony will repeat his presentation of A Tale of Two Husteds. Note that this is a joint program of the WMMI and the Palmer Lake Historical Society and that the venue is the WMMI, located at 225 North Gate Blvd. (use I-25 Exit 156). The event is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served before the presentation. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7.

For more information, visit our website at www.palm erlivedhistory.org or call 719-559-0837. To reserve, call 719-488-0880 or RSVP to rsvp@wmmi.org.

Above: Reynolds Ranch House remains as a last vestige of the two Husteds. Photo by Mike Walker.

Right: Historic photo of D&RG railroad “Husted” station sign. Photo courtesy of Larry Green.

Tale of Two Husteds. Note that this is a joint program of the WMMI and the Palmer Lake Historical Society and that the venue is the WMMI, located at 225 North Gate Blvd. (use I-25 Exit 156). The event is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served before the presentation. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7.

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Above: Reynolds Ranch House remains as a last vestige of the two Husteds. Photo by Mike Walker.

Right: Historic photo of D&RG railroad “Husted” station sign. Photo courtesy of Larry Green.

Tale of Two Husteds. Note that this is a joint program of the WMMI and the Palmer Lake Historical Society and that the venue is the WMMI, located at 225 North Gate Blvd. (use I-25 Exit 156). The event is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served before the presentation. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7.

For more information, visit our website at www.palm erlivedhistory.org or call 719-559-0837. To reserve, call 719-488-0880 or RSVP to rsvp@wmmi.org.

Above: Through the end of January, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) will display an exhibit on model trains and historic train photographs. The exhibit, created by museum volunteer Johnnie Zeornes and museum staff person Audrey Gregg, shows the differences in model trains, from N gauge with a 9mm distance between rails, to G gauge with a 45mm distance between rails. O gauge and HO gauge trains will be operated periodically by museum personnel. Also included in the exhibit is a display on how to create scenery, a handmade railroad from around 1910, and information on railroad history such as the joining of the transcontinental railroad. The exhibit walls are lined with rare William Henry Jackson photo prints from the museum collection. The photos depict railroads at various locations in Colorado as Jackson was commissioned by railroad companies to take promotional photos to draw the interest of Eastern travelers. Information on this and upcoming events at the museum is at www.wmmi.org. Photo by David Futey.

Support Our Community... Shop Tri-Lakes!
Snapshots of Our Community

Lions contribute to TLC, Nov. 28

Above: The El Paso County Tri-Lakes Lions Club presented a $3,000 check to the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce (TLC) in support of TLC's Diabetes Prevention program on Nov. 28. Pictured, from left, are Peter Pintus of the Tri-Lakes Lions, Executive Director Haley Chapin of TLC, Development Manager Christine Bucher, and Dave Prejean, Tri-Lakes Lions president. Lions Clubs International, also known as “The Knights of the Round Table,” is a worldwide service organization focused on assisting with vision challenges, including the Lions Clubs program KidSight for K-3 early vision screening and to help identify and resolve childhood and adult vision issues. We would love to chat with new volunteers in our Tri-Lakes community interested to come help everyone see into a better future. Our Lions Club International mission is simple: “We Serve!” See www.elpasoclubhouse.org/sites/elpasoclub/ for more information. Photo courtesy of Gordon Reichal.

Monument Open House, Nov. 30

Above: On Nov. 30, the Monument Planning Commission hosted a Community Open House at the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce to invite the public to provide their opinions on how Monument should grow. The event, which was open from 4 to 7 p.m., featured display boards on tables that lined the meeting room. Members of the committee working to update the Town of Monument Comprehensive Plan were on hand to staff each display and answer any questions, review survey results and maps, and add their own comments and suggestions to the display. A presentation summarizing the plan review and update process is available on the Town of Monument website at http://www.townofmonument.org/departments/comprehensive-plan/ along with a copy of the 2003 version of the Comprehensive Plan. Additional community meetings are planned for January, with a completion target of the plan review and update process available on the Town of Monument website. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

