

final action. She added that her suggestions for new fees were based in part on what other towns were charging, especially Pueblo, where she had worked on land use issues. What it costs the town to deliver the service also needs to be considered when setting the fee, Green-Sinnard said.

Fees for marijuana-related businesses got special attention in the discussion. Green-Sinnard said that neighboring towns were charging much more than Palmer Lake for marijuana-related business licenses, and recommended that those license fees be raised, perhaps as high as \$10,000 for a new license.

The board did not take action at the March 24 meeting.

**Subdivision approved**

On March 10, the board voted unanimously to allow Ron Reed to subdivide a lot near County Line Road that he had previously purchased from the town.

**Town plans FireWise day**

Harrington reviewed the plans for FireWise day on May 7. A fire mitigation demonstration by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, a noxious weed eradication demonstration, and a presentation on monarch butterfly habitat will run throughout the day. A technical tree climbing and cutting demonstration by Treeman will be ongoing from 1 p.m. at various sites around the town, Harrington said.

Hikes—each limited to five hikers—will also begin at 1 p.m. Three different hikes are planned:

- SWIFT shaded fire break

construction tour—will meet at the end of Rock Ridge Road at Pike National Forest.

- Guided hike to Ice Creek Cave—will meet at reservoir trail head.
- Guided hike from Santa Fe Trail to the proposed Elephant Rock County Park—will meet at Santa Fe trail head.

At the lake, a bring-your-kayak float, women's fly fishing demo and disc golf demo will run concurrently, starting at 1 p.m., according to Harrington.

Harrington asked for volunteers with trucks to assist with slash hauling as part of the day's FireWise activities. She said Air Force Academy cadets will be volunteering to help the town load slash into containers.

Updates on FireWise day events will be published on the town's website (<http://www.townofpalmerlake.com>). Contact Harrington at [judithreginaharrington@gmail.com](mailto:judithreginaharrington@gmail.com) for more details.

**Board hears presentation on protecting the quality of its water**

At the March 10 meeting, Water Trustee Mitchell Davis raised concerns about contamination of the town's reservoirs resulting from recreational uses of the reservoirs and adjacent land.

Following on these concerns, Dylan Trujillo of the Colorado Rural Water Association (CRWA) gave a presentation on

source water protection programs to the board during their March 24 meeting. CRWA is a nonprofit organization that provides technical, non-regulatory support to operators of public water systems.

Trujillo outlined a five-step plan that helps towns form a steering committee, identify the location of their source water resources, identify potential sources of contamination, develop management practices to prevent contamination, and finally document and implement their plan.

Trujillo said \$5,000 grants were available to assist with these efforts. The grants are one-to-one matching grants that can be matched with town funds or with in-kind donations of volunteer work.

The board voted unanimously to begin the grant application process.

**Mayor authorized to sign contract with Colorado Department of Local Affairs**

Last year, Green-Sinnard wrote a grant application to request funds from the Colorado Depart-

ment of Local Affairs (DOLA) to pay 50 percent of the salary for a town manager. On March 24, the board voted to give the town's mayor the authority to complete the contract with DOLA without further action by the board.

**Policy for lighting of Palmer Lake Star discussed**

Green-Sinnard and Town Clerk and Recorder Tara Berreth said there had been some discussion recently about what type of events should be acknowledged by lighting the Palmer Lake Star. In the past, the star has been lit to celebrate Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Veterans Day, and also to commemorate Sept. 11, 2001, Berreth said. The board agreed to write a policy formalizing how and for what reasons the star will be illuminated.

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The two meetings for April will be at 6:30 p.m. on April 14 and April 28 at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at [jameshowald@ocn.me](mailto:jameshowald@ocn.me).

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**Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, March 8**

**Phase 1 construction on schedule**

By Lisa Hatfield

The March 8 meeting of the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) included a construction report on Phase 1 of the total phosphorus (TP) expansion project and an update on progress toward economically and technologically attainable discharge standards.

TLWWTF operates as a separate joint venture public utility and is owned in equal one-third shares by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD).

The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: MSD board Treasurer Don Smith, who is also the JUC president, PLSD Chairman of the Board Mark Bruce, who filled in for PLSD Board Secretary/Treasurer Ken Smith, and WWSD Board Director at Large Rich Strom. Other board and staff members of the three owner districts also attended, including MSD District Manager Mike Wicklund, PLSD District Man-

ager Becky Orcutt, and WWSD Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette. Steven Mulliken, the new general counsel for MSD, visited the meeting.

**Construction report**

Tri-Lakes Facility Manager Bill Burks said that construction on Phase 1 of the TP chemical removal clarifier expansion project was progressing well. Current work included installing plate settlers, chemical sludge pump, flock basin handrails, sludge removal controls, secondary effluent intake piping, and unit heaters.

**Plant and district managers' reports**

Gillette said WWSD was doing routine cleaning of sediment from its north outfall, going from east of I-25 at Highway 105 south to the TLWWTF. Neither Orcutt nor Wicklund had anything to report.

Burks summarized the facility's monthly discharge monitoring report for January, required by the state, and said all sampled parameters were well within permit limits.

Burks also gave a report on his trip to the San Diego Utility Management Conference where

**Community FireWise Event**  
*How to be ready for that wildfire!*

**Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church,  
20256 Hunting Downs Way, Monument**



**Presenters:**

Fire Marshal John Vincent, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire, 10 a.m.  
Dave Root, Colorado State Forest Service, 12 p.m.

**Displays:**

- WIA: How to create "defensible space" around your home
- FireWise lot evaluation signups for residents of the whole Tri-Lakes area
- TLUMC Emergency Preparedness Group
- Ember protection – hands-on models of houses
- El Paso County Emergency Preparedness & Recovery – family evacuation planning & Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)
- FireWise landscaping demo (outside)
- Deck & building materials examples
- Tree contractors for mitigation work
- Insurance information

Sparky the Fire Dog 11 a.m.- noon

Co-hosted by WIA [forestry@woodmoor.org](mailto:forestry@woodmoor.org), 488-2693 x2 **Woodmoor** and TLUMC Emergency Preparedness Group [epg@tlumc.org](mailto:epg@tlumc.org)  
See [www.tlumc.org](http://www.tlumc.org) for directions – between Kings Deer and Highway 83.

