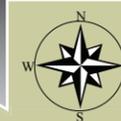


# Our Community News

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



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Read, download, and search all the OCN back issues at [www.ocn.me](http://www.ocn.me).

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.

- **Black Forest Arts & Craft Guild sale**, Thu.-Sun, Apr. 29- May 2
- **Monument Land Development Code and Zoning Map Update Public Open House**, Tue., May 11, 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **Ready Set Go! - Wildland Fire Prevention/Mitigation Day**, Sat. May 15, 9-noon.
- **Friends of Fox Run Park for Holly-Day**, Sat., May 15, 11-1 p.m. County Commissioner Holly Williams.
- **Shred Event**, Mon.-Sat., May 17-22
- **Colorado Springs Philharmonic Guild Listening Club**, Tue., May 18, 2p.m.
- **Art Hop**, Thu., May 20, 5-8 p.m.
- **Monumental Impact's Community of Support**, Thu., May 20
- **Cherry Creek Crossing Garage Sales**, Sat. May 22, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Service in the Parks Day at Palmer Lake**, Sat., May 22, 9 a.m.-noon.
- **Memorial Day Ceremony**, Mon., May 31, 10 a.m. Monument Cemetery.
- **OCN mailing days, June 2-4**. We need your help for an hour or two.
- **MVEA Telephone Town Hall Annual Cooperative Meeting**. Thu., June 3, 6 p.m.

## In this issue

Due to snow, many of the governmental meetings we customarily cover were postponed past our deadline for this issue. Coverage for those meetings will be included in our June 5 issue.

D38 School District News 1-6  
Fire District News 1, 6-10  
Monument News 10-14  
Palmer Lake News 14-18  
Water & San District News 18  
County News 18-21  
Weather, letters, and columns 21-24  
Snapshots and photo contest 25-27  
Notices and Calendar 27-31  
OCN Information 31, 32

## Circulation

Print Run: 21,920  
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## Sandstone Ranch Open Space



**Above:** Sandstone Ranch Open Space in Larkspur is a 2,038-acre ranch that borders the Pike National Forest. Hikers, cyclists, and those on horseback can experience spectacular views, expansive hay meadows, red rock formations, and wildlife habitat from the 12-mile trail in the eastern portion of the ranch, for non-motorized use only. Two major loop and several shorter loop trails are available to accommodate a variety of users. 9605 S. Perry Park Road. See [www.douglas.co.us/dcoutdoors/openspace-properties/sandstone-ranch/sandstone-ranch-trail/](http://www.douglas.co.us/dcoutdoors/openspace-properties/sandstone-ranch/sandstone-ranch-trail/). Photo by Lisa Hatfield.

Monument Academy School Board, April 8

## COO Herrera resigns; board hears Highway 105 update

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board held a special board meeting on April 2 to accept the resignation of Chief Operating Officer (COO) Christianna Herrera. MA held its regular board meeting on April 8, when members got an update on the Highway 105 project and listened to prospective board member presentations.

MA also held special meetings on April 16 and 26 to receive legal advice on a specific legal matter related to policy questions and potential changes related to the passage of new laws. Brad Miller, who serves as MA's lawyer, attended the April 16 meeting while Eric Hall of Sparks Wilson PC, who also serves as the Rocky Mountain Classical Academy lawyer, attended the April 26 meeting. No action was taken after either meeting, with board President Melanie Strop noting that the board was just trying to understand the potential impact of pending legislation and how to protect MA.

### COO resigns

The MA board met on March 30 and April 2 in special meetings that went directly into executive sessions to receive legal advice on specific legal matters, to discuss negotiating positions, to advise negotiators, and to discuss personnel matters related to facility financing, charter contract matters, and performance

of school administrators. Attorney Brad Miller confirmed that the meeting would discuss Herrera as well as Principals Charlie Richardson and Julie Seymour.

No action was taken after the March 30 executive session; however, after the April 2 meeting, board Strop announced that Herrera had resigned as of the end of her contract in June. She noted that Herrera would be available to help with the process of choosing her successor. The board unanimously voted to accept her resignation and to declare a vacancy and initiate a process to select her successor. An email was later sent out to the MA community with a personal note from Herrera.

### Highway 105 update

The board heard from Cory Beasley, who works with HDR Engineering representing El Paso County, on the Highway 105 road widening project which will impact Monument Academy. He said he was working closely with the school to find some resolution on its concerns. The main objective of the project is to deal with a growing community and increased traffic and to address the morning and afternoon queuing safety issues around MA.

He said he would keep the board aware of next steps as he coordinates with the School Board and with MA Elementary School

MA (Cont. on 2)

Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, April 21

## Replacement staff hired; new engine for 2022

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) board meeting on April 21, the board heard about newly hired personnel, received a presentation for a new apparatus proposal, and discussed the future of an existing apparatus.

Fire Chief PJ Langmaid was excused.

### Staffing update

Deputy Chief James Rebitski said the crews conducted the interviews and selected the final six new staff members to replace the six personnel who left over a period of two months to pursue alternative careers. Hopefully, the six new qualified personnel will stick around, and we can keep boosting our numbers and the overtime needed to maintain minimum staffing can be reduced, said Rebitski. The board held an executive session to discuss staffing at the Jan. 20 meeting. See [www.ocn.me/v21n2.htm#bffrpd](http://www.ocn.me/v21n2.htm#bffrpd).

### Apparatus purchase

Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Jones, the lead member of the Apparatus Search Committee (a four-

BFFRPD (Cont. on 6)