Creative cultural forms

By Janet Sellers

“Be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud”—Maya Angelou

Happy New Year, dear readers. One of my students sent me a clip of Maya Angelou talking about the people who have been rainbows in her life, and of course that changed my whole new year’s outlook to write about art for you. I’d like to think about what our art and creativity brings into the new year for all of us and share that idea. In the clip, Angelou explains that she “brings every- one” with her in her life: on stage, into her writing and classes and more. Also, that she is “never alone” because all her memories of friends are with her. That is vital to remember in the cold, dark winter times, especially for creatives. Not only for us as we go about our days, but also for our art that greets new and old friends in homes, offices, and museums if we are so lucky, and art venues of all kinds.

Many cities and nations have had centuries of looking at art integrated into their buildings, town squares, and corners. When we see that a human hand has touched and made something for us to look at and enjoy, it also touches us inside warmly, and that feeling lingers as long as we feel like resonating with it. We can recall artwork we’ve seen and enjoyed in memory and relive that, too.

In our area, we have a number of art venues that are unconventional and some that are conventional, such as galleries and dedicated arts venues. Our installed public art numbers over three dozen outdoor pieces with the benefit of Tri-Lakes Views and such sponsors. Each spring, Tri-Lakes Views holds a call for artists to submit sculptures for the annual exhibit spots all over our community. Stay tuned for the next call for artists, I think it is coming up very soon.

Our most precious and oldest—hundreds of years old—outdoor art forms in our community are in our local forests, particularly in the Monument Preserve. While the trees have been here longer than any of us, we have needed to be educated to notice and appreciate them as cultural art forms that we need to protect for future generations from misguided utility installations (we lost a wonderful tree to some power line installations that could have spared the tree), uninformed fire mitigation efforts (the older trees are fire resistant anyhow), and so on.

The ancient trees are greatly endangered by the ill-informed and we can never get the trees back if they are harmed in any way; because even the Indians no longer know how to make the trees, what they mean in all their many details, and so on. All we know is that the trees are here, have sacred meanings and sacred origins, and must be protected now or we won’t have them in the future.

For many, the spirit trees, or Sacred Prayer Trees, have become a common sight nowadays thanks to in- understanding--”several of the most important authors such as John W. Anderson and his book, Ute Indian Prayer Trees of the Pikes Peak Region, and the many new “friends” of the trees Anderson has introduced through his informative walks and talks all over Colorado. He has a second book coming out this year, and I hear it is about a broader region of the Rocky Mountains and the spirit trees’ wider range.

Ute Sacred Prayer Trees in Monument Preserve

The easiest sacred trees for me to locate (I’m really good at getting lost in the forest but at the same time enjoying the adventure) are the Sacred Prayer Trees on the eastern side of the Monument Preserve, and there are many of these kinds of trees throughout the preserve as well as the forests of the Pikes Peak region. A number of the trees I have loved seeing there I learned about from Anderson’s informative walks, and they are confirmed Ute Indian culturally modified trees. We can easily detect their presence in the forest by noting the unusual leanings, bends, and shapes among the straight, skyward-reaching ponderosa pines.

The Ute Indians have, for many hundreds of years, modified ponderosa pines into shapes that reflect prayerful intention, and the trees were visited annually by the families who cherished them and what they embody in meaningful forms. Although some people today may not understand the mystery behind the trees as fully as the Native Americans who created them, it is clear that they are important living cultural artifacts to be protected and treasured by contemporary stewards of the preserve.

Often, the culturally modified trees also align with the stars, proving advanced celestial knowledge as well as relationships to navigating the Front Range and Pikes Peak. We are fortunate to have the Friends of Monument Preserve, right here in our area, and they are looking for helpers and volunteers. The group can be reached at www.fomp.org.

Call for artists

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts—Artist call: Visions of Light; entry deadline is Jan. 16, exhibit dates Feb. 28 to

March 24. Contact Lynn Roth: lynn.pdpphotographers@gmail.com or 719-649-4241.

