

Our Community News

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



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Local Events

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

- **Color Splash, Annual Fine Art Exhibit Opening Reception**, Fri., Jun. 1, 6-8 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Half Marathon/10K**, Sat., Jun. 2, 7:30 a.m.
- **Kids Fishing Derby**, Sat., Jun. 2, 8-11:30 a.m.
- **Hooked on Palmer Lake**, Sat., Jun. 2, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- **Concerts in the Park**, every Wed. (except Jul. 4), Jun. 6-Aug. 1, 7-9 p.m.
- **Summer Concert Series at Forest Lakes: WireWood Station**, Fri., Jun. 8, 6-9 p.m.
- **Pam Tillis Concert at TLCA**, Fri., Jun. 15, 7 p.m.
- **Monument's Free Movie Night: Ferris Bueller's Day Off**, Fri., Jun. 15, 7 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society Annual Fathers' Day Ice Cream Social**, Sun., Jun. 17, 2-4 p.m.
- **Art Hop**, Thu., Jun. 21, 5-8 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society: Otto Kuhler: Colorado's Renaissance Man**, Thu., Jun. 21, 7 p.m.
- **Summer Concert Series at Forest Lakes: Wendy Woo**, Fri., Jun. 22, 6-9 p.m.
- **Laith Al-Saadi from NBC's "The Voice" in Concert at TLCA**, Fri., Jun. 22, 7 p.m.
- **Jackson Creek Community Garage Sale**, Fri-Sat., Jun. 22-23, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Fire Mitigation Workshop**, Sat., Jun. 23, noon-1 p.m.
- **Monument's Free Movie Night: Wonder**, Fri., Jun. 29, 7 p.m.
- **Casey Abrams, "American Idol" Star, in Concert at TLCA**, Fri., Jun. 30, 7 p.m.
- **Tri-Lakes Music Association Concert**, Sun., Jul. 1, 3 p.m.
- **July 4th Events - see page 31** ■

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Above: Annabelle Abair places a flag in the Monument Cemetery. The auxiliary to the MSG William J. Crawford Post 7829 of Monument has an active Youth Group that is dedicated and eager to help military veterans. Seventeen kids, ages 16 and under, took time May 26 to learn about the traditions of Memorial Day. The group placed 112 flags in the Monument Cemetery in preparation for the Monument Memorial Day Ceremony. Then on May 28, hundreds of family and community members attended the Memorial Day service at the cemetery. Many of the Youth Group members also help during Buddy Poppy Days to raise money for various programs the auxiliary holds throughout the year to honor veterans. *Photo by Chrystal Abair.*

Monument Board of Trustees, May 7

Newly-seated board's grudge match mystifies public

By Allison Robenstein

At the May 7 Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, the newly seated trustees disagreed on many of the items before them for decisions. From town employee appointments to committee appointments, the trustees were at odds with one another.

Town staff appointments vote fails

Town Attorney Alicia Corley presented one resolution to appoint a town clerk, town attorney, and town treasurer, but Trustee Greg Coopman immediately began questioning the verbiage of both the associated statute and the proposed resolution. Corley said according to Colorado law, the BOT needed to appoint these three positions 30 days after the election of a board. Town Manager Pamela Smith said that historically, these appointments have been purely administrative and routine.

Note: CRS § 31-4-304 imposes a 30-day deadline after the April 3 election for appointed officers of the town, including the clerk, treasurer, and town attorney, to be reappointed.

However, Coopman expressed concern that the appointments were grouped together in one resolution, insinuating that he would like to reappoint some staff but not others.

Bornstein said the town manager investigation had been going on too long, amounting to financial irresponsibility for Chris Lowe to be on administrative leave since Feb. 5, and Bornstein blamed town staff for the delay. See www.ocn.me/v18n3.htm#mbot and a town press release about the investigation on page 6.

Smith said the board did not set a completion date for the investigation, is responsible for the hiring and firing of the town manager and should not put the responsibility of an elongated investigation on staff. She added that she believed the investigation results would be presented at the next board meeting. See related May 21 BOT article on page 6.

Smith said, "Even if the board did not want to reappoint us, we are still town employees.... There is a lot of frustration." **MONUMENT (cont. on page 2)**

An important message to our readers

Our primary mission: Accurately report what was discussed and decided at public governmental meetings

Unlike papers that try to figure out what the "story" is and then get quotes on each side to presumably lead the reader to conclude what the "truth" is, the role of *Our Community News* is to report in detail on public deliberations of local governmental entities. We report what was discussed and what was decided at the meetings. By reading *OCN*, a reader can find out what he or she would have learned if they had been present at those public meetings. *OCN* volunteers do not do investigative reporting. The facts we report come from the meetings and associated documentation; they are not copied from other news outlets, outside interviews, or social media.

The all-volunteer staff of *Our Community News* strives to give Tri-Lakes area residents and businesses:

- Accurate, objective community-based and area-wide news
- A forum for the free exchange of ideas and opportunities. This is accomplished through Letters to the Editor and the publication of Snapshots—photos and captions of various local community events that are free and open to the public
- A venue for local businesses to advertise their goods and services, through inexpensive ads in our paper, mailed to all mailboxes in the area from the mountains to Highway 83 and from County Line Road to Northgate Road.
- Our Community Calendar, on page 28, lists the meetings of governmental bodies occurring each month. We encourage residents to attend meetings that affect them.

What we ask of you

- We want to hear from you. Send your thoughts to editor@ocn.me or P.O. Box 1742, Monument, CO 80132-1742. For Letters to Editor guidelines, see page 31 or www.ocn.me/letters_guidelines.htm.
- This is your community, and your voice matters. You can make a difference by working to ensure that we hold onto the things we love about living here.
- We ask that you support our advertisers. Their willingness to advertise in *Our Community News* makes free distribution of this newspaper possible.
- The success of this newspaper depends on its volunteers. If you can spare a little time each month to help a worthwhile effort, we would love to hear from you. See www.ocn.me/help_wanted.htm. *OCN* Managing Editor Lisa Hatfield can be reached at editor@ocn.me or (719) 339-7831 text/cell. ■