

Palmer Lake TC (Cont. from page 1)



Above: Jill Hassman, left, and Maureen Juran are Palmer Lake's new town attorneys. Photo by James Howald.

Mayor thanks Gaddis for his work as town attorney

Mayor Nikki McDonald presented Gaddis with a plaque thanking him for his 37 years as the town's attorney, pointing out that for 20 of those years she had been mayor. In his goodbye to the council, Gaddis said that it had been "a real privilege" to serve the town, and remembered when he had also served as the town attorney for Monument. Gaddis commended the current and previous trustees for their commitment to the town's best interests. Gaddis also introduced his wife, Barbara Gaddis, and his legal assistant of 20 years, Angelika M. Bush, to the council.

New attorneys sworn in

Town Clerk Bob Radosevich swore in Maureen Juran and Jill Hassman of Widner Michow & Cox LLP following a unanimous vote to approve them as the town's new attorneys.

Outgoing Fire Chief Humes thanked

Fire Trustee Rich Kuehster presented Humes with an award of appreciation for



Above: Fire Trustee Rich Kuehster presents outgoing Palmer Lake Fire Chief Margo Humes with an Award of Appreciation. Photo by James Howald.

her time leading the town's Fire Department, and said Humes had raised the department's level of professionalism during her tenure. Humes then gave Trustee for Economic Development Judith Harrington an award for excellence in service to the Fire Department for Harrington's work to earn the town its Firewise certification.

Other volunteers honored

Harrington presented Cindy Powell with an award in the form of a fire hydrant for Powell's work writing grant proposals for the town, fundraising for the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department, and improving the town's fire station. Powell, in turn, thanked Joe Schriener, owner of Rent-A-Honey Handyman Service, for the work he had donated to the town repairing the fire station's bathroom.

Parks and Recreation Trustee Paul Banta thanked the team working to eradicate noxious weeds, and said he would have an award for them at the next Town

Council meeting.

Town to acquire brush truck

During his committee report, Kuehster proposed to the council that the town purchase a used brush truck for sale in Florida for \$55,000. The Fireman's Protective Association had offered the town an interest-free loan for \$20,000 to help purchase the truck, Kuehster said, the loan to be repaid with funds earned by renting the truck to the Forest Service and with revenues from

the recent tax increase. The council voted unanimously to make the purchase.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Jan. 14 at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of the month. Information: 481-2953.

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Monument Board of Trustees, Dec. 10

2016 budget approved; local senior needs gap discussed

By Lisa Hatfield

The Dec. 10 Monument Board of Trustees meeting was rescheduled from Dec. 7 so that a quorum could be reached. At the meeting, the trustees approved the 2016 budget with a brief discussion of updating the Comprehensive Plan. They approved a new Qdoba restaurant and inline retail establishment south of Ent Federal Credit Union and a Verizon cell phone installation on the roof of Tri-Lakes Printing.

They also heard a detailed report about the financial and social impacts of the increasing size and dependency of the senior citizen population in the Tri-Lakes area, with some suggestions for necessary action.

Trustees Kelly Elliott, Jeff Smith, and Becki Tooley were absent.

2016 budget items approved

Town Treasurer Pamela Smith and Town Manager Chris Lowe presented the final 2016 budget, which has been available to the public since Oct. 5. The report noted that total budgeted revenues for 2016 are \$13.65 million, "which is an 8.1 percent increase from 2015 revenue. Total budgeted expenditures for 2016 are \$13.31 million, which is a 30 percent increase in expenses from 2015, however this increase is largely attributable to \$400,000 for the sidewalk project and approximately \$1.4 million in 2A funds that are budgeted, but reserved for projects not yet identified. Finally, full staffing and increased costs for employee benefits ac-

count for the bulk of this increase."

Lowe's report said the budget "identifies and addresses several needs and meets statutory requirements for a balanced budget... This budget does not have major capital improvements (CIP) or projects,

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