Janet Sellers is a local fine artist, writer, and art teach- er. She has public art and sculptures in many Colorado cities, local drawing and painting classes for all ages, and welcomes your art questions. She can be reached at janetsellers@ocn.me.
By Lisa Hatfield
On Dec. 1, retired Navy Lt. Jim Downing told students, teachers, and parents at Lewis-Palmer Middle School about the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Dec. 7, 1941 by the naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. Downing’s main theme for the students was, “You are the generation of leaders. My message for you is to keep America strong! The lesson we learned from the Pearl Harbor attack is that, as Ronald Reagan said, ‘Weakness invites aggression.’ So be strong in space, in cyberspace, on the seas, on the ground, and under the sea, so that no tyrant and his government will ever be tempted to attack us.” He said it was not until 50 years after the attack on Pearl Harbor that its significance was even mentioned in history.

Downing said there were 27 clues warning the U.S. of the impending attack, including radar signatures showing the Japanese planes coming, but they were ignored. “Leaders who have not been in combat are too optimistic and think it can’t happen,” he said.

Downing, who is now 103 years old, said he joined the military during the Great Depression to leave his life in a rural small town. He was 28 when the Japanese attacked the naval base at Pearl Harbor. In the attack, with a fire hose in one hand as he tried to keep the ammunition from catching fire and exploding, Downing said he memorized the name tags of the bodies all around him on the USS West Virginia so he could write letters to their families about their last hours of life. He reminded the students that there were seven other attacks across the Pacific on the same day.

“War is caused by greed,” he told the audience. “Greed keeps the world in a state of unrest.”

Downing wrote The Other Side of Infancy, which tells his account of Pearl Harbor. He has been interviewed by Time and The History Channel. He said he appreciates all the attention he gets, but he wanted to remind everyone about all the veterans who are physically and emotionally disabled or homeless, and about the disproportionally high suicide rate among veterans.

His favorite part of the military was the amount of responsibility it gave him that helped him grow stronger. By age 39, he was the commanding officer of the USS Patapsco during the Korean War. He said one of the greatest scientific advancements since the nuclear bomb is Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology.

At Lewis-Palmer Middle School, he was greeted by the Colorado Patriot Guard Riders, a volunteer, nonprofit organization that ensures dignity and respect at memorial services honoring Fallen Military Heroes, First Responders, and honorably discharged veterans.

Lisa Hatfield can be contacted at lisa.hatfield@ocn.me.
Kiwanis, Sertoma ring the bell

Above: The Monument Hill Kiwanis Club has rung the bell for the Salvation Army for 26 years, and this annual Christmas season's service project produces over $40,000 each year for needy families and individuals in the Pikes Peak region. Here's club photographer Bonnie Nasser taking a shift to help. These funds are utilized by the Salvation Army for "Doing the Most Good" serving over 17,000 families each year. Services include operating a 24/7 emergency shelter, a nutritional meals program, a transitional housing service, and many programs for children and youths. Assisting the club each year are the D38 high school Key Clubs and middle school Builders' Club students. Local Boy Scout Troops 93, 85, 17, and 8 also participate in this important community outreach project. Others assisting include the D20 Schools' Discovery Canyon Campus Cheerleaders, employees of King Soopers, and other local firms' CEOs. The Monument Hill Kiwanis Club is a 501(c)(3) public charity that meets each Saturday morning. See www.monumenthillkiwanis.org or write to P.O. Box 102, Monument, Colorado 80132. Come visit the club and enjoy breakfast and an interesting guest-speaker program. Photo courtesy of Monument Hill Kiwanis.

Below: Legacy Sertoma Sergeant at Arms Berry Huffman helped collect donations for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Christmas Campaign in December. The donations provide food, toys and clothing to over 6 million people during the Christmas season and help more than 34 million Americans recovering from all kinds of personal disasters nationwide. See www.legacysertoma.org/ for information about service activities and dinner meetings. Photo courtesy of Legacy Sertoma.

