

Palmer Lake Town Council, August 14

# Accusations of police harassment made

By Jackie Burhans

The lengthy Palmer Lake Town Council meeting Aug. 14 focused on a range of topics, including allegations of police harassment and the disposition of the Lucretia Vaile home. Trustees Allen and Banta were not present. Trustees Trish Flake and Jen Martin have switched positions on the council. Martin will focus on economic development while Flake will focus on finance.

### Police harassment complaints

During the public input period, several complaints of police harassment were raised. Jim Adams raised the issues of civil liberties and ethics, saying that, without a town inspector, anybody on the Town Council can do property inspections at any time. He stated that the mayor and the police drove by his property in response to an email request (source unavailable) and that this could lead to a harassment lawsuit by him. He also claimed that the police were harass-

ing Palmer Lake Wellness, a legal business in town. He pointed out that tax revenue from Palmer Lake Wellness contributed to the funding for the Palmer Lake Police department.

Dino Salvatore, owner of Palmer Lake Wellness, noted that he felt he was being targeted by Officer Jim Dale. He said that Dale comes to the business too often and lingers under a pretense of doing his job. Salvatore feels he isn't being treated fairly. He has not asked for special treatment and reports that he has lost customers due to police presence. He stated that Officer Dale has parked in the lot below him and has followed customers when they leave his business.

Trustee Flake noted that she had received an anonymous complaint that Officer Dale called a resident about a dog-at-large fine that was due and told her if she didn't pay quickly, an officer would be at her door to "cuff and stuff" her. Flake noted that she's had several complaints about policing and feels that the town has moved away from community policing and needs a police chief to help resolve these concerns.

Trustee Martin said, "It sounds like we have people feel threatened and we want them to feel they have public protection. It's hindering people's ability to do business; it's hindering the town economically."

### Lucretia Vaile and Cloudcroft Cottage

Jim Sawatzki, a local amateur historian, introduced Miss Lucretia Vaile, a local historical figure portrayed by Cathleen Norman of Palmer Lake. "Miss Vaile" spoke of her family history and her career in library science. After extensive world travels, she retired to Palmer Lake and built a cottage, and founded the histori-

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## LEARN THE TRUTH, GET THE FACTS!

- ✓ No to illegal drugs
- ✓ No to underage drug sales
- ✓ No to drug use among minors
- ✓ No to Town of Palmer Lake receivership
- ✓ No to losing our independence
- ✓ No to higher taxes
- ✓ No to restricting our right to vote for any length of time
- ✓ No to wealthy, special interest groups that don't have a plan for the Town's future
- ✓ No to old propoganda and antiquated studies
- ✓ No to judgment and stigmatization about legal activities
- ✓ No to giving up our water rights to others

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- Yes to a legal and regulated market ✓
- Yes to reducing crime ✓
- Yes to increased home values ✓
- Yes to a sustainable revenue stream ✓
- Yes to boosting Palmer Lake's economy ✓
- Yes to voters' freedom of choice ✓
- Yes to alternative health choices ✓
- Yes to supporting local business ✓
- Yes to re-filling our lake ✓
- Yes to keeping our local fire department ✓
- Yes to creating more jobs ✓
- Yes to real facts using current and modern data ✓
- Yes to what's already legal in Colorado and Palmer Lake ✓

### Vote YES to allow retail marijuana sales and ensure our Town's future!

Come and hear The Great Marijuana Debate, Saturday September 20 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Palmer Lake Town Hall. Pose your questions, present your concerns and learn from the experts!

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