

with specific alterations and that Classic Homes did not intend to alter the number of dwelling units near this citizen's property. The project's previous plat has already been approved with even more dwelling units than this new plat is proposing, along with a height restriction

that would allow for two-story houses. She also said that two-story homes are not significantly taller than ranch-style homes as it is commonly thought, and that the financial effect on adjacent residences is not a factor used to determine whether a project legally warrants ap-

proval.

This plat was unanimously approved for recommendation to the Monument Board of Trustees.

The next Monument Planning Commission meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m.

on Wednesday, July 11, at 645 Beacon Lite Rd. Meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month. Information: 884-8017 or <http://www.townofmonument.org/meetings/>
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PALMER LAKE
(Cont. from page 1)

approve an increase larger than 10 mills. "I'm in favor of keeping it (PLVFD), but it's going to cost a lot more than 10 mills," Banta said. Banta also said Cressman and Mitchell were starting a discussion to understand how much funding would be needed, and that any tax increase would need to go to the voters for approval. "It's not enough to keep it going," Banta said.

Trustee Bob Mutu recalled that he had voted against merging PLVFD with TLMFPD in the past, but that now there should be an effort to see how much it would cost to buy everything PLVFD needs. "Wait until you hear how much it is going to cost," Mutu said,

One attendee, Meredith Bromfield, raised a number of objections against merging the two fire departments. Bromfield said she had served on the committee that worked on the issue in 2015, and that she recalled the tax increase approved by the voters at that time was supposed to fund a paramedic position for the department. Bromfield asked several times how the funds from the 2015 tax increase had been used, clearly suggesting she felt the funds had been misused. She said she felt if the two departments merged, Palmer Lake would be "a stepchild," and that when this was last discussed she felt the Palmer Lake Fire Department was likely to be shut down, leaving the TLMFPD station on Highway 105 as the closest fire station.

Bromfield also said that TLMFPD had increased its mill levies three times recently, and that Palmer Lake taxpayers would need to meet those increases.

Cressman ended the discussion by saying the meeting needed to move on, but that he wanted to be clear that the discussion with TLMFPD would begin soon.

Fourth of July fireworks canceled due to fire danger

The council voted unanimously to cancel the fireworks display planned for the town's Fourth of July celebration, citing the Stage 2 fire alert currently in place for El Paso County. Jennifer Coopman, one of the event's planners, said that the money raised for the 2018 display would be carried over and used next year.

Awake the Lake committee gives update on bridge construction

Jeff Hulsmann, speaking on behalf of the Awake the Lake committee, told the council that the committee had received a bid from a local construction company to build the bridge between the town of Palmer Lake and the Palmer Lake Recreation Area. The bridge over the railroad tracks will provide a safe way for pedestrians to get back and forth between the town and the lake.

Hulsmann said the committee needed about \$555,000 to complete the bridge. Hulsmann said the committee had \$280,000 left from the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant, \$60,000 in the Awake Palmer Lake fund, and a \$50,000 commitment from the town, and that the committee would continue to raise funds with events like the .5K race it has sponsored in the past.

Cressman said the town had received an unsolicited offer to purchase a piece of its land, and he thought the proceeds of the sale might be enough to pay for the bridge's completion. Cressman said the idea to sell the land to pay for the bridge was the idea of Trustee Glant Havenar. "We'll be the laughingstock of North El Paso County if we don't finish this bridge," Cressman said, adding that the project had already received two extensions from GOCO.

Banta again raised his concerns about the aesthetics of using containers to construct the bridge.

Board hears presentations from two county organizations

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) Executive Director Andy Gunning told the board that PPACG's missions were to assist communities with senior care, transportation planning, and long-range planning. He said it was rare to see a representative from Palmer Lake at PPACG meetings, and asked for the town's participation going forward.

Environmental planning concerning air and water quality were also on PPACG's agenda, Dunning said.

Trustee Gary Faust volunteered to be the liaison between PPACG and the town.

The council also heard from Roger Lovell of the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department. Lovell told the council about his organization's adoption of a newly-revised building code that makes no administrative changes, or changes to fees and penalties, but that makes changes to construction methods and requirements. The new code creates consistency across El Paso County, Colorado Springs, Fountain, Monument, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, and Palmer Lake, Lovell said.

The council voted unanimously to accept the updated construction codes.

Town plans more enforcement of municipal codes

Cressman and Police Chief Jason Vanderpool told the council about Vanderpool's efforts to enforce violations of the town's codes relative to trash, abandoned vehicles, and fire hazards on private property in the town. Several properties on Shady Lane, Upper Glenway, and other locations were discussed.

Alleged violations of the town's

lighting ordinances were also discussed. There was general agreement between the council and Vanderpool that this type of violation would receive more attention from the town's police officers.

Correction

In the article on the Palmer Lake Town Council published in the June issue of *Our Community News*, it was incorrectly reported that only Trustee Gary Faust voted in favor of the updated town ordi-

nance governing outdoor fires. In fact, Mayor Cressman and Trustee Davis also voted in favor of updating the ordinance.

The two meetings for July will be at 6 p.m. on July 12 and July 29 at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953.

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Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, June 19

Audit report "clean"; budget session planned

By Jennifer Kaylor

A quorum of the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board met June 19 for a regular meeting. Thomas Sistare of Hoelting and Co. Inc. Certified Public Accountants presented the district's 2017 audit. Directors' financial questions led to plans for a budget work session before the July board meeting. Chief Vinny Burns and Assistant Chief Scott Ridings reported on community involvement and fire station activities that included the board's social gathering with the Tri-Lakes Monument

Fire Protection District board.

Director Joyce Hartung was absent. Legal Counsel Matt Court recommended that the board amend the agenda to include an executive session to receive legal counsel regarding the Gallagher Amendment and a potential November 2018 election. The board approved the amended agenda.

Audit confirms good standing
Sistare reported that, "Financial state-

(Continued on page 9)