Yule Log Hunt, Dec. 11

At the annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt on Dec. 11, participants trekked up into The Glen in search of the Yule Log. Daniel Leidenberger, the finder of the Yule Log, shared the honors in cutting the log in half using the saw used for the Yule Log Ceremony for the past 84 years. The first half is used in the fire, and the second half is saved for next year’s ceremony fire. Leidenberger rode the Yule Log back to town and got the first cup of wassail. Non-hunters stayed warm indoors with carols and stories. Above: Daniel Leidenberger, the proud finder of the Yule Log, smiles for the first ride on the log as hunters drag it back into town. Below: Leidenberger shares the honors in cutting the log in half using the saw used for the Yule Log Ceremony for the past 84 years. The first half is used in the fire, and the second half is saved for next year’s ceremony fire. Caption by Audrey Burkart. Photos by Molly Porter.

Overhead myth, Dec. 20

Above: Haley Chapin, executive director of Tri-Lakes Cares (TLC), spoke about the “Overhead Myth” at Outpourings, a Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church group event on Dec. 20. Pictured from left are Kim Whisenhunt, TLC operations manager; Joe Dague, board president of TLC; and Chapin. Chapin talked about what the Overhead Myth really means, what is acceptable, and what donors should be looking for when deciding which nonprofits to support. The talk focused on learning new paradigms and not using false, albeit common, conceptions about funding in charities. Photo by Janet Sellers.
Santa on Patrol, Dec. 24

Above: Ten-year-old Isiah Berberette (center), his 5-year-old brother Carson (left), and 10-year-old friend Breeana Noel set up a hot chocolate stand in Peyton, and in one week they raised over $260. They brought toys they purchased with the money to Chief Jake Shirk at the Monument Police Department for the Santa on Patrol toy drive. Photo courtesy of the Monument Police Department.

Why advertise in OCN?

- **OCN is mailed FREE to every resident and business in the Tri-Lakes area.** We mail more than 16,800 copies every month and put another 700 copies in stacks throughout the area. OCN has the largest mailed circulation and the third-largest circulation among local newspapers in El Paso County after The Gazette and The Colorado Springs Independent. We put copies of OCN into the hands of those people most likely to buy your products or services: local residents and businesses.

- **OCN is a primary source for Tri-Lakes area news.** Since 2001, OCN has been presenting unbiased, detailed coverage of Tri-Lakes area governmental entities and their deliberations and actions. Credibility is key during tough times. Advertising in a credible medium typically rubs off on the advertisers in that media.

- **OCN gives preference to Tri-Lakes area businesses.** As part of OCN’s long-standing commitment to encouraging the economic health of the Tri-Lakes area, we offer a significantly discounted ad rate to local businesses as a way to help local businesses like yours succeed.

- **OCN’s low ad rates and monthly publication schedule help stretch your ad budget.** OCN has one of the lowest ad costs per printed copy of any local publication. Since OCN is a monthly publication, your ad is out there for a month—more than four times longer than other local papers. Many of our advertisers tell us they’re still getting calls in the third and fourth week of the month.

- **OCN doesn’t use contracts.** You aren’t tied down. Adjust your advertising month-to-month to meet your changing needs. Our advertisers advertise with us because they see benefit in it, not because they’re bound by a contract they signed months before. To reward frequent advertisers, OCN has a Frequent Advertiser Bonus (FAB) rewards program. You earn up to 10% of your ad cost as a reward you can use to reduce the cost of future OCN advertising. The more you advertise with OCN, the more you save. Thanks to our FAB rewards program, OCN advertisers have saved more than $49,100.

- **You are supporting a good thing.** Your advertising dollars support a unique all-volunteer, Tri-Lakes-focused effort to present factual, comprehensive news to all Tri-Lakes area residents.

And the best reason of all: It works!

Randi and Dale Sehestedt, Woodmoor Handyman and Snow Plowing: “OCN is the only paper we advertise in and it consistently brings us plenty of good local customers. Great paper and great people to work with.”

Joan Powers, Powers Pet Porters: “Your ad is a great value and I get calls nearly every month from it.”

