



Above: Cathleen Norman, portraying Lucretia Vaile, spoke to the Town Council about Vaile's history and background and asked that it reconsider selling the Cloudcroft cottage she donated to the town. Photo by Jackie Burhans

cal society and an art group.

When she passed away, she donated her cottage "Cloudcroft" to the Palmer Lakes Art Group (PLAG). The facility on Hillside Road and Thompson had been occupied by PLAG for over 45 years. The group has quit its claim to the property and turned it over to the Town Council to sell, with two-thirds of the proceeds to go to the town for cultural events and one-third to PLAG for scholarships for District 38 high school seniors. Miss Vaile (Norman) asked that the Town Council consider keeping the site as an asset for the town to continue her legacy or set aside the proceeds for education and cultural issues in perpetuity.

Meredith "Kit" Bromfield, PLAG president, explained the history of the cottage, the previous decision to sell, and the divisiveness the decision has caused in the group. Cloudcroft was only used by PLAG about half the year due to its hillside location and parking issues. The group now meets at the Mountain Community Mennonite Church at 643 Highway 105.

The town has considered keeping the property under the Parks and Recreation Department but would still owe one-third of the \$150,000 valuation to the group. Trustee Flake asked if the group would be open to installment

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payments, and Bromfield indicated that the group was open to the idea. Flake said the buildings are important assets and suggested using the facility as a park and community garden, which would make it eligible for conservation trust fund monies with utilities paid for from the general fund.

Flake suggested that a visit be coordinated with council members and that a survey be placed on the website to gather community input.

Business licenses approved

New business licenses were unanimously approved for Pampered Pets & Dog Walking, High Mountain Tattoo, U-Haul/Move with a Purpose, and Beau's Culinary Express.

Salvatore requested approval for Palmer Lake Wellness to move to the old Pinz Bowling Alley site. Trustee Rich Kuehster asked about licenses, inspections, and costs to the town. Trustee John Russell clarified that Beau's Culinary Express will be located at the same site, in a food truck, and that there were no zoning problems. Nearby residents who live in unincorporated El Paso County expressed concern that they would not benefit from the tax revenues but might have issues with traffic and noise.

Salvatore indicated that Karen Stuth is heading a communications effort for neighborhood meetings where people can ask questions and get answers. He hopes to have an educational event at the bowling alley and will host a meeting at 9 a.m. Sept. 20 in the Town Hall. The motion to approve the business change of address passed with no dissent.

Chris Bohler, owner of The Villa restaurant, asked permission to hold a disc golf event, The Shawn Dawson Memorial, on Sept. 6 and 7. The restaurant will serve as event headquarters and the event will include multiple courses and live music. There will be an entry fee and sponsored prizes with 50 percent of the profits going to the Shawn Dawson charity and the rest being distributed to the town. Permission was granted by the council.

Committee report highlights

Trustee Martin reported that the Clay Brown, regional

manager for the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), will meet with the council to talk about the Main Street Program that helps towns revitalize downtown districts. The program provides resources, training, and technical services and can assist with funding for a town administrator position. A Main Street 101 presentation by DOLA will be held on Oct. 11 at 10 a.m. in the Town Hall.

Mayor Nikki McDonald reported on water use and noted that, contrary to a story in a local paper, it would not make sense to join with Forest View water district because it has a lot of debt and Palmer Lake is one of the few areas with a local renewable water source. McDonald asked for a vote on resolution 4 of 2014 to re-apply for the Great Outdoors Colorado (www.goco.org/grants) grant. The resolution passed unanimously.

The Palmer Lake Town Council meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. The next meeting will be on Sept. 11. Information: 481-2951 and www.townofpalmerlake.com.

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