

Our Community News

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



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Free

Visit OCN.ME on the web. We now have audio posted for many of the recent articles and videos for some events.



Local Events

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.

See pages 22-23 for event locations and other details of these and many other local events.

- OCN mailing days, Thu., May 30 & June 27, approx. 7-8:30 am.
- Claudia Swenson celebration of life, Sat., June 1, noon.
- Kids fishing derby at the lake of Palmer Lake, Sat., June 1
- YMCA children's mini camps, June 3 - Aug. 1. See ad on page 6.
- Silver Key Tri-Lakes Thrift Store Re-Grand Opening; Fri., June 7, 9 am-10 am.
- Monument Concerts in Limbach Park, every Wed. starting June 6. See ad on page 8.
- MVEA annual meeting, Thu. June 6, El Paso County Fairgrounds.
- Space Foundation kids' summer fun weeks, June 10-14, or June 15-19. See ad on page 12.
- PLHS Father's Day ice cream social Sun., June 16. See ad on page 4.
- Public hearing on proposed D38 budget, Mon., June 17, 6 p.m. See notice on page 6.
- The Love Shop: restore your furs, Wed.-Thu, June 19-20, 10-5:30 p.m. See ad on page 9.
- Summer solstice labyrinth retreat, Sisters of Benet Hill, Fri.-Sun., June 21-23. See ad on page 3.
- Shakespeare in the Park Two Gents, Sat., June 22, 2 pm & 6 pm
- Front Range Maker's Market Shop, Sat.-Sun., June 22-23. See ad on page 24.
- WMMI family days in June, July, Aug. Special STEAM camp, June 24-28 or July 15-19. See ad on page 12
- Tri lakes Church of Christ VBS, Mon.-Thu., June 24-27. See ad on page 7.
- Monument Art Hop, Fri., June 28. Fourth Fridays. See ad on page 2.
- Annual Paradise Ponds tour, Sat.-Sun., June 29-30.
- Annual July 4th festivities. For details check www.trilakeschamber.com and www.mhkiwanis.org
- Chautauqua Palmer Lake, July 29 - Aug. 4.
- Trinity Community Park, grand opening, Sat., Aug. 24.

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Memorial Day in Monument



Above: Hundreds of residents and veterans gathered at Monument Cemetery on May 27 to commemorate Memorial Day in what one speaker described as "a little bit of Norman Rockwell." It was sunny and warm as honor guards from the VFW, American Legion, and the Knights of Columbus raised, then lowered the American flag as Monument Boy Scout Troop 17 saluted. The crowd heard speeches from local and state politicians and, finally, taps played by Michael Carlson, a Palmer Ridge High School graduate who did the honors for the seventh time. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

Monument Planning Commission, May 8

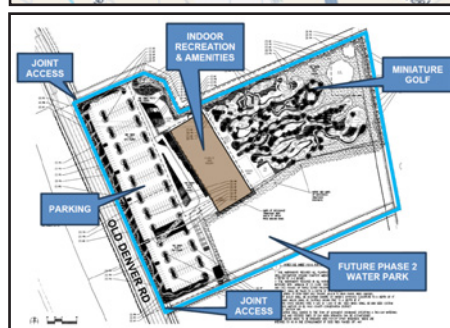
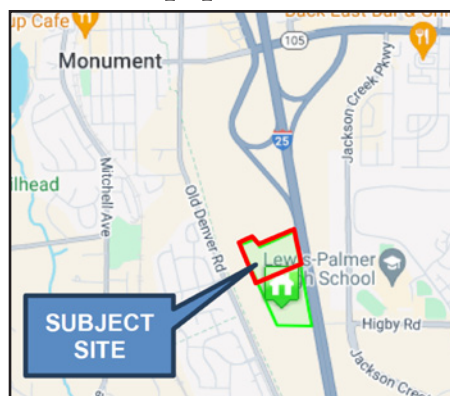
Amusement park, more residential development recommended for approval

By Janet Sellers

The May 8 agenda of the Monument Planning Commission included a resolution for a final plat known as Willow Springs Ranch filing No. 2 and an ordinance for a planned unit development (PUD) known as Conexus Lost Island 2. Reports for communication and announcements with the commission and planning staff were also on the agenda. Public comments time was not on the posted agenda.

