

cast a ballot. Here are two ways to register to vote:

- Register to vote online at www.GoVoteColorado.com
- Register in person at any of the four Clerk & Recorder's Office locations: North Branch—Union Town Center, 8830 N. Union Blvd. (Research Pkwy. and Union Blvd.)

More information about the 2012 Primary and Presidential Elections can be found at <http://car.elpasoco.com/election>. For additional information, contact Alissa Vander Veen at 719-351-9626 or by email at alissavanderveen@elpasoco.com

Get volunteer help for your nonprofit

Due to popular demand, the Lewis-Palmer School District is adding a list of volunteer opportunities to its Youth Activities Directory online. Many students are required to participate in community projects for credit and others are just looking for ways to serve. If your nonprofit has a need for volunteers for a one-time project or an ongoing effort and can use volunteers under age 18, obtain a directory listing form at <http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1101174229838-940/YAS+directory+form.pdf>. Nonprofits may list their volunteer needs in the directory free of charge. For more information, contact Robin Adair, P.O. Box 40, Monument, CO 80132; call 785-4223 or email radair@lewispalmer.org.

Slash-Mulch season is underway

The El Paso County Black Forest Slash and Mulch season is here! Slash (tree and shrub debris; no stumps, roots, weeds, grass, lumber trash, etc.) drop-off ends **Sept. 9**. Mulch pickup ends **Sept. 22** or when mulch runs out. Hours of operation are: Saturdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5-7:30 p.m. The mulch loader schedule is Saturdays only, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. The loader fee is \$4 per bucket, approximately 2 cubic yards. The slash and mulch site is located at the southeast corner of Shoup and Herring Roads in the Black Forest area.

The program is a wildfire mitigation and recycling effort sponsored by El Paso County, co-sponsored by the Colorado Forestry Association and the Black Forest Fire Department, in cooperation with Colorado State Forest Service and the State Board of Land Commissioners. The program's purpose is to teach forest management practices and to encourage residents to clear adequate defensible space surrounding their structures by thinning trees and shrubs to reduce the spread of fire. Spreading

mulch on the forest floor holds moisture, delays the spread of weeds, and provides nutrients to the forest. For more information visit bflash.org or call Ruth Ann Steele 495-3107, Carolyn Brown, 495-3127, Jeff DeWitt, 495-8024, or the county Environmental Division, 520-7878.

Master Gardeners help desk summer hours

Colorado Master Gardeners volunteers are ready to assist you with your lawn and gardening questions Monday-Thursday during the following hours: Monday, 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 1-4 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.; and Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon. If the new hours don't match your schedule, you can call and leave a message any time at 520-7684, or email your questions to CSUmg2@elpasoco.com.

Volunteer drivers needed for seniors transportation service

Mountain Community Transportation for Seniors is a nonprofit, grant-funded organization that provides free transportation to Tri-Lakes seniors 60 years old and over. It is the only transportation service in the Tri-Lakes area to take seniors to medical appointments, the grocery store or pharmacy, the bank, legal appointments, senior lunches, shopping, and to the many activities offered through the senior center and our community. The program is in need of additional volunteer drivers. Volunteers are provided with an orientation after criminal and driving records have been screened. Mileage is reimbursed if volunteers use their own vehicle. The program operates Monday-Thursday and is flexible; volunteers can be involved as much as they choose to be. For more information or to request brochures, email browneyesmlk@hotmail.com or call Mary Ketels, 481-2470, or Faye Brenneman, 481-2527, or leave a message with the dispatcher, 488-0076.

Attention Tri-Lakes residents with medical conditions

If you have a medical condition or a physical disability, please contact Jennifer at Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, 484-0911, to register for emergency assistance if evacuation is required.

Multiple sclerosis support group

A multiple sclerosis (MS) group is forming for the Tri-Lakes and surrounding areas. If interested, please email Susan, susan@cvscorp.com, or visit <http://cvscorp.homeserver.com/ms/>.

Black Forest Animal Sanctuary

needs volunteers

Black Forest Animal Sanctuary was founded in the late 1990s as the Charlotte & Arthur Romero Wildlife Sanctuary, an all-volunteer and not-for-profit 501c3 that helps all animals. The sanctuary is getting dozens of calls and emails every day begging for it to take in unwanted, neglected, and abused horses and other livestock animals, dogs, and cats from the Front Range area. Its goal is to rescue, rehabilitate, and retrain horses and find them permanent loving homes. It is in immediate need of funding for feed and veterinary care and significant shelter improvements to continue its work. To volunteer, adopt an animal, or make a donation, contact 494-0158, bfasfarm@aol.com, or visit www.bfasfarm.org.

Tri-Lakes HAP Senior Center has fun programs!

The Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership Senior Citizens Center is next to the Lewis-Palmer High School Stadium (across from the YMCA) and is open 1-4 p.m., Monday through Friday and earlier for scheduled activities. The facility has a lounge, craft room, game room, and multipurpose room. Programs include pinocle, Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 4 p.m.; Tai Chi for Health, Fridays, 10:30 a.m.; National Mah-jongg, Fridays, 1-4 p.m.; line dancing, first and second Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m.; bridge, second and fourth Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.; tea time, third Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.; bingo, third Wednesday, 12:30-3 p.m.; crafts, third Thursday, 1-3 p.m.; no-cash/no host poker, second and fourth Fridays, 1-4 p.m. Also available at the center are ping-pong, Wii video games, various puzzles and board games, refreshments, a lending library, computers with Internet connections, and an information table. For more information about programs for seniors, visit www.TriLakesSeniors.org.

