



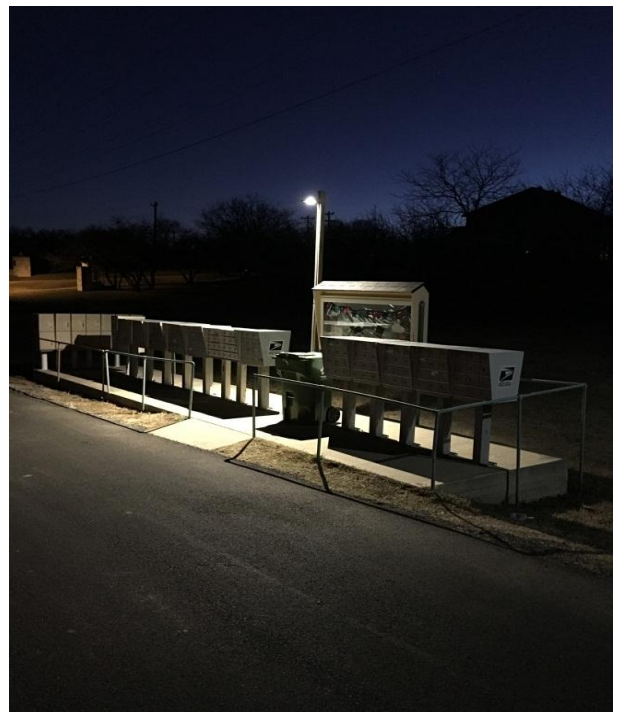
Mayor's Letter

February 15, 2018

Hello Everyone,

DARK SKIES UPDATE. Several months ago Mayor Pro-tem Ed Reed took on the dark skies project. What started out as an investigation into the various requirements necessary for certification as a dark skies community has significantly expanded under Ed's leadership. Ed, working with Sheryl France, created a map with the location and lighting and fixture type of every street light in LWV. After several productive meetings with CoServ, all of the inoperative lights were repaired and several leaning poles were replaced, with more scheduled. You might not know it, but CoServ owns every light pole (including those in the Shores), and every light fixture. We pay a monthly fee for each light, but CoServ is fully responsible for their maintenance and repair. As you might have imagined Ed's research showed that the lights in LWV were a random assortment of colors (white, yellow), types (DD-lights, globes), fixtures (cobra-heads, sodium), and a range of different wattages. In short, a random collection of lights with no coherent pattern or purpose. Early in February, Ed, Sheryl, and myself had a meeting with CoServ personnel to discuss our lighting options as we try and develop a comprehensive lighting plan. It will really make a difference in the feel of the Town. If you would like to participate in the project please contact Ed.

After I first wrote to you about our interest in dark skies, I heard from someone who said they were told we were going to remove all of the lights in the Village. I can't say where that story came from, all I can say, is that it's called **dark skies, not dark ground**. To illustrate the point, we replaced the broken light at the Highridge mailboxes with an IDA dark skies approved fixture. The picture on the left is the mailboxes with the old fixture. **The picture on the right is the new dark skies fixture.** Look at the light diffusion. The dark skies fixture puts out more light with significantly less energy; and it is shielded so the light does not go up or sideways. The pictures are great examples. We're still gathering cost data, but I think the benefits of these new fixtures would fit in nicely with our Lakewood Village quiet country small town feel. Let the other "LV" (Las Vegas) light the sky.



A GREAT EXAMPLE. Prior to our meeting with CoServ, Ed had taken it upon himself to look in detail at our utility bill. We pay a small amount \$5-\$6 for each light depending on their type, and now that Ed had an accurate count he wanted them to double check the bill. Upon Ed's request, prior to our meeting, a CoServ expert went over our bill and examined it. They ran the numbers and found that we could save money at the wastewater plant if we switched our billing type. It's a complicated formula (based on loading and time of day), but CoServ ran a simulation and recalculated our bills from last year to see the effect. **Based on our new rate, the sewer plant electricity cost for last year would have fallen from \$17,642.49 to only \$12,703.26. A savings of almost \$5000 !** It gets better. Due to our efficiency improvements at the plant, we currently turn the blowers off for five hours a day. So, if we shift the "off" time to be during CoServ's peak pricing period (3pm-8pm), we can save significantly more. The new rates have been implemented and I have already changed the timers on the blower motors. Without Ed's initiative and CoServ's extraordinary efforts to evaluate our comprehensive usage, we would never been able to achieve these savings. And after all of that, **Ed did get us the \$5.88 credit** for a pole that we owned and shouldn't have been charged for. On behalf of everyone, thank you Ed.

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS. Currently, Serena Lepley has filed to run for Seat 4. Darrell West has filed to run for **Seat 2**. In an interesting coincidence, Darrell's father Heath West served on the Town Council from 1979 to 1982 in, you guessed it, **Seat 2**. Lastly, I have filed for re-election as Mayor, in Seat 6. Election day in Lakewood Village is Saturday, May 5th

SIMPLE RECYCLING Everyone should have received orange bags for the program. Bags should be placed outside next to your recycling containers (not inside). They are picked up on recycling days only (every other week). **Information is available on the Town website.** Last year, the Town Council unanimously approved Simple Recycling as another opportunity for everyone to divert items from landfills into usable products.

COUNCIL ACTIONS. The Town Council approved two variances for accessory buildings and continued discussions on an audit/finance committee.

KEY FIGURES: Our annual bond payments are due on February 1st each year I made our payment of \$165,271.10 on January 30th. As a comparison to last year,

On February 14, 2017 the Town had \$267,646 in deposits at Point Bank.

Today, February 14, 2018, we have **\$371,649** in the bank.

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

Dr. Mark E. Vargus
Mayor



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