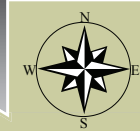


Our Community News

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



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Local Events

Many local events continue to be canceled, suspended, or are being conducted on-line or by conference call. See pages 28-31 for details.

The unpredictability of the COVID-19 situation presents scheduling challenges for area governance entities and other organizations. Because OCN is a monthly publication, readers should assume that event information published in this issue is subject to change and information should be confirmed a day or two before the event by calling the information number or checking the organization's website.

Dates are shown for events even though the event has been canceled or suspended. The date indicates when the event was planned to be held or when it would normally have been held.

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

- **WMMI Harvest Festival and Miners' Pumpkin Patch**, Sat.-Sun., Oct. 3-4. Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. noon-4 p.m.
- **Kiwanis 2020 Empty Bowls Dinner & Silent Auction: Bowl Pickup**, Sat., Oct. 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake 2020 Drive By .5K "Run,"** Sun., Oct. 4, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- **Tri-Lakes Chamber Education: Tax Prep Essentials**, Tue., Oct. 6, 9 a.m.-noon
- **Silver Center Book Club**, Fri., Oct. 9, 11 a.m.-noon. *Homer's Odyssey*.
- **WMMI Lecture Series**, Tue., Oct. 13, 7-8 p.m. *Pioneers and Long-Ago Communities of USAFA*
- **Friends of Fox Run Park**, Thu., Oct. 22, 5:30 p.m.
- **Miners' Pumpkin Patch at WMMI**, Sat., Oct. 10, 17, and 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Historic Downtown Monument Safe Trick or Treat**, Sat., Oct. 31, 4-6 p.m.
- **Downtown Monument Holiday Open House**, Fri.-Sat., Nov. 6-7

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Take a Kid Mountain Biking



Above: On a warm and sunny Sept. 19, local kids and parents enjoyed the Fox Run Park Take a Kid Mountain Biking day to learn how to plan ahead, learn riding skills for safety, where bikes are allowed, care and safety of the trail, bikes, and oneself, and the "move over" etiquette rules for being friendly and polite, especially since bicycle riders must move over for hikers and horseback riders. After learning the rules of the trail on the grassy playground areas, the kids went on a forest trail ride through Fox Run Park with a leader in age specific groups. After everyone got back from their ride there was a festive giveaway of swag and door prizes. *Photo by Janet Sellers*

Palmer Lake Board of Trustees, Sept. 10 and 24

Temporary moratorium on new water taps now in effect

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans
At two meetings in September, the Palmer Lake Board of Trustees continued to wrestle with issues—some related to each other—that they have struggled with, in some cases for years. Questions about how to manage the town's water resources led the board to discuss a moratorium on new water taps. The related issues of how to regulate parking and when to open the trail to the town's reservoirs also took up a substantial portion of both meetings. The board worked on a plan to replace the ramp to the building that used to serve as the town's library and began planning for repairs needed to the historic Town Hall.

Four special event permits were

addressed, and the board voted on an ordinance to put a fee in place for requests to vacate roads that were planned but never built by the town. The board heard a preliminary report on the 2019 audit and an update on the Living Word Church, which was recently donated to the town. Finally, the board awarded a certificate of appreciation to two residents who have volunteered frequently and signed a proclamation to clean up the town's watershed.

Scarce water leads to moratorium on new water taps
At the Sept. 10 meeting, Interim Town Manager Bob Radosevich asked the

PALMER LAKE (Cont. on 7)

Monument Board of Trustees, Sept. 8

Board prepares for bond sales

By Allison Robenstein
The Monument Board of Trustees approved a bond counsel to advise the town prior to bond sales that were discussed in several water project workshops. The Conexus development along Old Denver Road is moving forward, and a church was approved as the first developed portion of the parcel. The board held a broadband discussion in which they directed Town Manager Mike Foreman to stop all broadband work.

Water bond counsel approved
During an Aug. 24 water workshop, the board heard from Town Manager Mike

Foreman and Public Works Director Tom Tharnish, who identified over \$20 million in water projects that need to be completed. See <https://ocn.me/v20n9.htm#mbot>.

Town Attorney Andrew Richey explained the need for the bond by saying, "The Town of Monument is seeking to complete numerous water projects using 2A Water Fund proceeds. Because these projects will cost more money than the cash on hand in the 2A fund, revenue bond financing will be required. The retention of bond counsel is integral to issuance of rev-

MONUMENT (Cont. on 9)

MA School Board, Sept. 10

Board discusses school opening, distance learning challenges

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board held its regular board meeting on Sept. 10 in the gym at the East Campus. After a half-hour delay due to technical issues, the board conducted a hybrid meeting with some board members, administration, and a small audience in person, while other board members, presenters, and parents attended online via Zoom.

The board heard updates on the opening of school, distance learning challenges, and updates from the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO).

School opening update

Elementary school Principal Charlie Richardson reported that, in his 15 years at the school, it has been the most hectic week and a half, but he commended the teachers and staff for hanging in there. He has been in numerous meetings on technology, teacher and staff interviews, and meetings related to security.

Secondary school Principal Julie Seymour said the school held a freshman kickoff and middle school meet-and-greet event to tour the building and deploy iPads. They have been busy with moving in, ribbon cutting, and preparing classrooms collaboratively with teachers, families, and facilities staff. She attended meetings with families as well as leadership training.

Christianna Herrera, MA's chief operating officer, noted that the first day of school Aug. 31 reminded everybody how much they missed the students and why they chose education as a profession. She said in-person learning was going spectacularly well, but online has been a rocky road.

Teacher representatives Cristin Patterson and Joy Maddox expressed that being back with the kids has been exhilarating and sweet. Patterson said that communication has been exactly what is needed. She noted that it is difficult to serve a lot of different needs at the same time. Maddox noted that there is good collaboration between teams.

Distance learning growing pains
Janyse Skalla, distance learning specialist, said there are 130 students doing at-home learning, either synchronously or asynchronously divided evenly between the elementary and secondary school. There are 30 students in 21 families who are at-home learners using MA curriculum and scope. She said teachers are going above and beyond.

Herrera noted that MA, like other schools nationwide, must use platforms that are approved for use with student data, which must be kept confidential. When those platforms have issues, MA can only enter a ticket and wait for it to be fixed or find a workaround that introduces complexity for

MA (Cont. on 2)