

Our Community News

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



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Issue #161 — Volume 14 Number 7 — Wednesday, July 2, 2014

Free

Local Events

See pages 28-31 for details of these and many other local events.

Monument Concerts in the Park, every Wed. in July, 7-9 p.m.

HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Jul. 9

Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage, Fri., Jul. 11, opening act at 7 p.m.

El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Jul. 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Jul. 12, 10 a.m.-noon

Palmer Lake Historical Society: "Stories you may not have heard," Thu., Jul. 17, 7 p.m.

July 4 Celebration Events - See pages 20 & 31

- 7 a.m. Fun Run begins
- 7-10 a.m. Pancake breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Parade entry judging begins
- 9:30 a.m. Children's parade
- 10 a.m. - noon Main parade
- 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. Street fair,
- 2 p.m. Bull riding
- 3-9 p.m. Band concert and street dance

Ice Cave Creek Trail Building, Sat., Jul. 12, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Museum Anniversary & Membership Appreciation, Sat., Jul. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive, Tue., Jul. 15, 3-7 p.m.

Art Hop, Thu., Jul. 17, 5-8 p.m.

Red Molly Concert at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA), Fri., Jul. 18, 7 p.m.

Meet the Candidates, Mon., Jul. 21, 6-8 p.m.

Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage, Fri., Jul. 25, opening act at 7 p.m. □



Above: The Tri-Lakes Cruisers Car Show, held June 8, is an annual car show that benefits the Tri-Lakes Cares organization. Each year, dozens of classic and collectible cars line up observation by enthusiasts of all ages. With DJ music, food, vendors and more, the Cruisers Car Show has been hosted in historical Monument downtown for the past 12 years. Participation is open to anyone for a small fee. To date, the show has generated \$24,000 for Tri-Lakes Cares. Each participant this year was also offered a complimentary breakfast courtesy of The Coffee Cup. Photo by Arjun Gheewala.

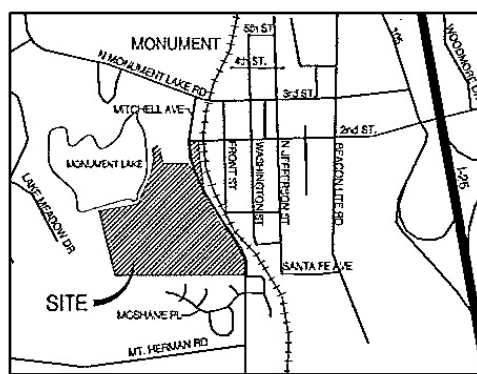
Monument Board of Trustees, June 2

Lake of the Rockies rezone, replat, and final site plan approved

By Jim Kendrick

On June 2, the Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) approved the proposed rezone, preliminary/final plat, and preliminary/final planned development (PD) site plan from landowner BK-LOR LLC of Colorado Springs for the Lake of the Rockies detached single-family residential development. The 60.5-acre property is bordered by Mitchell Avenue to the east, the Monument Lake access road to the north, Monument Lake and open space to the west, and West Oak Ridge Subdivision to the south.

The board also approved a letter of participation with El Paso County for



PD Site Plan



Above: Planned Development (PD) Site Plan for the Lake of the Rockies development presented June 2 by land planner Tim Siebert, owner of NES Inc. Consultant traffic engineer Jeff Hodsdon of LSC Transportation Consultants answered board traffic questions regarding Mitchell Avenue and Second Street near- and long-term traffic as well as emergency evacuation issues. The developer is Century Communities. (www.centurycommunities.com)

Palmer Lake Town Council,
June 12

Recreational marijuana issue sparks conflict

By James Howard

The topic of recreational marijuana sales provoked an angry exchange between lawyer Duncan Bremer and a Palmer Lake resident at the June 12 Town Council meeting. Citizen representative Judith Harrington updated the council on funding for the town's fire mitigation project. The council also moved forward on the sale of the Vaile house, appointed new Planning Commission members, and addressed several items related to local businesses.

Proposed ballot initiative discussion grows heated

Resident Chris Amenson and Bremer, a former El Paso County commissioner, asked for guidance from the council on the process to place an initiative banning retail marijuana sales on the November ballot. The initiative proposed by Amenson would ban such sales for three years and require a vote by residents to reverse the ban. The existing ban put in place by the council could be removed simply by a vote of the council, with no need for the question to go before voters.

After the council clarified the process for initiatives to get on the ballot, another resident who was not identified asked Bremer what impact the initiative would have on tax revenue, if passed. Not hearing a clear answer to his question in Bremer's response, he asked the question a second time, at which point Bremer reacted angrily before conceding that the initiative would take away any possibility the town could receive revenue from retail sales of marijuana. The council took no action on the proposed initiative, because citizens are responsible for it.

At another point in the meeting, Mayor Nikki McDonald apologized to Dino Salvatori, owner of Palmer Lake Wellness, a medical marijuana dispensary, for remarks made by Roads Trustee John Russell at the Town Council workshop session June 5. At that meeting, Russell pointed out, during a discussion of Salvatori's plan for his business, that if a business had complaints made against it, its license would not automatically be renewed, but renewal would require a vote of the council. Following McDonald's statement, Trustee Trisha Flake remarked that no complaints had ever been made concerning Palmer Lake Wellness. For details on the workshop session, see the article on page 16.

Fire fuel mitigation project funding

Harrington reported that Palmer Lake's fire fuel mitigation project will receive \$30,000 from the Coalition for the Up-

(Continued on page 15)

In this issue

July 4th Map and Events 20, 31

Monument News 1-15

Palmer Lake News 1, 15-16

Water & San District News 17-21

Fire District News 21-22

History 22

D-38 News 23

County News 23-24

Letters, Books, Garden, Arts 24-25

Snapshots 25-27

Library 27

Notices and Calendar 28-31

OCN information 16, 31

Circulation

Print Run: 16,600

Mail Delivery: 15,883

Stacks: 717