

This is a greater distance than was planned for, and the longer bridge will require \$74,000 more than anticipated in the original design.

In addition to the complications with the bridge, some surveying work that was to be donated to the project could not be completed as planned, and rainy weather prevented seeding of the south side of the lake as planned. The seeding will happen in the fall, according to Banta.

### Fire chief requests additional funding for Fire Department

Fire Chief Margo Humes reviewed the status of the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department, and announced her intention to put a ballot measure before voters in November that would ask to increase the mill levy residents pay for the department.

According to Humes, the department has grown from 17 volunteers to 45, almost all of whom have some kind of certification. The department recently was inspected by the Insurance Standards Organization (ISO), which improved its rating—a factor in the price of homeowner's insurance policies. The ISO had rated the town a 5 for residences within the hydrant area, and a 9 for residences outside the hydrant area. Humes expects these ratings to go down in the fall, due to the training the staff has completed. Each point these ratings decline translates to

a potential savings of \$100 on the typical insurance bill, Humes said.

A volunteer department still needs money to maintain equipment and facilities, Humes pointed out. The department held a pancake breakfast and a chili supper to raise funds to cover operating costs, and also obtained a grant for \$107,000, which was used to upgrade breathing equipment used in fighting

residential fires. The department also received a grant to purchase radio equipment, and was able to stretch those funds to cover more equipment by purchasing refurbished radios. Humes mentioned another successful grant application that provided \$2,200 for wildfire preparedness, and that Home Depot had agreed to donate paint to repaint the fire station.

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