



Mayor's Letter

June 15, 2022

WATER SYSTEM UPDATE. With current temperatures over 100 degrees, it has been a rough start to the summer. Everything is operating as expected, however, our usage has risen so that the wells are running about 13 hours a day. **As part of the water emergency, water rates are significantly higher for usage over 20,000 gallons. More importantly, it is illegal to use over 50,000 gallons** – if you do, you can be cited and fined up to \$2,000 in addition to a very very expensive bill. The good news is that, in the summer, less than 10 percent of you use more than 20,000 gallons. It is up to you to monitor your own usage. For example, when my sprinklers are on, I use about 14 gallons a minute (I timed it on my meter). I have eight zones that run for 11 minutes. So, my irrigation will use $14 \times 8 \times 11 = 1232$ gallons each time I run it. If I run it 8 times a month (Mondays and Thursdays each week), I will use about 10,000 gallons. So, I won't get near the 20,000 gallon threshold.

FROZEN. At our meeting on June 9th, the Town Council voted to adopt a LWV tax freeze for those who are 65 or older. With the LEISD and Denton County taxes already frozen for our seniors, now your tax bills cannot increase, only decrease, no matter what happens to their appraised value. Based on the latest update from the

Appraisal District, Lakewood Village market values are up 36 percent this year. **We were twice as high as any other city last year.** The appraisal district has decided that the land under your houses (not the house itself) in LWV has increased by over 100 percent in two years. Property taxes are ridiculous and the legislature has to step up and solve this problem. We will do our part; we are working hard to payoff our road debt early and eliminate our city tax.

SLOW DOWN. By a wide margin, the most common complaint I receive is that people are speeding through town. The new streets were great when they first went in, but it's time to get back to normal. At my recommendation, the Town Council voted to reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH throughout the town. Based on my observations there are three groups racing through town, (1) adults who live here who know better, (2) teenagers and young adults who should know better, and (3) people that don't live here and are looking for the lake despite the obvious. Let's review.

Golf carts are legal to drive on the streets in LWV, they have just as much right to the road as the cars. We don't have sidewalks; we have bar ditches beside the road. To have sidewalks, you would have to put in large drainage pipes under the road, inlets with grates and curbs. We didn't do that and we aren't ever going to. So, kids are going to ride their bikes, people are going to walk their dog, or their strollers, or simply jog in the street. The speeding needs to stop now. As part of our budget, I will be setting aside money for traffic enforcement. There's no benefit to doing 50 MPH down Melody, Carrie or Highridge and saving a few seconds getting to Eldorado and then sitting there anyway waiting to get out. And in case money is no object, reckless driving in Texas has jail time attached in addition to a big fine. Everybody relax and just slow it down.

Dr. Mark E. Vargus
Mayor

