

Flags on Gleneagle Drive



Left: The flags along Gleneagle Drive are a neighborhood tradition started by Terry Galloway in 2000. Terry joined the Gleneagle Sertoma Club in 2003 and suggested the club continue the tradition as a community service. Each year, 16-18 volunteers assemble on the July 3 or 4 and place 400 flags along the 2.5 mile stretch of Gleneagle Drive from Struthers on the south to Baptist Road on the north. *Photos and information provided by Gloria Milhoan.*

MVEA elects three directors

By Kate Wetterer

Three directors were elected to the Mountain View Electric Association's (MVEA) board at the annual meeting on June 7. Joseph D. Martin returned to the board to represent District 1, having served since 1988. Milton L. Mathis will represent District 4, and Barry Springer will represent District 6, having edged out Kelly Means.

The election was conducted via mail-in ballot. Meeting attendees were encouraged to vote for one of the District 6 candidates. These ballots were added to the 3,900 that had been mailed in, and all were counted by volunteers as the meeting was conducted.

President's report

MVEA board President Joe Martin said that:

- The MVEA is not yet certain about 2013 rates. More might be learned at the Lamplighter meetings in the fall. At the moment, the board is advocating a "wait-and-see" approach.
- The U.N. named 2012 the International Year of the Co-Op, and Martin provided a brief description of the co-ops MVEA does business with, including the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Inc., and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp. He also explained the cooperation principles supported by co-ops—*independence, concern, a voluntary approach, emphasis on democracy, and the participatory nature of proceedings.*

New EPA rules will be costly

MVEA General Manager Jim Herron discussed MVEA's reaction to two new EPA rules: the requirement to monitor mercury and "air toxins" and a limit on CO2 emissions. He said the new EPA mercury limit will "limit" the use of coal, impeding the efforts of power plants. Tri-State garners 65 percent of its power from coal. Twenty-four states have already filed legal action against this rule. Tri-State's stance is that the rules are "unachievable," and, therefore, "unlawful." It joined the legal action in April.

Herron said existing plants will be exempt from the CO2 emissions limit. However, it is thought these rules may help bring about the end of the "age of coal." Herron said the EPA does not realize how important coal is to America's energy. The EPA home page for this regulation is www.epa.gov/mats/actions.html. Specific emission limits are at: www.epa.gov/mats/pdfs/proposalfactsheet.pdf.

Attendees were urged to get involved with campaigns for ideal energy service and for opposition to unfavorable rules. They were urged to go to the MVEA website at www.mvea.coop and click on "Our Future, Our Energy" for relevant links or go directly to <https://www.ourenergy.coop/>.

MVEA scholarship awards

\$14,000 worth of scholarship money was awarded in \$1,000 scholarships by MVEA this year; high school juniors applied for a chance to get their name into a "computer-generated lottery system." Garrett Keenan, a

student at Limon High School, was also recognized for an essay contest he won. The prize was an educational trip to Washington, D.C. Margarete Erikson and Paul Costello received mention for winning the chance to attend a camp where students participate in small-scale cooperative businesses, in order to better understand how co-ops function.

For more information on this meeting, see www.mvea.com/annualMeeting.aspx

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Above: Jim Herron, MVEA Chief Executive Officer, addresses the crowd at the annual MVEA meeting, June 7. *Photo by Kate Wetterer.*

Community Garden members want to unite gardeners

By Kate Wetterer

Palmer Lake Community Garden Club members recounted their progress at their second meeting June 11. While the group is still finding its footing, plans have been set in motion to unite the town's gardeners through growing food and to beautify community areas.

None of the garden plots was rented, leaving the space free for community efforts. Each bed has been planted with crops, including a new variety of tiny watermelons. One of the beds has been planted in the "lasagna" style, a method for developing healthy soil that requires less water. This "lasagna"-style bed will be used to educate those interested in utilizing the techniques themselves. The club hopes to "gain momentum" and "grow" together through the coming years—both as an organization and by growing plants.

In a few weeks, bare soil has been replaced by bobbing leaves, delicate and full of life. The raised beds have been described as "communal experiments," nurtured in an effort to teach the community how to make the most of a brief growing period and implement gardening techniques suited to high elevation.

The Community Garden Club is also forming a gardening library at the Palmer Lake Country Store, hoping to include material on a variety of related topics such as

organic and companion gardening, permaculture, pest control, and invasive weeds. A binder has been secured to gather articles and notes pertaining to the group's efforts. These are intended for the use of the community.

A fire truck accidentally ran over one of the club's hoses, and methods to replace or repair the hose were discussed at the meeting. The club also debated what sort of hoses might be most beneficial to their needs in order to plan future purchases and water plants as efficiently as possible, in terms of members' time and water conservation.

Walking tours are being planned so club members can explore and learn about other gardens in the area—these excursions are intended to build community as well as provide teaching examples. Gardening enthusiasts in Palmer Lake have wildly different techniques and results to show off, and the tours are expected to be a good way to learn about methods to improve planting.

Other plans discussed at the meeting included possible club representation at Town Hall's ice cream social on June 17, Fourth of July festivities, and the Chautauqua in August, along with methods to share food grown in the gardens with the community. Ideas are still being debated, but it is certainly a goal of the club that some produce be "given back" to Palmer Lake residents.

Three years ago club members planted around the gazebo by the lake. Now they are planning to add new, "baby" plants to the plots. Some of these plants have already been purchased, but the group is waiting for steady volunteers who will water the "babies" by hand before they put them in the earth.

Much more work must be done to tend the vegetables and herbs in the raised beds, and a suggestion was made that members meet on watering days—Tuesday, Thursday and/or Saturday—to take care of the plants and socialize. By signing up for the community garden email list, Palmer Lake's citizens can be alerted to plans, meetings and other events.

Meetings are planned for the second Monday of each month. The next scheduled meeting is on July 9. There will be an informal discussion about greenhouse techniques on Monday, July 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This meeting will take place at the garden, by the gazebo in front of Town Hall. For information: dwoodhockey@comcast.net or 963-3242.

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June and July library events

Summer reading program is in full swing

By Harriet Halbig

As of June 22, there were 1,743 Tri-Lakes children enrolled in the Dream Big—Read program and 606 teens enrolled in the Own the Night program.

Thanks go to our many teen volunteers for their cheerful attitude and skills. Their enthusiasm contributes a great deal to the atmosphere and smooth operation of the library during this busy time of year.

The Monumental Readers will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 20, to discuss *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book club.

The AARP Mature Safe Driving program will be offered on the afternoon of the 21st from 1 to 5 p.m. This is a refresher driving course for motorists age 50 and older. Graduates may present their course completion certificate to their insurance agent for a discounted premium. Charge for the course is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers. Class size is limited and registration is required.

Events for teens

July's Crafty Teens program is *Light up the Night*. This program is part of the Own the Night theme of the teen summer reading program. Teens 11 and up are invited to

join friends for snacks and decorating light switch plates. Registration is required online or at 488-2370.

Join the Pikes Peak Paranormal Society to learn about unexplained, spooky and mysterious local happenings with Ghosthunters. This program, also part of the Own the Night teen summer reading program, is designed for those 12 and up, with adults also welcome. Registration is encouraged. The program will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 26.

Events for children

The Lego club will meet on Saturday the 21st from 10:30 until noon. We provide the Legos and you bring the