

## 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 information number for that event.

### Are you experiencing hardship?

Connect with Tri-Lakes Cares for assistance with groceries, rent or mortgage, utilities, car repair, and medical assistance at [www.tri-lakescares.org/coronavirus](http://www.tri-lakescares.org/coronavirus). For more information, call 719-481-4864. See ad on page 3.

### Volunteer for Tri-Lakes Cares

There are many areas within Tri-Lakes Cares that you can help serve. Volunteers interact with clients, stock the food pantry, distribute grocery orders, process donations, pack Snack Packs for local youth, and contribute in many other ways to the success of Tri-Lakes Cares. Becoming a volunteer is easy and fun. For details, contact Volunteer Coordinator Nichole Pettigrew, 719-481-4864 x113, [VolunteerCoordinator@Tri-LakesCares.org](mailto:VolunteerCoordinator@Tri-LakesCares.org); or visit <https://tri-lakescares.org/volunteer/>.

### Tri-Lakes Cares needs us more than ever

Tri-Lakes Cares is the only food pantry and human services organization located in and serving northern El Paso County through emergency, self-sufficiency, and relief programs. The community-based, volunteer-supported center is a critical resource for our neighbors in need. The best way to help support Tri-Lakes Cares is to make a financial donation. For more information about Tri-Lakes Cares or how you can help, contact Brendan Rhoades, TLC's Community Engagement Manager: 719-481-4864, ext. 111; [communityengagementmanager@tri-lakecares.org](mailto:communityengagementmanager@tri-lakecares.org); or visit [www.tri-lakescares.org](http://www.tri-lakescares.org).

### Tri-Lakes Cares seeks director of development

Are you ready to apply your fundraising experience in the role of director of development with a creative and innovative nonprofit that supports local community members who find themselves in a time of need? Find out more about this job posting at the Tri-Lakes Cares website, [www.tri-lakescares.org/about-tlc/employment](http://www.tri-lakescares.org/about-tlc/employment).

### Silver Key senior services

Connection Cafe's "Grab and Go" meal clients will receive three frozen meals for the week; meals must be requested in advance for the following week. A \$2.25 donation is requested. Please call 719-884-2300 to reserve your meal. Meals on Wheels and Home Delivered Meals will deliver frozen meals for the week to Monument on Wednesdays. If you qualify but are not yet enrolled for meals, phone 719-884-2300 or visit [www.silverkey.org](http://www.silverkey.org). The Food Pantry is implementing a "pick up only" model for clients. Mon.-Fri., noon-12:30 p.m., Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake. Reserve & Ride is temporarily limited to essential transportation needs only: strictly medical and food-related trips. Reservations are requested, phone 719-884-2300. For more information about senior services, visit [www.silverkey.org](http://www.silverkey.org).

### Silver Key Calls of Reassurance for seniors

Extended social isolation and loneliness significantly impact the quality of life and health of older adults. The current public health crisis has increased the need for seniors to receive these critical calls and connection with others. Seniors who self-enroll can be called weekly (one to three times) to talk with a Silver Key volunteer. It offers two types of helpful calls. Social Calls are for seniors who wish to have a weekly, bright, and supportive connection with a well-trained VIP volunteer. Safety Checks are similar to Social Calls, but if the senior does not answer after three calls, emergency contacts (maintained on file) will be called, then the police if the emergency contacts cannot be reached. For more details, visit [www.silverkey.org](http://www.silverkey.org).

### Free services for seniors

Mountain Community Senior Services offers free transportation and handyman services to Tri-Lakes seniors. Private transportation to medical appointments or a grocery store is now provided by Envida, 719-633-4677. 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 or visit [www.coloradoseniorhelp.com](http://www.coloradoseniorhelp.com).

### Santa on Patrol Toy Drive, donate by Dec. 14

Santa is teaming up with the Monument Police Department, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Department, and Toys for Tots to deliver toys and good cheer to families in need in the Tri-Lakes area. New, unwrapped toys may be dropped off by **Dec. 14**, 3 p.m., at the Monument Police Department, 645 Beacon Lite Road, or at any Toys 4 Tots box at various businesses throughout the Tri-Lakes area. Please drop off all gift cards to the Monument Police Department. This year, due to COVID-19, Santa and his first responder elves will visit selected families to deliver toys

on **Dec. 19**. If you know a family who would benefit from this event, submit your nomination by Dec. 7. Please include the name and age of child/children in the household, the name of parent(s), address and phone number, and a brief description of why the family is a good candidate. You can email your nomination to [Santa@tomgov.org](mailto:Santa@tomgov.org).