Melissa Riesling, LPC: “Advertising with the OCN has been terrific! I have so many people tell me ‘I saw your ad!’ The OCN is a very affordable way to promote your business in the community.”

Kerri Rohler, The Villa Restaurant: “Thanks for all you have done for us. Our ad with OCN was the best thing we ever did for advertising. It outshines all the rest.”

GCU and Jenny Gonzalez, Wash ‘n Roll: “We are thrilled to be entering the new window cleaning season, and it has been a great experience to advertise with you! We feel happy to support OCN for how it enriches our community!”

Valerie Havercamp, Purple Mountain Jewelry: “I want you to know that you are truly appreciated...as is all of the great OCN staff! Thanks to all for what you do for the community!”

Mary Sue Hafcy, Fringe Benefits Custom Interiors: “Since I starting advertising with OCN years ago, it has helped brand my company while consistently increasing my exposure and sales!”

Paula Brady, Spa Medica: “OCN ads work!”

Cathy Thompson, Johan Hair Studio: “OCN is my paper of choice for advertising. The ads Johan has helped me design have provided a constant stream of new clients. My ads have paid for themselves many times over! Thanks Johan!”

Mike Reaster, Guitar Lessons: “Ads in OCN work great for me. I tried other local papers and got no response. Thanks to my ads in OCN, I can work from home and make a decent living. All my work comes from my ads in OCN!”

Donna Mallon, Donna’s Dolphins swim school: “This is the best advertising money I’ve spent! OCN is the best paper in town and readers look forward to every issue. I have seen a big response to my ad in this paper. I do not need to advertise anywhere else as my other advertising is word of mouth. Thank you OCN for your hard work to make this paper stand out from the rest in our community!”

For more information on advertising, go to www.ocn.me/advertise.htm or contact John Heiser at (719) 488-3455 or ads@ocn.me.
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 info number for that event.

Tri-Lakes Y winter basketball, register now
Registration is now open for winter basketball, preschool to grade 8. The season begins Jan. 9. Financial assistance is available. Register at www.ppsymca.org or at the Y, 17250 Jackson Creek Parkway, Monument.

ACT II thrift shop open for donations
ACT II is a unique community thrift shop that will benefit Tri-Lakes area nonprofits. The shop is located at 245 Jefferson St., next to Tri-Lakes Cares and across the street from Northland Community Church. Volunteers and donations of gently used articles and money are needed. ACT II is now open for donations only, Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, visit the website, www.mynorthlandchurch.org/act-ii, or contact Executive Director Cara Vanderkolk, cara@mynorthlandchurch.org or 487-3268.

Volunteers needed for county Highway Advisory Commission, apply by Jan. 15
The El Paso County Board of Commissioners is seeking community-minded citizen volunteers to serve on the Highway Advisory Commission. Applications are due by Jan. 15. The volunteer application is located at www.elpaco.com. Click on the “Volunteer Boards” link. For more information, call 520-6436 or visit www.elpaco.com.

Tri-Lakes Women’s Club announces 2017 grant process, Jan. 15-March 15
Tri-Lakes Women’s Club’s (TLWC) grant application for 2017 will be available Jan. 15 through March 15 on the TLWC website, www.tlwc.net. Eligible organizations include nonprofit and public service organizations and public schools that serve the Tri-Lakes area. Project and program requests are welcomed. The applicant must include the instructions as midother important qualifying information. Completed applications can be mailed to Tri-Lakes Women’s Club, Attn: Grant Committee, P.O. Box 609, Monument, 80132 with a postmark no later than March 15. For more information, contact the committee chair, Barbara Betzler, at bbetz@me.com.

CDOT studies I-25 improvements, public meetings Jan. 24 and 26
CDOT will hold two public meetings this month to inform residents about the project to improve I-25 in Douglas County and to hear your concerns and ideas for improvements. The first meeting will be Jan. 24, 5-7 p.m., at Pikes Peak Library 21c, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr. in Colorado Springs. The second will be in Castle Rock Jan. 26, 5-7 p.m. at The Douglas County Fairgrounds Kirk Hall, 500 Fairgrounds Rd. The meetings will cover the same information. For more information, visit www.codot.gov/projects/25-250springs-denver-south-pel.

