

of the Masonic Lodge of Monument who were there to commend the public service of police Sgt. Jonathan Hudson. They praised his work relationships, commitment to training, and also his volunteer time as liaison between the department and an officer who was undergoing medical treatment this year. "He is a credit to the Monument Police Department and the law enforcement profession. Thank you for your service and your compassion," they said.

"Getting Ahead" class praised; poverty simulator coming Sept. 27

TLC Executive Director Haley Chapin told the trustees about TLC's "Getting Ahead" class series, which is the only program of its kind in the Pikes Peak region. It is designed to help people living in generational or situational poverty to identify needed resources to help them improve their economic class and set goals in order to become self-sufficient or get back to self-sufficiency.

Chapin said that the "bridges out of poverty" concepts teach that moving to a new economic class means learning the

hidden rules and identifying and utilizing a list of specific resources that are not obvious to the person in poverty. It costs about \$1,000 per person to run the class, but it is an investment in each individual's future self-sufficiency. The people recommended to attend the class are then paid to attend the 12 class sessions. "We are looking to make a life-long change, not a quick fix," Chapin said.

Chapin invited the public to join in at TLC's "Poverty Simulator," on Sept. 27 at 4:30 p.m. in Monument. Anyone who would like to sign up should write to RSVP@Tri-LakesCares.org or call 719-481-4864 x109.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m. It was followed by a workshop for the trustees and members of the public to put forth suggestions on what specific questions should be asked in a request for proposals and scope of work for a multi-year audit of the town's water enterprise fund. This was first brought up on July 18. See www.ocn.me/v16n8.htm#mbot0718

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.



Left: Cindi, a recent graduate of Tri-Lakes Cares' (TLC) "Getting Ahead" class, praised her caseworker at TLC for being "so supportive" and for recommending that she take the class. "I realized I had stumbled across something incredible," she said. "Life had gotten me down, but I certainly did not need to stay there," and this class helped her identify existing resources to help her do just that. Now she will be a co-facilitator of the next "Getting Ahead" class. TLC Executive Director Haley Chapin invited the public to make a donation to sponsor a class participant. She said people are also welcome to join in the TLC "Poverty Simulator" in Monument on Sept. 27 at 4:30 p.m. and should register by writing to RSVP@Tri-LakesCares.org or by calling 719-481-4864 x109. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Monument Planning Commission, Aug. 10

No vote on landscape ordinance changes; trustees to receive mixed opinions

By Kate Pangelinan

As promised, the Aug. 10 Monument Planning Commission meeting primarily saw further discussion of the landscape ordinance changes proposed at the July 13 meeting. If implemented, these changes would decrease the required amount of greenery for Monument's establishments, as well as redefine other landscaping expectations to hopefully use less water.

Vice Chair Kathy Spence led this meeting, as Chairman Ed Delaney was absent. Alternate Commissioner Daniel Rathke was also absent.

Monument has long had concerns about the amount of available water, and it is thought that the current landscape ordinances are untenable. If things continue as they are, there may not be enough water to sustain current and future Monument residents as the years go by.

Back in July, the Planning Commission requested more time to read through the proposals and consider them before being required to make a solid decision. At the Aug. 10 meeting, conversation was mainly focused on the specific proposal to lower the required number of trees that an



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