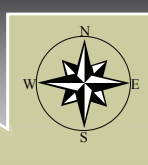


# Our Community News

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



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WHERE TO FIND OFFICIAL COVID INFORMATION  
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/>

## Local Events

The COVID-19 situation continues to present scheduling challenges for area governance entities and other organizations. 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, Family Day**, Sat., Apr. 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- **Monumental Impact's Internship Symposium**, Mon., Apr. 12, 4 p.m.
- **Career Pathways Explorer Program**, Mon. Apr. 19 & 26 May 3, 4 p.m.
- **Celebrate Earth Day - Help Friends of Fox Run Park**, Sat., Apr. 24, 1 p.m.
- **Purge the Spurge**: Exchange your spurge for FREE groundcover, Sat. Apr. 24, 1-3 p.m.
- **Our Community News mailing days**, Thu. -Fri., Apr. 28-30. We need your help for an hour or two.
- **Arbor Day in Monument**, Sat., Apr. 30, 10 a.m. Waterwise Garden demonstration and tree planting.
- **Black Forest Arts & Craft Guild sale**, Wed.-Sun, Apr. 28- May 2
- **Ready Set Go! - Wildland Fire Prevention/Mitigation Day**, Sat. May 15, 9-noon.



Wild weather - see pages 24 and 27  
Photo by Michael Weinfeld.

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## Circulation

Print Run: 21,920  
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## Community honors first responders



**Above:** The week of March 15, Linsay Leite, left, and Gordon Reichal, far right, created and delivered baskets of food and goodies made fresh by Leite at Wesley Owens Coffee to Tri-Lakes fire stations in appreciation of our first responders. The baskets were delivered over several days to get them to each shift. Many community members contributed, funding the gift baskets of snacks, breakfasts, coffee, and more, including a generous gift certificate for first responder families to have a fun outing together at Wesley Owens Coffee. Photo by Janet Sellers.

### El Paso Board of County Commissioners, March 2, 9, and 16

## County seeks public comment on draft Master Plan

By Helen Walklett

The draft county Master Plan was presented to the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in March as the county released the initial draft for public feedback. Also in March, the commissioners approved the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the 2021 Black Forest slash and mulch program.

### Comments sought on draft Master Plan

At its March 9 meeting, the BOCC received a presentation on the county's draft Master Plan from consultants Houseal Lavigne Associates and Planning and Community Development staff as the document was launched for public review and comment.

Craig Dossey, executive director, Planning and Community Development, said, "We have master plan documents that are 30-something years old that we still rely on when we're presenting land use applications to you all. Obviously, these documents are out of date so an update, as we've talked about in the past, was well overdue. So this is an exciting time. This is a moment where we have the first initial draft, and it is just that, it is a draft, not the final version, that we are ready to give you an overview on but also to release to the public. We are soliciting comments and review from the public because we want to make sure that this document really serves as a voice for all of the residents, business owners, the leaders of El Paso County."

Dossey emphasized that the plan would be the first to look at the county as a whole. The plan will guide local development for the next 20 to 30 years.

The 150-page document is available for review on county's website at <https://elpaso.hlplanning.com/pages/draft-plan-outreach>. The county

is asking for comments by April 9. An updated draft will then be reviewed by the county Planning Commission at a first hearing scheduled for May 5. It is hoped that the plan will be adopted at a second hearing on May 26.

### Black Forest slash and mulch program

At its March 16 meeting, the BOCC unanimously approved the 2021 MOU with the Black Forest Slash and Mulch Committee (SAMCOM), the nonprofit responsible for the program's daily operation.

The wildfire mitigation program, which is staffed entirely by volunteers, accepts slash (tree debris including branches, leaves, needles, etc.) from residents that is ground into mulch, which is available free of charge to the public. Educational programs and events provide information to the public about forest health, soil conservation, safe chainsaw use, noxious weeds, and forest pests.

Under the MOU, the county contributes \$35,000 toward grinder expenses, and SAMCOM provides \$10,000 toward the costs. The details of the agreement are unchanged from those of 2020.

The site, at the southeast corner of Shoup and Herring Roads, plans to open for the 2021 season for slash drop-off on May 1. Normal business hours will be Saturdays 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays noon-4 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5-7:30 p.m. The last date for slash drop-off is Sept. 12. There is a \$2 drop-off fee for slash.

Free mulch will be available for self-loading from May 15 through Sept. 15. For large quantities of mulch, an end loader is available on Saturdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., charging \$5 for two cubic yards.

BOCC (Cont. on 2)

### El Paso County Planning Commission, March 18

## Cloverleaf development rezoning recommended for approval

By Helen Walklett

At its March 18 meeting, the El Paso County Planning Commission recommended for approval a rezoning application for the proposed Cloverleaf development northeast of the Higby Road and Jackson Creek Parkway intersection.

### Cloverleaf rezoning

The Planning Commission heard a request by ProTerra Properties LLC to rezone its 37.22-acre property from RS 20000 (residential suburban) to RS 5000 (residential suburban). The property is the redevelopment part of the sale of the "Walters Open Space" land. ProTerra's involvement has directly facilitated the ability of Woodmoor Open Space Coalition (WOSC) to purchase the rest of the property, which will be retained as public open space. Residents purchased small portions of land as extensions to their own properties as part of the fundraising efforts to buy the open space. Their purchases totaled about 24 acres. See [www.ocn.me/v20n6.htm#wosc](http://www.ocn.me/v20n6.htm#wosc). See map on page 24.

Andrea Barlow of NES Inc., on behalf of the applicant, told the commissioners that the land proposed for the rezoning was an undeveloped parcel of the Woodmoor Placer subdivision, platted in 1972. It had been intended to be a golf course but was never developed. She said the property was used by residents as open space and informal trails had been created but that the land had always been privately owned.

EPC PC (Cont. on 3)