### Wescott Santa on Patrol

Meet Santa on his fire truck with the Wescott firefighters. This year's Santa Patrol will be either **Dec. 12 or 19**; check the website or facebook page for updates. Info: 488-8680, [info@wescottfire.org](mailto:info@wescottfire.org), [www.wescottfire.org](http://www.wescottfire.org).

**2020 Virtual Red Kettle Holiday Bell Ringing**  
Monument Hill Kiwanis Club will conduct bellringing on a limited schedule Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays, and Christmas Eve at King Soopers and at one or two doors at Walmart, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. To volunteer, visit [www.monumenthillkiwanis.org](http://www.monumenthillkiwanis.org). The need is much greater this year. Your donations help The Salvation Army provide meals, shelter, gifts, and other holiday assistance for our community. Look for volunteer bellringers, or donate online with the Salvation Army Virtual Red Kettle at [www.monumenthillkiwanis.org](http://www.monumenthillkiwanis.org). See ad on page 3.

### Tri-Lakes Y offers virtual membership

Join your favorite YMCA instructors for online health, wellness, and fitness classes to help you stay motivated anywhere. Plus, stream thousands of classes. Free for members, \$9.99/month for non-members. Sign up by **Dec. 13**. Learn more and opt-in at [ppymca.org/burnalong](http://ppymca.org/burnalong). See ad on page 6.

### National Wreaths Across America, Dec. 19

The Town of Monument will observe Wreaths across America Day at 10 a.m., **Dec. 19**, at the Monument Cemetery, 800 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. This day is to remember our fallen U.S. veterans, honor those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom. You can sponsor a veteran's wreath at Monument Cemetery for only \$15 per wreath. Visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) and click on "sponsor a specific cemetery" (under "Sponsor Wreaths"). For more information, contact Theresa Wiederspahn, 719-471-9900, or email [theresa.wiederspahn@dignitymemorial.com](mailto:theresa.wiederspahn@dignitymemorial.com); [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org).

### Kiwanis holiday wine and coffee gift sales, order by Dec. 28

Monument Hill Kiwanis Club offers wine and coffee for pickup, and wine for shipment to some states. All proceeds go back to the community. Order online at [www.monumenthillkiwanis.org](http://www.monumenthillkiwanis.org). See ad on page 3.

### Sisters' Thrift & Boutique Open

The Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery have a shop full of gently used treasures, including clothing and accessories, household items, and small furniture at 8674 N. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs. Store hours are Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The phone number is 719-282-0316. The shop welcomes donations and volunteers. For more information about Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery visit [www.benethillmonastery.org](http://www.benethillmonastery.org). For a \$5-off coupon, see ad on page 11.

### DMV services available online and at kiosks

Most driver and vehicle services can be completed online at [mydmv.colorado.gov](http://mydmv.colorado.gov). Residents can renew their motor vehicle registration online at [mydmv.colorado.gov](http://mydmv.colorado.gov), by phone at 520-6240, by mail, or by self-service kiosks at King Soopers (1070 W. Baptist Rd., Monument) or at the North Motor Vehicle Office at 8830 N. Union Blvd. (24/7 kiosk). For more information, phone 520-6200 or visit [clerkandrecorder.elpasoco.com](http://clerkandrecorder.elpasoco.com). See ad on page 2.

### MVEA Energy Star appliance and light bulb rebates

Mountain View Electric offers rebates to encourage energy efficiency. Save on your monthly electric bill by replacing incandescent and halogen light bulbs and old appliances with Energy Star certified equipment. Find more information and a Rebate Product Guide at [www.mvea.coop/rebates](http://www.mvea.coop/rebates). See ad on page 32.

### MVEA outdoor power equipment rebates

Mountain View Electric Association will reward you to switch from gas to electric powered outdoor equipment. Visit [www.mvea.coop/rebates](http://www.mvea.coop/rebates) to learn more.

