

Palmer Lake bridge plaques



Left: On March 3, Bliss Studio welders installed several more donor train car plaques on the Palmer Lake pedestrian bridge, including this one donated by the Palmer Lake Historical Society (PLHS) Lucretia Vaile Museum to honor the town's railroad origins. Just as history is the record of a time gone by, the caboose marked the end of a train passing by. Proceeds from these donated train car designs go toward the cost of the bridge. The plaques are fabricated by Bliss Studios in Monument. In the early days of Palmer Lake, vehicles and townspeople could easily access the lake on bridges over the north and southbound railroad tracks. The new pedestrian bridge restores a safe pathway between the town's merchants and the lake. It's also a great overlook for train watching! For donor information, visit www.awakepalmerlake.org and click on Palmer Lake Bridge Fundraising Project. *Caption courtesy of Wayne Russert. Photo by Bonni Russert.*

Free ground cover-Purge the Spurge



Above: From 1 to 3 p.m. **Apr. 24**, bring your bagged myrtle spurge to the Colorado State University Extension office, El Paso County, at 17 N. Spruce St., Colorado Springs. The more myrtle spurge you bring, the more free groundcover plants you get. Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) (donkeytail spurge) is a highly invasive Colorado A List Species noxious weed. Be aware: This plant exudes toxic, milky latex, which can cause severe skin irritations. Wear protective gear when digging and bagging it. Free tickets are available at: www.eventbrite.com/e/purge-the-spurge-tickets-137366399599. *Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Agriculture.*

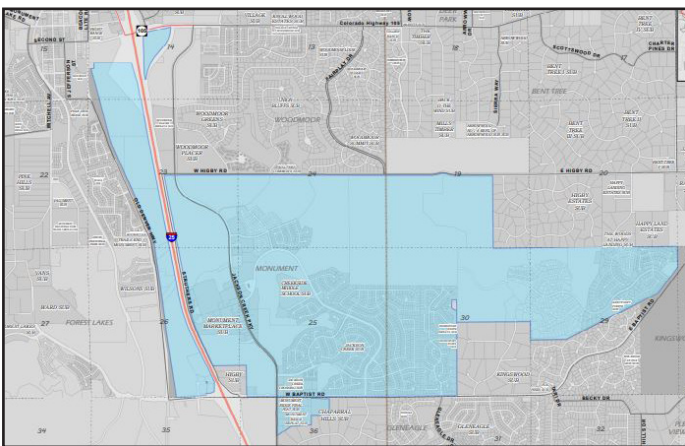
Vietnam War Veterans Day, Mar. 29



Above: National Vietnam War Veterans Day was marked on March 29 at the William Crawford memorial in Palmer Lake. Crawford was awarded the Medal of Honor for action during WWII. According to the Palmer Lake Historical Society, Crawford destroyed two German machine gun nests before taken prisoner. He had to endure a 500-mile, 52-day march in the winter. Crawford was reported missing in action and presumed dead. His father accepted a posthumous Medal of Honor for his son from President Franklin Roosevelt in 1943. Crawford was later found alive and was presented the same Medal of Honor in person by President Reagan in 1984. Attending the March 29 ceremony were members of VFW Post 7829 Monument, American Legion Post 9-11, and St. Peter Knights of Columbus Council 11514 Monument. Also attending were Monument Mayor Don Wilson and Palmer Lake Mayor Bill Bass. *Photo by Michael Pietsch.*

Which districts do you live in?

The Tri-Lakes area is composed of many interleaved layers of jurisdiction and taxation. The well-informed resident should be able to identify which (if any) municipality, metropolitan district, water and sanitation district, fire protection district, school district, and homeowners association collects taxes and fees and provides services to their home. **Hint to property owners:** You can also learn a lot by looking at your property tax bill. Make sure all members of your household, not just the billpayer, know the answers! See www.ocn.me/maps.htm for a list of clickable links so you can zoom in. As an example, residents of the Jackson Creek area receive most of their services not from the Town of Monument but from the Triview Metropolitan District: water; sewer; drainage; parks, recreation, and open space; mosquito abatement; and street maintenance. *Triview District Map courtesy of El Paso County Assessor.*



Thank You, Judy

By John Heiser, OCN Publisher
I first met George Barnes in 2001 when he was working at the Wells Fargo Bank in Monument. I talked with him about helping with a new all-volunteer publication a group of community-minded folks were planning. He said he was interested and added that his wife, Judy, would be interested as well. Judy and George participated in the early organizational meetings. Once we launched the paper, George helped with distributing copies and he and Judy wrote articles. Judy served as the Our Community News editor for many of the earliest issues. She continued editing even after she and George moved to California in 2004.

Starting in 2005 and continuing every month since, Judy has been carefully researching and writing our extensive community calendar and notices sections that fill the last four or



Judy Barnes

five pages of each issue.

Health challenges have now required that Judy step back from volunteering with OCN. We will be forever

grateful to Judy for her steadfast service to the community. It has been a joy to work with her to create and sustain this unique publication throughout the past 20 years.

Judy, all of us at OCN send our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

John Heiser can be contacted at johnheiser@ocn.me.



OCN photo contest winner



Above: The high winds that accompanied the snowstorm of March 14 and 15 created some beautiful, sometimes delicate-looking drifts. Some were as high as 5 feet. The snow on this statue outside our front door in the Lake of the Rockies subdivision looks like the angel had a head full of soap suds. *Photo by Tia M. Mayer.*

Keep them coming! Send your best "Life in Tri-Lakes" photo to editor@ocn.me no later than **Apr. 16**. Please don't send more than two photos. Include names of any people in the photo, date taken, a description of the activity or location, and the name of the photographer. Call Lisa at 719-339-7831 with questions.