

sorship information, see <https://tri-lakescares.org/taste-of-tri-lakes-cares/>. See Our Community Calendar Special Events on page 30.

- Betty Konarski of Tri-Lakes Views, the organization responsible for the local art installations around the area, announced there were over 180 applicants to display new art for 2018 on ## of pedestals. The new installations will be at the end of May which includes a celebration. See www.trilakesviews.org/.

Also, this reporter asked the BOT if any announcements concerning the town manager's placement on administrative leave would be made at the May 7 meeting when the town clerk, treasurer, and attorney were reappointed, but neither Corley nor any of the trustees responded.

Proclamations

Three proclamations were made during the meeting:

- April 27 is Arbor Day, started in 1872 as a special day for the planting of trees. Trees in the town

increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify the community. This year's event will be held at 10 a.m. on the north side of the Third Street trailhead. Heritage series apple trees were purchased through a grant from a grower in Montezuma and picked up by Town Gardener Cassie Olgren.

- April 22 marks Earth Day. This is the day we recognize challenges such as environmental degradation, climate change, food and water shortages, and global health issues.
- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Children have a right to thrive, learn, and grow to their full potential and are key to our state's future success, prosperity, and quality of life. The long-term effects of child abuse and neglect are felt by our whole community. Julie Crow, executive director of the El Paso County Department of Human Services, encouraged the BOT to continue to make downtown Monument a safe,

and welcoming place for children and families. Child abuse and neglect is a nationwide problem that is preventable when parents, families, communities, and government work together to advocate for caring and safe environments for all children. In 2017, there were 15,800 reports of child abuse in the county. Just this year, there have been 400 reports.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

The Monument Board of Trustees usually meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. The next meeting is scheduled for May 7. Call 884-8014 or see www.townofmonument.org for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets for BOT or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see <http://monumenttownco.minuteson-demand.com> and click on Board of Trustees.

Allison Robenstein can be reached at allisonrobenstein@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Town Council, April 12

New leadership sworn in

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans

The Palmer Lake Town Council met once in April, on April 12. The main order of business was the swearing in of newly-elected officials and appointed officials, as well as an acknowledgement of departing Trustee and Mayor Pro Tem Rich Kuehster. The council also reviewed the financial statements for March and heard a financial report from the finance officer. The council heard two presentations from residents and continued with its review and revision of town ordinances. As the Palmer Lake Liquor and Marijuana Licensing Authority, the council granted a special event liquor license. Finally, the council returned to its previous schedule for its regular meetings, changing the start time to 6 p.m.

Officials take oath

Town Attorney Maureen Juran administered the oath of office to three appointed officials: Town Administrator Catherine Green-Sinnard, Finance Officer and HR Director Valerie Remington, and Town Clerk Verla Bruner.

Juran also swore in five elected officials: Mayor John Cressman and Trustees Mitch Davis, Gary Faust, Glant Havenar, and Robert Mutu. Cressman, Davis, Havenar and Mutu were all re-elected in April, while Faust was elected for the first time.

Following the swearing-in, Cressman said he was excited to get to work with the new board. He said danger of fire was a challenge facing the town, especially the neighborhood known as the Glen, and developing an evacuation plan was a high priority for his upcoming term. Cressman said he also wanted to close the road that approaches Palmer Lake Reservoir from the west to reduce the risk of fire adjacent to the town's water supply. He said he hoped to hire a zoning officer, to continue to update the town's ordinances, and to complete the bridge over the railroad tracks that would connect the town to the recreational areas surrounding the lake.

After Cressman's remarks, a vote was taken and Trustee Mark Schuler was elected as the new Mayor Pro Tem.

Cressman presented departing Trustee Kuehster with a certificate of appreciation for his service on the Town Council from 2013 to 2018. Kuehster served as mayor pro tem as well during his time on the council.

The meeting temporarily adjourned, and a reception for the appointed and elected officials was held.

March financials show Fire Department spending over its budget

During the discussion of the March financials, Schuler pointed out that the town's Fire Department had spent 56 percent of its budget in the first three months of the year. Remington said that Fire Department salaries changed during that period as a result of regulatory changes. Green-Sinnard added that spending on the Fire Department was also affected by schedule changes that put three full-time people on 72-hour shifts, and by the need to pay for some overtime hours. Green-Sinnard said she would meet with the fire chief to address this issue.

Schuler also asked about \$35,000 spent on dam maintenance, and Green-Sinnard said the money was spent to reface the dam. Davis said the dam was designed to last 100 years and has reached the end of its lifespan.

Finance officer gives council quarterly financial report

Remington reviewed the cash accounts with the



Above: At the April 12 Palmer Lake Town Council meeting, re-elected Mayor John Cressman presents outgoing board member Richard Kuehster with a certificate of appreciation for his years of service on the board and with the Fire Department. From left are Bob Mutu, Rich Kuehster, John Cressman, and Glant Havenar. Photo by James Howald

council and said that as of March 31, the town had just under \$2 million in its deposit accounts. The town has two outstanding loans, she said, both with the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority. The town owes \$1.1 million on the first loan, which was taken out in 2009, and owes an additional \$1.1 million on a loan taken out in 2018 to fund the construction of a second water tank.

Remington told the council she had established new banking relationships and processes intended to protect the town from fraud. Under the new process, she notifies the bank of checks she has written, and the bank pays or rejects checks based on that information. The town will return to the use of direct deposit for employee paychecks, Remington said.

The town's vendors are being reviewed to see if any consolidation is possible and to check for possible fraud, Remington said.

Remington also said the town finances would be audited in May.

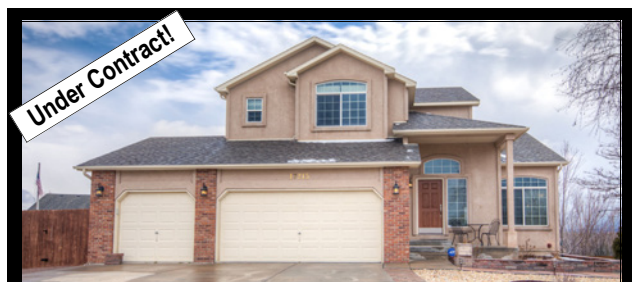
From the perspective of human resources, for which she is also responsible, Remington said she is cleaning up personnel files and reviewing how the town provides worker's comp insurance with an eye toward saving money. Payroll processing is also being outsourced, she said.

Finally, Remington said she is investigating how to offer health insurance to town employees going forward, because that is a requirement for the town to hire good people.

Residents speak about fire preparedness, Fourth of July fireworks

Resident Reid Wiecks told the council that a committee had been formed to address fire preparedness, especially in The Glen. The committee focuses on building fire awareness in the community, Wiecks said, and focuses on properties that need to be mitigated. Working with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, the committee has developed a map of Palmer Lake properties that need mitigation. The committee has also organized a slash drop-off event on May 5 on County Line Road.

Speaking on behalf of the July 4 Fireworks Committee, Jennifer Coopman told the board about a Palmer Lake Glow Run event scheduled for May 12. Students at Palmer Lake Elementary School will de-



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Val Ross-Coy
Broker Associate
(719) 237-8787
vcroy@erashields.com
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