### Co-op Connections by MVEA

Mountain View Electric Association offers a free app to find discounts from local merchants. Help keep small businesses thriving. Save also on travel and on-line shopping. For more information and to download the app, visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

### MVEA Scholarships

Each year, MVEA awards \$1,000 scholarships to 14 graduating high school seniors. Applications are due by **Jan. 18, 2021**. Apply online at [www.mvea.coop/scholarships](http://www.mvea.coop/scholarships). For more information contact Erica Meyer, 719-494-2654, [erica.m@mvea.coop](mailto:erica.m@mvea.coop).

### 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 winter home heating costs. The eligibility period for LEAP runs **Nov. 1-April 30**. Application packets will automatically be mailed to residents who received LEAP assistance last year at the address where they were living at that time. To find out if you qualify for LEAP, call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (866-432-8435) or visit [www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap](http://www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap).

### Openings on Monument boards

The Town of Monument has openings on its Planning Commission and Board of Adjustments. For more information, visit [www.townofmonument.org](http://www.townofmonument.org).

### Taste of Palmer Lake

This year, your ticket will get you free food or beverage offerings from all of our Palmer Lake restaurants. Purchase your ticket and receive a punch card for a one-time use for your free item anytime through **Feb. 28, 2021**. This is a limited time offer. Tickets are \$25, available at all Palmer Lake restaurants, and all the money goes to this year's downtown Christmas decorations. Help light up Palmer Lake. For details, visit [awakepalmerlake.org](http://awakepalmerlake.org).

### Virtual Fill the Boot Campaign for Muscular Dystrophy

Local firefighters won't be able to conduct their campaign in person this year, but you can still support their fundraising efforts. Visit <https://filltheboot.donordrive.com/participant/Tri-Lakes-Monument-Fire>.

### National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) free virtual support groups

NAMI's Connection Support Group provides weekly peer support for anyone with a mental health diagnosis. It is facilitated by people managing their own mental illnesses, and structured to meet the diverse needs of those with depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and more. Connections meets Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Join via Zoom, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87298315118>. You can fill out a new participant form at [www.namicoloradosprings.org/connection-support-group.html](http://www.namicoloradosprings.org/connection-support-group.html).

The weekly Family Support Group provides peer support for family members as their loved ones encounter the ups and downs that come with living with mental illness and working toward recovery. This group meets Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. and you can join via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89344149472>. For links to the above information and other groups, visit [www.namicoloradosprings.org](http://www.namicoloradosprings.org). Info: 719-473-8477, email [info@namicos.org](mailto:info@namicos.org), or visit [www.namicoloradosprings.org](http://www.namicoloradosprings.org).

### Jewish Family Service offers virtual counseling for all

Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Colorado's virtual counseling services are available to anyone throughout the state who is feeling overwhelmed or in crisis at this time. JFS supports everyone, not just those of the Jewish faith. JFS accepts private insurance, self-pay, Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and offers a sliding-fee schedule for those with limited financial resources and will not turn away anyone in crisis. To find out more about virtual counseling and the various services JFS offers, phone 303-597-5000 or visit the website, [www.jewishfamilyservice.org](http://www.jewishfamilyservice.org).

### Small-business grants available

The Energize Colorado Gap Fund will provide more than \$25 million in small-business loans and grants to boost small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Sole proprietors, businesses, and nonprofits with less than 25 full-time employees can apply for up to a \$15,000 grant and a \$20,000 loan for a possible combined total of \$35,000 in financial assistance. For more information and to purchase PPE, visit <https://energizecolorado.com>.

### County parks update

Park headquarters are open Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Park restrooms have begun to reopen. Fountain Creek and Bear Creek Nature Centers are open Tue.-Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Playgrounds are open for use with no more than 25 people at a time. Pavilions at Fox Run Regional Park are limited to 17 people at a time. Organized recreational youth or adult league sports may resume activities with no more than 25 players. Parents may attend youth sports activities but must remain 6 feet apart from non-household members. Spectators are strongly discouraged for adult sports. A permit is required through El Paso County Parks for organized sports. The remainder of county parks, trails, and open spaces remain open. Park users are highly encouraged to practice social distancing (6 feet apart) and wear masks while enjoying the county park system. While on trails, warn other users of your presence as you pass, and step aside to let others pass. For more information, visit [www.elpasoco.com/parks](http://www.elpasoco.com/parks), email to [Parks@elpasoco.com](mailto:Parks@elpasoco.com), or call 719-520-7529.

### D38's choice enrollment

Lewis-Palmer School District 38 provides innovative and relevant programming for all students grades pK-12. In-