

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.

Feeling hopeless, anxious, or depressed?

Free help is a phone call away

Everybody needs a little help sometimes. Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention Connection has a support group for young people, Teen Talk Group, that meets Sundays at 6 p.m. The Adult Peers Support Group meets Mondays, 7-8 p.m. The Colorado Crisis Services Line is available 24/7. Call 1-844-493-TALK (8255). For more information visit pikespeaksuicideprevention.org, or call 719-573-7447, or text 719-232-4875, or email info@pikespeaksuicideprevention.org. If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, please call 911.

D38's choice enrollment window, Jan. 4-Feb. 5

Lewis-Palmer School District 38 provides innovative and relevant programming for all students grades pK-12. In-district and non-resident families may apply to enroll students in a school other than their assigned neighborhood school. D38's choice enrollment window for the 2021-22 school year is open **Jan. 4-Feb. 5, 2021**. For more information, visit www.lewispalmer.org/enroll. See ad on page 9.

Are you experiencing hardship due to COVID-19?

Connect with Tri-Lakes Cares for assistance with groceries, rent or mortgage, utilities, car repair, and medical assistance at www.tri-lakescares.org/coronavirus. For more information, call 719-481-4864.

Tri-Lakes Women's Club (TLWC) Virtual Contest, Jan. 14-Feb 14

TLWC is holding a virtual fundraiser, a pet photo contest with cash prizes. The contest is from **Jan. 14, 6 a.m.**, to **Feb. 14, 9 p.m.** Enter your cat or dog (\$10 per entry, \$1 per vote) at <http://gogophotocontest.com/whodoyoulovecatordog>. See ad on page 8.

WMMI seeks volunteers

WMMI has positions for docents/tour guides, front desk, landscaping, and building and maintenance. For more details, contact Loretta, 719-488-0880, or email Volunteer@wmmi.org.

MVEA Scholarships, enter by Jan. 18

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. For more information contact Erica Meyer, 719-494-2654, erica.m@mvea.coop.

El Paso County's Third Annual Winter Hobby Wine Competition, enter by Feb. 1

Do you make your own wine? Enter your best home-made wines in the El Paso County Winter Hobby Wine Competition. All entries must be submitted by Feb. 1; cost is \$10 per entry. Participants must register online and complete the entry form on the website below. Wine categories and more information can be found on the website. All proceeds from the competition and the awards reception will go to the Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers, a 501(c)3 organization, and will support environmental education programs in El Paso County. For more information, visit <https://communityservices.elpasoco.com/hobby-wine-competition>.

Mountain View Electric Association's (MVEA) SmartHub

With MVEA's SmartHub app, you can manage your account, view and pay your bill, monitor your electric use, report service issues, and receive important notices. Get the app at www.smarthubapp.com. See ad on page 32.

St. Peter School Open House, in-person tours in February

Enrollment begins **Feb. 1**. St. Peter offers in-person learning five days a week, preschool through eighth grade. Visit the website, www.petertherock.org, for a virtual tour of the school. For more information, call 719-481-1855 or visit www.petertherock.org. See ad on page 2.

The Sisters of Benet Hill offer spiritual direction, online and by phone

People of all faiths are welcome to grow in their spiritual life through spiritual direction. Sister Therese O'Grady will help you find a spiritual director; phone her at 719-473-8764 or email stherese@benethillmonastery.org. See ad on page 11.

Sisters' Thrift & Boutique is 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.

Driver and vehicle services available online and at kiosks

Most driver and vehicle services can be completed online at mydmv.colorado.gov. Residents can renew their motor vehicle registration online at 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 epcdrives.com. See ad on page 12.

Polar Pints at Pikes Peak Brewing Company

When the temperature goes down, the price of a pint goes down! Drink outside when it's cold and save on pints. Check their social media to see if it's a Polar Pint day: Facebook, @PikesPeakBrewing; Instagram, @PikesPeakBeer. See ad on page 10.

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.

Polar Express display given permanent home in Colorado Springs museum

The Pikes Peak Historical Street Railway Foundation in Colorado Springs has created a permanent display for the long-time Coleman family Polar Express model train display that was a Town of Palmer Lake Christmas tradition. This tradition started during the 2006 Christmas holiday. It was created by former Palmer Lake Town Councilman Gary Coleman and his son Travis. The new home for this display is the Pikes Peak Trolley Museum at 2333 Steel Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80907 (719-475-9508). Connie Balcerovich, Travis' sister, arranged for the donation to the museum with a formal ceremony attended by Travis on Nov. 23, 2020. Gary Coleman died in 2016 ending Palmer Lake's 10-year town tradition, but the display is now restored and available to the public year-round. "Now they can actually see it, physically. We have re-created what happens in the movie," said Balcerovich, referring to the 2004 animated film, "The Polar Express." For more information, visit coloradospringstrolleys.com, gazette.com/life-polar-express-model-train-replica-finds-permanent-home-in-colorado-springs/video_8b2c2281-870d-55a8-8914-6d29eefd461e.html, or www.ocn.me/v11n1.htm#pe.

Openings for Monument's Planning Commission and Board of Adjustments

The Town of Monument has openings on its Planning Commission and Board of Adjustments. For more information, visit www.townofmonument.org.

Taste of Palmer Lake, through Feb. 28

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**. 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.

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.
- 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. Info: 719-473-8477, email info@namicos.org, or visit www.namicoloradosprings.org.

Silver Key senior citizen luncheons and more

Connection Cafe's "Grab and Go" meal clients will re-

ceive 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. 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.

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; or visit <https://tri-lakescares.org/volunteer/>.

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>.

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.

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 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 online shopping. For more information and to download the app, visit www.connections.coop.

MVEA tree-trimming services

Tree trimming helps prevent storm-related power outages. For more information, call 800-388-9881 or 719-495-2283, or visit www.mvea.coop/tree-trimming.

Free transportation and handyman 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.

Palmer Lake prohibits parking to visitors

The Town of Palmer Lake has issued an emergency ordinance prohibiting parking on all town streets, with the exception of Palmer Lake residents, and closing the parking area at the reservoir trailhead on Old Carriage Road during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Silver Key Calls of Reassurance are available 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.

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.