CSU Extension launches “Your Energy” website and blog
The Colorado State University Extension now has a “Your Energy” website to help Coloradans make more informed energy use for success. The site includes decision tools, fact sheets, and a blog. The decision tools can help you figure out energy savings from using more efficient lighting, low-flow showerheads, heating and cooling systems, water heaters, and more. Other tools can help you understand how much you spend on heating, cooling, and baseline electricity and your bottom line if you install a wind turbine or solar array. Visit the site at http://yourenergy.extension.colostate.edu/.

2017 Visions of Light Photographic Exhibition Call for Entries
Photographers of all levels are invited to submit their original photography for consideration. For details, visit www.trilakesarts.org.

Survey for small-scale and urban poultry/livestock producers
This survey aims to identify the needs of livestock and poultry owners related to animal health, animal husbandry, food safety, and the role that veterinarians play on small farms. The study will serve as a benchmark for designing effective educational programs to train farmers, backyard producers, and veterinarians working within this sector. For more information, contact Alda Pires at 530-754-9855 or apires@ucdavis.edu. The survey can be found at http://uacnet.ucan.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveyNumber=15917

Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Thrift Store needs volunteers
Volunteers are needed to work a three-hour shift once a week in the store, to accept donations, items from storage to the store, or to pick up donated items. To volunteer, call 488-3495.

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 their winter heating costs. The eligibility period for LEAP runs through April 30. Application packets were automatically mailed to residents who received LEAP assistance last year at their address at that time. To find out if you qualify for LEAP, call 1-866-HEALTHHELP (1-866-432-8435) or visit www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap.

St. Peter Catholic School now enrolling for 2016-17 school year
The school offers full and half-day preschool, Core Knowledge Curriculum with small class sizes, Christ-centered education, athletics, and more for preschool-grade eight. Call us at 124 First St., Monument; 481-1855; www.stpeterrock.org

Help the Black Forest Animal Sanctuary (BFAS) rescue animals
Southern Colorado Animal Rescue, BFAS is an animal rescue and rehab farm that has been helping animals since 1994. The all-volunteer organization has rescued thousands of horses, dogs, cats, and various small wild animals and birds. BFAS provides rescue operations, adoption programs, foster and sponsorship programs, a student/horse education program, service dogs to veterans, and local and national rescue efforts. They also work with local schools and schools. Donations are needed for supplies, and volunteers are needed for day-to-day operations. To find out how you can help, call 494-0198, email BFASFarm@gmail.com, or visit www. bfASF.org.

El Paso County expands services to veterans
Three El Paso County agencies providing services to veterans now have satellite offices at the Mount Carmel Center of Excellence, 530 Communications Circle, Colorado Springs. The Veterans Service Office at Mount Carmel is open Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and closes noon-1 p.m. for lunch. Call 667-3816 for an appointment. The Peaks Pike Workforce Center Mount Carmel office is open Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.), and is staffed with two Workforce Center emplees who can help veterans find the resources they need. Call 667-3729 for an appointment. The county Department of Human Services also has a Mount Carmel office open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Become a CASA volunteer
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 Kathy at 447-9498, ext. 1033, or kelly@caspapp.org.

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 480-0076 to leave a message for the dispatcher. If you need 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. For more information, visit Tri-Lakes-mets-soh.org.

Volunteer drivers needed for seniors’ transportation service
Mountain Community Transportation for Seniors is a nonprofit, 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 mcserves@me.com or call the MCSS dispatch hotline at 488-0076.

Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Senior Center programs
The Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Senior Center is next to the Lewis-Palmer High School Stadium (across from the YMCA) and is open 1-4 p.m., Tues.-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.TriLakes-Seniors.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 M-F at the Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. 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.TriLakesSeniors.org.

