

Monument Planning Commission, Oct. 9

# Chicken-keeping permits recommended

By Lisa Hatfield

On Oct. 9, the Monument Planning Commission agreed unanimously to recommend Amendment 6.04.110 to the town code to allow residents of R-1 and R-2 single-family residential zoned areas to apply for a permit to keep chickens for personal use. The Monument Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote on the amendment at its Nov. 4 meeting.

Commissioners David Gwisdalla and John Dick were excused from the meeting. Alternate Commissioner Melissa Wood served as a voting member for this meeting under the recently revised commission bylaws approved by the Board of Trustees on Feb. 4.

Provisions of the recommended amendment include:

- Four hens is the maximum number allowed.
- The coop and run must be behind a six-foot predator-proof solid fence in the rear yard.
- Architecture of coop must be compatible with that of the main house.
- Minimum and maximum size and placement of both runs and coops are specified.
- The permit will cost \$25.

- The director of Development Services can revoke the permit "for cause" at any time.
- No retail sale of chickens or eggs is allowed.
- Renters applying for a permit also need to obtain permission from their landlord.

Planned developments in Monument such as Jackson Creek, Village Center, Promontory Point, and many of the developments along Old Denver Highway still will not be able to keep chickens due to their stricter homeowners association standards and limits on fencing, so Principal Planner Mike Pesicka didn't include those areas in this amendment.

Any residents of the town of Monument who have chickens right now are in violation of the current code on animals and will need to apply for a chicken-keeping permit when and if the Board of Trustees approves the amendment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Monument Town Hall. Meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month.

Information: 884-8017 or [www.townofmonument.org/meetings/](http://www.townofmonument.org/meetings/).

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).



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Palmer Lake Town Council, Oct. 10

# Revenue shortfall threatens budget

By Lisa Hatfield

On Oct. 10, the Palmer Lake Town Council reviewed its budget status, approved purchase of a replacement dump truck, and learned about fuel mitigation options to reduce wildfire risk.

Water Trustee Mike Maddox and Economic Development Trustee Shana Ball were absent from the meeting.

### Revenue falling short of budget

Town accountant Linda Ousnamer told the council that while the departments were operating "within budget," tax revenue was falling below projected amounts. For example, she explained that although the Police Department's expenses to date matched the amount budgeted, these expenses were 111 percent of actual revenue as of Sept. 30. Ousnamer emphasized that the town must continue to be cautious with expenses.

### Committee reports

Mayor Nikki McDonald reported that the Awake the Lake Committee and the Restaurant Association sponsored a haunted hayride on Halloween to raise money for the lake and the park around the lake.

McDonald stated that the Chili Supper to be held on Nov. 30 is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department (PLVFD) and will include the lighting of the Palmer Lake Star, hay rides, a visit from Santa, and raffle prizes. Proceeds go mainly to keeping the star lit, she said.

Parks and Recreation Trustee Mike Patrizi said that the Awake the Lake Committee, John Ramshur, Michael Schuette, and the Pikes Peak Flying Disc Club were building a nine-hole disc golf course on the trail around the lake. Any volunteers who want to work on town projects can write to Patrizi at [parks@palmer-lake.org](mailto:parks@palmer-lake.org).

Police Trustee Bob Grado said the Palmer Lake Police Department accepted two police cars in excellent condition donated by the Monument Police Department. The Palmer Lake department plans to sell some of its old equipment to pay for matching striping for all of the Palmer Lake police vehicles.

Fire Trustee Rich Kuehster said there were 38 calls

in September and 1,918 PLVFD volunteer hours for the month. He welcomed new Assistant Chief Bruce Roman and new probationary member Alex Donnell. The department received a donation of 19 sets of Morning Pride bunker gear from Honeywell employees as thanks to three small local fire departments that helped during the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire. In September, six volunteers attended live burn training, and PLVFD did a prescribed burn to help a resident dispose of a large amount of fuel mitigated from his property. Kuehster encouraged residents to attend the Chili Supper fundraiser on Nov. 30.

Roads Trustee John Russell said repairs due to rain washouts had to be done before the department could get back to programmed work and that the "employees are doing more with less and doing it with pride." Money is budgeted for a replacement dump truck, and the council unanimously approved his motion to purchase a 2001 International dump truck for no more than \$28,500. The town will also keep using its 1987 dump truck a few more years and then sell it.

### Fuel mitigation advocated

Resident Judith Harrington presented ideas about fuel

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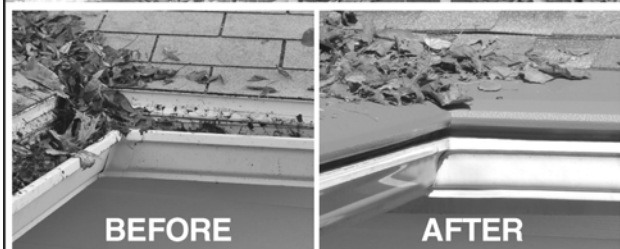
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