



Mayor's Message

Season's greetings and Happy Holidays!

I hope this message finds you well and looking forward to the holiday season. The current Town Board has been at work for almost one year, and I've intended to provide you updates along the way. There is no better time than now, as we are just completing our annual "budget cycle" and there is a lot to share with you. The Board of Trustees has had a busy year, and I'd like to provide a recap, update you on current happenings, and let you know of a few things you can look forward to in the new year ahead.

A number of highlights include – creation of a resident/business driven Economic Development initiative, spearheaded by Trustee Karen Stuth. Karen has worked hard to bring together volunteers to represent the "four pillars" of our town – Art, Dining, History, and Outdoors – leveraging our resources to help encourage economic development. Another piece of tremendous news is the closing of the 28-acre property on Hwy 105 that was gifted to the town. This is a wonderful gift that provides the town a great opportunity. We are currently seeking feedback from the community for ideas on how to best utilize this asset. If you haven't already, please share your ideas at the following link on the town website:

<https://www.townofpalmerlake.com/administration/page/seeking-town-input-28-acre-property>. The Board plans to hold future workshops to provide a public forum to discuss ideas submitted. Work has progressed on the Town Master/Comprehensive Plan - the Planning Commission hired an experienced consultant to assist with the completion. Every resident will have an opportunity to provide feedback for the Master Plan by completing a survey about the town – please subscribe your email at the following:

<https://www.townofpalmerlake.com/newsletter/subscriptions> to receive town news and

forthcoming details of the community survey. In addition to these items, our Town Hall is in the process of receiving necessary repair and renovation, and we are hopeful the town museum and library are near re-opening after reconstruction of an ADA compliant ramp.

Town staff has done a tremendous job this past year. Employees of all departments show their commitment all year long with their outstanding performance serving our community. Our Town Administrator, Dawn Collins, has worked hard to improve the work environment for the staff while identifying ways to improve efficiency and serve our community better. Our Water Department is completing a re-drill of the Denver well, increasing the capacity to serve the community. We are also working on providing an emergency water source in the event such need arises. Our Public Works Department is working hard to make numerous improvements to roads and parks in town. Our Fire and Police Departments continue to train staff, developing them for increased protection for our community.

As mentioned earlier, we are approaching the end of a budget cycle. Department supervisors, with guidance from Deputy Town Clerk, Julia Stambaugh, have worked diligently to provide what is perhaps the most comprehensive and accurate budget the town has seen in some time. The Board has learned a great deal from the draft budget which has helped us better understand the limitations we currently face in the ability to provide, and improve, much needed services and infrastructure. In our numerous retreats and workshops, the Board has set objectives and determined priorities for issues affecting our town. The Board is committed to identifying new opportunities to fund town operations to allow our town to thrive while improving the services that Palmer Lake residents expect. In the months ahead, the Board will work to identify several options to help create a sustaining revenue plan for future needs. You can look forward to public workshops to share ideas and to provide insight on ways to improve the town's financial plan.

It has been an exciting and productive year for both the Town Board and staff. We all look forward to the year ahead as we work together to keep Palmer Lake the great community that we all know and love. Stay tuned for more updates in the year ahead. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and, along with town staff, I wish you all a safe and very happy holiday season!

Best Wishes,

Mayor Bass