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 accepts affirmativeขยายความs who desire to complete their employee training requirement for the gun-lock kit. The Monument Police Department also accepts affirmativeกายกิจs who desire to complete their employee training requirement for the gun-lock kit. The Monument Police Department was the first organization in Colorado to receive the gun-lock kit, and the gun-lock kit can be found at the Monument Police Department. The gun-lock kit is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, phone 481-3253.

Our Community Calendar

Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Senior Center programs
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Monument Hill Kiwanis Club Breakfast Meeting

**Meet and Greet**

Jan. 7, 7:30 a.m., Monument Hill Office, 140 S. Bridge St. Free breakfast and coffee. Open to all. For more information, contact Liz 474-2148.

**Bridge Luncheon**

Jan. 13, 11:30 a.m., Edward Library, 220 E. Main St. Free lunch and bridge game. Luncheons are held the 2nd Thursday of each month. For more information, call 474-2731.

**La Leche League Meeting**

Jan. 13, 10 a.m., Monument Branch Library, 1700 Lakeview Dr. Mothers, babies, and mothers-to-be are all invited. Meets 2nd Thu. of each month. For information, call 440-472-2775.

**Fibromyalgia Support Group**

Jan. 13, 1-3 p.m., Senior Center, Lewis-Palmer High School. For those living with fibromyalgia to learn coping strategies and develop support. Open to family and caregivers. Free. Call 719-583-5505 for more information.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7829**

Jan. 16, 7-8 p.m., Monument County Courthouse, 463 S. 10th St. For all veterans. Free. For information, call 719-583-5505.

**Skit Show**

Jan. 17, 7-9 p.m., Monument High School, 463 S. 10th St. Free. For information, call 719-583-5505.

**Fibromyalgia Support Group**

Jan. 18, 10 a.m., Monument Community Mennohaven, 643 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. For those living with fibromyalgia to learn coping strategies and develop support. Open to family and caregivers. Free. Call 719-583-5505 for more information.

**Old Age**

Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Senior Center, Lewis-Palmer High School. For those living with fibromyalgia to learn coping strategies and develop support. Open to family and caregivers. Free. Call 719-583-5505 for more information.

**Senior Bingo**

Jan. 20, 10 a.m., Senior Center, Lewis-Palmer High School. For those living with fibromyalgia to learn coping strategies and develop support. Open to family and caregivers. Free. Call 719-583-5505 for more information.

**Skit Show**

Jan. 21, 7-9 p.m., Monument High School, 463 S. 10th St. Free. For information, call 719-583-5505.

**Skit Show**

Jan. 22, 7-9 p.m., Monument High School, 463 S. 10th St. Free. For information, call 719-583-5505.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7829**

Jan. 25, 7 p.m., Monument County Courthouse, 463 S. 10th St. For all veterans. Free. For information, call 719-583-5505.

**Skit Show**

Jan. 26, 7-9 p.m., Monument High School, 463 S. 10th St. Free. For information, call 719-583-5505.
Letters to Our Community

Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest to readers in the Tri-Lakes area. We do not knowingly print letters that are substantially the same as letters that have been submitted to other publications. To ensure that OCN contains a variety of viewpoints, each letter writer is limited to a maximum of six letters within any twelve-month period. To submit a letter, please:

• Include a suggested headline or title.
• Limit letters to no more than 300 words.
• Include your full name, home address, and daytime phone number.

Email your letter to editor@ocn.me or mail it to P.O. Box 1742, Monument, CO 80134-1742.

Send your letter at least 10 days before the “first Saturday of the month” when the paper is printed.

If you are not at least 18 years old or an emancipated minor, provide a written statement from a parent or legal guardian that you have permission to submit the letter.

If, after two business days from the date of your submission, you have not received an acknowledgement of your letter, please call Lisa Herl, Editor at (719) 339-7831. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and accuracy.

Look for our next issue Saturday, Feb. 4

Ad space reservations due: Fri., Jan. 20
Calendar items due: Fri., Jan. 27
Letters to the editor due: Fri., Jan. 27
Visit our website to read, download, and search all the back issues at WWW.OCN.ME

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John Heilser, President
(719) 488-3455 (off & FAX)

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