

Our Community News

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



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Issue #136 — Volume 12 Number 6 — Saturday, June 2, 2012

Free

Local Events

See pages 35-39 for details of these and many other local events.

Hooked on Palmer Lake Kids' Fishing Derby, Sat., **Jun. 2**, 8 a.m.-noon

Music by the Creek: Conductor Joe's Kids Club, Sat., **Jun. 2**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Annual Summer Safety Fair, Sat., **Jun. 2**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Community Day, Sat., **Jun. 2**, noon-midnight, Pinz Bowling Center.

Concerts in the Park, every Wed, **Jun. 6-Jul. 25** (except **Jul. 4**), 7-9 p.m.

MVEA's 71st Annual Meeting, Thu., **Jun. 7**, 5:30 p.m.

Palmer Lake Art Group's Spring Art Show and Sale Opening Reception, Fri., **Jun. 8**, 5-8 p.m.

Dotsero Concert at TLCA, Sat., **Jun. 9**, doors open 6 p.m. for 7 p.m. show.

Tri-Lakes Cruisers Car Show, Sun., **Jun. 10**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Direction 38! 2012 Summer Series "What is an MLO?" Mon., **Jun. 11**, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Nonprofit Council Seminar: Fundraising 101, Tue., **Jun. 12**, 9 a.m.-noon

Organic Gardening Class, Wed., **Jun. 13**, 7-8p.m.

Tri-Lakes American Legion Post 9-11 Flag Retirement Ceremony, Thu., **Jun. 14** (Flag Day), 8 a.m.

Poetry Night, Fri., **Jun. 15**, 5-8p.m.

Gleneagle Community Garage Sale, Fri.-Sat., **Jun. 15-16**, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Summer Soulstice Community Celebration, Sat., **Jun. 16**, 10a.m.-2p.m.

Palmer Lake Historical Society: Father's Day Ice Cream Social, Sun., **Jun. 17**, 2-4 p.m.

Woodmoor Garage Sale, Fri.-Sat., **Jun. 29-30**, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Music Association performances (TLMA), Fri., **Jun. 29**, 7p.m., Sat., **Jun. 30**, 7p.m., and Sun., **July 1**, 2p.m.

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Above: At Bella Casa during Art Hop May 17, paper sculptor Wilhelmina Steenbergen showed that paper could be used to create a variety of art objects. Steenbergen makes her own cotton and abaca paper and sculpts it in necklaces finished with acrylic and designs on a variety of media. Information on her works is at www.wilhelminasgallery.com. *Photo by David Futey.* Art Hop is held 5-8 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month from May through September. For information, visit www.monumentmerchants.com. See page 32 for more photos.

Tri-Lakes Joint Use Committee, May 8

Looper's nutrients bill killed in State Senate

By Jim Kendrick

On May 8, Monument Sanitation District Manager Mike Wicklund updated the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee (JUC) on the 4-3 party-line vote by the Colorado Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Committee that killed HB12-1161, which called for scientific review of water quality Regulations 85 and 31. The regulations would impose tighter rules regulating nutrients in treated wastewater effluent. The vote came after a very technical three-hour hearing May 3.

Wicklund also updated the JUC on other issues related to near- and long-term requirements that will be mandated by the state Water Quality Control Commission of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and their related

new costs for removing phosphorus and nitrogen compounds from treated effluent.

The Tri-Lakes facility operates as a separate public utility and is jointly owned, in equal one-third shares, by Monument Sanitation District, Palmer Lake Sanitation District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: Dale Smith from Palmer Lake, Lowell Morgan from Monument, and Jim Whitelaw from Woodmoor. Typically, several other district board members and the district managers from each of the three districts also attend JUC meetings.

(Continued on page 7)

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District special board meeting, May 8

Fire district launches investigation

By Bernard L. Minetti

The need for an investigation into "numerous allegations of misconduct" within the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District's fire department triggered a special meeting of the board on May 8. Board President Charlie Pocock announced that this meeting was called to "approve estimated cost and not-to-exceed cost for third-party management review, which may include investigation, analysis, and recommendations" regarding the allegations. He explained that the investigation would "include" the board, the fire chief, and the battalion chiefs.

Board members Bill Ingram and Barbara Kelly were not present at the meeting. About 15 to 20 district fire employees were in attendance.

Pocock did not say who had made the allegations or whom the allegations were against. He did say that he had a meeting that morning, and two or three other meetings, with the three battalion chiefs. It should be noted that Fire Chief Robert Denboske, who Pocock indicated is one of those to be investigated, was on vacation; the action was initiated despite Denboske's absence.

He said there is a list of things that the district would like to know from the investigators and that anyone "will have an equal opportunity to refute or support the allegations, and any misconduct will be corrected according to their recommendations." When Pocock continued, "We estimate that there are probably 15 people who would testify or give interviews to—" he was interrupted by Director John Hildebrandt, who demanded that the board go into executive session because it was dealing with personnel issues. The board voted unanimously to go into executive session.

The executive session lasted about 40 minutes. At the resumption of the open session, the board discussed monetary limits for the "management audit" (meaning, the investigation) and unanimously agreed that the cost should not exceed \$10,000. The board then adjourned.

Mill levy announcement

On the following day, May 9, the district issued a press release—dated April 25—announcing that the board had voted at its regular meeting April 25 to put a 3 mill tax levy increase on the November ballot. Tri-Lakes' homeowners currently pay 8.5 mills, so if the measure passes, that would increase to 11.5 mills. The board made this decision late into the April board meeting (it was not on the agenda and was not announced at the start of the meeting), noting that "expenses have continued to rise."

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