Senior Beat newsletter—subscribe for free!

Each monthly Senior Beat newsletter is full of information for local seniors, including the daily menu of the senior lunches offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in Monument. It also contains the schedule of the classes and events for the month at the Senior Citizens Center. There are articles and notices of events geared toward senior citizens. To subscribe to the free newsletter, send an email with your name and mailing address to SeniorBeat@TriLakesSeniors.org. Senior Beat can also be viewed online at www.TriLakesHAP.org.

Independence Day Celebration

Based on information from the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce

The Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Monument Hill Kiwanis, and the Palmer Lake Fireworks Committee will present the 2012 Fourth of July Festivities.

The Tri-Lakes area will once again offer an entire day of festivities on the Fourth. The fun begins in downtown Monument at 9:30 a.m. with a children's parade and main parade at 10 a.m. sponsored by the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club. For more information, visit www.MonumentHillKiwanis.org.

Following the parade, the chamber's Annual Street Fair will get underway with over 100 vendor booths lining Second and Washington Streets. Kettle corn, funnel cakes, arts and crafts, and nonprofit vendors are expected. New this year, Limbach Park will feature fun and games in the new kid-friendly area sponsored by local churches. Although bringing pets is discouraged, there will be a pet cooling station and pet first-aid in Limbach Park provided by Angel Service Dogs. Street fair activities continue until 3 p.m. Vendor packets are available on the chamber's website at www.trilakeschamber.com.

To follow up the morning and afternoon events, travel just a few short miles north on Highway 105 to Palmer Lake for its festivities that will culminate with the "Best Small Town" fireworks display over the lake at dusk. More detailed information can be found at www.PalmerLakeFireworks.com.

July 4 Celebration Events

- 7 a.m.**, Pancake Breakfast, St. Peter Church, Monument
- 7:15 a.m.**, Fun Run begins, Palmer Lake Trailhead, Palmer Lake
- 7:30 a.m.**, Parade lineup begins, Old Denver Hwy., Monument
- 8:30 a.m.**, Parade entry judging begins, Monument
- 9:30 a.m.**, Children's parade begins, Monument
- 10 a.m.**, Main parade begins, Monument
- 11 a.m.**, Street fair begins, Monument

Noon-9 p.m., live music, vendors, children's games, tractor pull, hay rides, train rides, and more; Palmer Lake

9:15 p.m., Palmer Lake Fireworks Extravaganza. Tune your radio to 92.9 FM the PEAK to listen to the live broadcast choreographed to the Palmer Lake display.

Ride the Bus—Transportation is sponsored by Kiwanis and Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce. Shuttle buses (District 38 yellow school buses) will shuttle event attendees from parking facilities to Vitamin Cottage 8-10 a.m., July 4. Parking areas are located at Lewis-Palmer High School, Monument Park and Ride, and Palmer Ridge High School. Eating, drinking, or smoking is not allowed. You may bring strollers, coolers, and folding chairs on the bus. A donation of \$1 per person is appreciated to help pay the cost of operating the buses. Return trips noon-2 p.m. No shuttle to Palmer Lake after the parade.

Annual Fun Run—Sponsored by Palmer Lake Elementary PTO. Register online until noon July 3 at www.july4funrun.com. Early packet pickup July 3, 2-5 p.m., at Palmer Lake Elementary School, 115 Upper Glenway. On site registration July 4, 5:30-6:30 a.m. Kids' fun run after the main run. All proceeds go to PLES PTO. Info: www.july4funrun.com.

Pancake Breakfast—Sponsored by St. Peter's Knights of Columbus. 7-10 a.m. Breakfast served with pancakes, eggs, sausage, and juice. \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids. Proceeds go to charity. Coffee is free.

Fourth of July Parade—Sponsored by Monument Hill Kiwanis. Children's parade starts at 9:30 a.m. at Lincoln and Jefferson Streets, main parade begins at 10 a.m. in downtown Monument. Info: www.monumenthillkiwanis.org.

Street Fair July 4—Sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce. Set-up is by 9 a.m. Fair is open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Vendors, food, and craft booths. Info: the chamber, 481-3282 or e-mail info@trilakeschamber.com or visit

www.trilakeschamber.com.

Open House July 4, Monument Community Presbyterian Church, 238 Third Street. Hot dogs and brats, sno cones, drinks, cotton candy, bouncy houses, car show, restrooms. Info: 481-3902, www.mcpcusa.org.

What a Blast—Sponsored by the Palmer Lake Fireworks Committee. Noon July 4. Runs until dusk in downtown Palmer Lake at the lakeside near the ballfield. Vendors, kids games, live music by local bands, and much more! The finale will be the spectacular fireworks display over Palmer Lake! Parking, \$5, admission free. Info: www.palmerlakefireworks.com.

The Best Small Town Fireworks Show in America—Sponsored by the Palmer Lake Fireworks Committee, the show begins at dusk by the lakeside. Tune in to 92.9 at 9 p.m. to hear music choreographed to the fireworks. ■

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