



## *Mayor's Letter*

April 15, 2019

*Hello Everyone,*

**WATER SYSTEM UPDATE.** Spring is here and Summer is approaching. Unfortunately, last Summer we had mechanical and aquifer related issues which significantly reduced our pumping capacity.



In response, we introduced various water restrictions and throttled back the wells until we could attempt a fix. **Last month we were able to lower our biggest well (#1) by 21 feet.** It is now at the bottom of the screen and cannot be lowered any farther in the aquifer, and now you cannot drill the hole any deeper. There is now 80 feet of water "over-the-top" of the motor at startup and we measured the drawdown to 50 feet after 30 minutes. **Previously we lowered our #2 well by 19 feet to the top of its screen as well.** So, we are at the bottom of the various aquifers for each of our wells - we cannot go any deeper. **Let me be clear, we are not in any danger of running out of water.**

The only remaining option to increase water production is to recondition the wells. At the bottom of the wells the last 100-200 feet has a screen to keep the sand out and allow water in (we are drawing water from the *Paluxy Sands* aquifer). Reconditioning would require us to pull the motors (all 1600 feet of pipe and wiring) and then clean the screen at the bottom of the well, 1700 feet below ground. We would then

back pressure the well, that is, force water backwards through the screen to help clean it. Just like what happens when you backwash your pool. It's not cheap and the well has to be offline for potentially several weeks. Currently our water operator *Patterson Professional Services* is rehabbing a well in Gunner. I will analyze the costs and increase in production from their operation before recommending to council whether we should move forward with the rehab. If we do decide to rehab the wells it will occur in winter when we routinely only operate one well so there will be no effect on service.

**WATER RESTRICTIONS.** As a preventative measure, at the May meeting I will be asking Council to adopt a new **Water Use Policy**, basically a lighter version of water restrictions. Residents with in-ground irrigation systems would be limited to three days a week of watering (even/odd). Rather than a complicated broad array of restrictions, the policy would be simple and target the largest use of our water. **There would be no restrictions on watering by hoses, sprinklers attached to hoses, hand-watering, washing cars and boats, filling pools, watering foundations, etc.** The policy would run from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It does not replace our drought contingency ordinance. I am always hopeful that we will not have the need to declare a water emergency and implement the serious more drastic restrictions. Three days a week for the lawn irrigation is more than enough. Just please take it easy and let's not all go overboard when it really gets hot.

**OVER** ➤

**CONCRETE ROADS.** We are on schedule for the Phase 2 Concrete Road Replacement Project. Town Engineers Kimley-Horn are working on several related tasks. You may have seen new markings



on the streets, these were locations of bore holes for the geotechnical analysis. Contractors were out in the village last week taking samples of the existing road surfaces and the ground under our roads. Our engineers will use the results of the analysis to develop a preliminary road profile design. I have asked Kimley-Horn to present the Geotech results and their preliminary designs at our May meeting.

The next step in the process is the survey work later in the summer. At this time, the surveyors will make hundreds of detailed measurements of every driveway, culvert, sign, and obstacle in or near the roads. It should take about two months to complete the work. Using this data, preliminary drawings will be made, and we will walk the project and make final decisions on concrete placement, drainage, and road elevations.

As the engineers are working on the preliminary designs, the Council will be discussing possible changes to our Thoroughfare master plan. It is obviously very important that we have a plan for all our roads (present and future) before we commit

to laying a lot of very expensive concrete. Phase 2 is the final phase of our road construction - there isn't going to be a Phase 3.

**UPCOMING EVENTS.** **The Easter Egg Hunt** along with laser-tag, games, and photos will be on Saturday April 20th from 10am to noon. Remember, you keep the candy but give us back our high-tech, aerodynamic plastic eggs.

**The 2nd Annual Crawfish Boil** will be Saturday April 27th from 4 to 8 pm. **Sponsored by our own Chris Cox and the gang at Authority Roofing.** There will be games, music and lots of food. Bring a dish or a desert to share. It's a relaxing time to reconnect with friends after our winter hibernation. Stop in anytime, it's an open free-flowing event for everyone. **New this year is a car and motorcycle show** led by Councilman Darrell West. We will be closing a portion of Lakecrest to park the cars. Come and see up-close the old classic cars and maybe a Lamborghini, Ferrari, or my 2003 Ford Explorer.

Everybody Outside ! There's never been a better time to be in Lakewood Village.

**Dr. Mark E. Vargus**  
Mayor

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