The commissioners' main discussions were about the two development projects, Willow Springs Ranch final plat and Conexus Lost Island 2 PUD. Discussions highlighted the location, zoning, and surrounding land use of Willow Springs Ranch near Baptist Road and Forest Lakes Drive and the nearby roundabout, indicating the need for accommodating expected increases in traffic. Later, Ben Thurston presented the resolution for Conexus Lost Island 2 amusement park. The commissioners expressed concerns and supported the proposals, with some emphasizing the need to evaluate traffic studies and major evacuation routes, as well as respecting the small-town atmosphere of Monument.

Also at the meeting, speakers discussed various aspects of traffic management and infrastructure in Monument's growing community, including the need for a traffic study to address evacuation routes and potential issues with roundabouts. The commissioners reviewed a proposed development plan for Willow Springs Ranch while other commissioners discussed a comprehensive review of mixed-use



Above: Lost Island amusement park vicinity map and site plan. *Maps courtesy of the Town of Monument.*

projects, especially of recent amusement park projects nearby in areas of Colorado Springs. The commissioners discussed proposals for a mixed-use development in a former industrial area and questioned the lack of design guidelines for a mixed-use development in a PUD. The discussion included respecting the need for the Town of Monument to preserve its small-town character feel throughout current growth possibilities.

MONUMENT PC (Cont. on 4)

Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education, May 20

Board approves purchase of property for use in Career and Technical Education programs

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education discussed and approved a contract to purchase a structure at 1200 Synthes Avenue in Monument and the adjoining unimproved lot to create a facility for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming. This concept has been under discussion for over a year.

Currently a small structure near Grace Best Education Center is being used for this purpose.

As proposed, the existing concrete warehouse structure will be reconfigured for this new use. Because there is sufficient electrical capability and compressors are present, the primary design changes will be largely architectural. It was also determined that a second interior level could be added later if needed. The adjoining lot could be used for parking or future expansion.

D38 BOE (Cont. on 6)

Palmer Lake Board of Trustees,
May 9

It's official: no fireworks in Palmer Lake

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans
The Palmer Lake Board of Trustees (PLBOT) met twice in May; on May 9 and on May 30. Since the May 30 meeting was held after this issue of OCN went to press, that meeting will be covered in next month's issue.

At the May 9 meeting, the board considered a special event permit request from Shane Neal, representing Awake the Lake (ATL). The board heard an update on the progress made by the Advisory Committee for the Elephant Rock Vision Plan. Five special event permits were approved.

The meeting was followed by an executive session to receive legal advice on an offer to purchase town land, and a vote was taken following the executive session.

Discussion of Fourth of July event becomes contentious

Neal asked the board to approve a special event permit for the Festival on the Fourth event. He explained ATL had canceled its previous plans for the event, which would have included a fireworks display, because it could not find a volunteer to manage the event. The event he proposed at the board meeting was a scaled-down version, to be held in a controlled area adjacent to the Centennial Park Gazebo on the west side of the lake, that would include alcohol sales, vendors, and music, but no fireworks. Ambulance support, EMT resources, and private security personnel would be provided. Tickets to the event would cost \$20, but food and alcohol would be sold separately, he said. Neal said he expected up to 5,000 people would attend.

After explaining the event requested in the permit application, Neal went on to say ATL considered fireworks central to the event and it proposed holding the event with fireworks. Neal listed three options: the smaller, more controlled event without fireworks he had submitted a permit application for, a larger event with fireworks, or no event at all. He said when ATL canceled the previously planned event there was a lot of push back from the community, all of it in favor of holding an event with fireworks. Meetings were held to see if the event could be revived, and Neal volunteered to plan the event.

Town Administrator Dawn Collins said that she was concerned about the lack of adequate planning, that she wanted to support the ATL event, but the cancellation meant that law enforcement staff from surrounding organizations had re-assigned their staff when the cancellation was announced, and those officers were no longer available to support The Festival on the Fourth.

Jeff Hulsmann, representing ATL, said that events like The Festival on the Fourth were important to the town and the scaled-back version of the event, without fireworks, would fail and would fill the town with angry disappointed attendees.

Trustee Shana Ball said she did not have enough information to decide at the meeting.

Interim Police Chief Adam Lundy said he could support the smaller version of the event but adequate police support for the version with fireworks was not available. He said the event historically has never been safe. Collins said 18 members of the Fire Department would be available to support the event.

Neal asked the board to authorize him to move forward with planning for an event with fireworks and said the board could cancel the event later if its requirements were not met. Resident Susan Miner spoke in favor of this approach. A permit for an event with fireworks was not the issue before the board.

Lundy pointed out again that law enforcement staff from surrounding

PALMER LAKE (Cont. on 2)