



## *Mayor's Letter*

February 15, 2020

**ROAD UPDATE.** Last week I approved the final engineering plans and specifications for the new roads. The 100% complete plans were uploaded to CIVCAST and over thirty firms have registered and downloaded the bid documents. On February 17th there is a mandatory pre-bid meeting with Kimley-Horn engineers at LWV for all interested companies. As far as rehab projects go, our project is large which is good economics for us. Most cities only rehab one or two streets at a time - we are doing nine ! I expect the bidding to be very very competitive. **We are on schedule to award the contract at our March 12th meeting.**

**QUESTIONS:** I have been getting lots of questions from many of you. Here are the most common FAQ's.

**1. Is the road going to be in my yard ?** First, let me make sure everyone understands the geography. The new road profile is 24 feet wide (22 feet of concrete and two additional feet of sub-base). In many places the current "road" isn't 24 feet wide, so the new road will be a couple of feet wider than what you see today. In addition, the Town property extends another 18 feet on each side of the street for drainage, for a total of 60 feet of right-of-way (ROW), thirty on each side of the centerline. With the exception of Highridge, the new road should not extend more than one to two feet into your yard.

**2. What about the drainage-ditch ? Are you going to fill them in ?** We have spent a significant amount of time re-designing the drainage system for the entire Town. Almost all ditches will be regraded, some will become flatter, some will be filled in, much of it depends on the height and slope (banking) of the adjacent road.

**3. Which street will be paved first ?** I get asked this a lot. The order of the paving is covered under "means and methods" which is determined by the contractor. Once they decide on the order, we will have final approval, and I will have to sign-off on any changes once we are underway. I can say with a high degree of certainty, **it will not start in front of my house.**

**4. My sprinklers are next to the road. What should I do ?** If your sprinklers are in the right-of-way you must cap and temporarily move them. If they are within three feet of the current road, then the construction equipment will destroy them when they remove the old road. Even if they are a little farther away, we will be reshaping the drainage-ditches, and they will likely be buried or destroyed. Once the construction is complete and the sod along the road is in place you may move them back.

**5. I have a mailbox/tree/driveway pillar/planter next to the street. What should I do ?** We have identified everyone with an obstacle that must be removed. It is included in this mailing. You have three choices: (1) You can notify us and the Town will remove and dispose of the item at no charge; (2) you may pay someone to try and relocate the item out of the ROW and onto your property; (3) you can do nothing and once construction starts, the item will be demolished, removed by the construction company, you will be billed and a lien placed on your property. It is very simple. Under TxDOT design standards there can be no obstacles within ten feet of the pavement. And, obviously, No, you cannot put it back. **No exceptions.**

**6. Where does my property start and the (ROW) right-of-way end ?** You don't need a survey. As a general rule you can simply locate your water meter. We place the meter on the front property line. That way, the water line from the main to your meter is in the ROW, on town property, and it is our responsibility. Your lines on "your side of the meter" are on your property and are your responsibility to maintain. So, you can put anything at or behind your water meter and you will be in good shape.

**Email me your questions. Next month I will answer questions relating to the construction process.**

**OVER** 

## WATER MAINS & FIRE HYDRANTS.



Last week we had a small house fire, with no injuries. Luckily there was a **new fire hydrant** in the middle of the front yard. In 2014 when we started Phase 1 of the road project, we decided to significantly improve our fire safety. Back then, **there were actually more fire hydrants on my street, Carrie Lane then on all of Lakecrest, Hillside, Peninsula, Parkwood and Highridge combined.** A hydrant is easy to install, the problem is that you need a six-inch main or greater. This was a big problem as much of the original part of town had 2 ½ or 3-inch water mains. We undertook a multi-year project to lay and extend new six-inch mains and install fire hydrants so that every house is within 500 feet of one. Over the next month, we will conclude the six-year, \$250,000 project with the installation of hydrants on Peninsula, Parkwood, and Green Meadow.

While this isn't the sexiest or highest visibility project you might expect to see, it was important to us. We have the responsibility to provide our first responders with the right tools and support infrastructure. I want to thank several of our Town Councils who financially supported the effort over the years. Because of the road construction, we have to spend a great amount of time planning for future infrastructure and getting it in the ground before the

concrete gets poured. I am confident we have it all figured out and improvements are already underway.

**RECYCLING.** The world of recycling is changing! As consumers we need to recycle a cleaner stream of paper, plastic, metals and glass. The March bulletin board contains the latest guidelines from Republic Services. Please use these guidelines to help recycling stay effective. You can also visit [www.recyclingsimplified.com](http://www.recyclingsimplified.com) to view a video about the new guidelines.

**LOCAL ELECTIONS.** Our county and statewide elections are underway with party primaries being contested until March 3rd. Early voting runs from February 18 to February 28. **Lakewood Village Town Hall is not a polling place. You cannot vote at Town Hall this year.** The closest early voting locations are the Little Elm Rec Center, the Oak Point Town Hall, and the Copeland Government Center up on US380 in Crossroads. **The race that has the highest importance to our town is the County Commissioner Race.** At our February 13th Council Meeting, Challenger Ryan Williams spoke to the Council, as did a Coleman staff member. I have a responsibility to promote the best interests of our citizens and our great town, however, it's not appropriate for me to use my Mayor letter to do this. So, I will be sending everyone a separate letter with my views. I will spend my own money and write out every envelope. **It's that important.**

March 12th is less than a month away. We've planned for this for over a year. We're ready to get started. There's never been a better time to be in Lakewood Village.

Dr. Mark E. Vargus  
Mayor

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# Items Affected by the Road Project

If you have items in the road or clear zone, they will be removed. Your choices are to have the Town remove and dispose of it at no charge, to pay someone else to move it onto your property, or have the construction company do it and bill you. Obviously, the easiest thing to do is to contact me or Linda and we will take care of it.

		Inside Road or Clear Zone	Drainage Grading Conflict
312 Parkwood Drive	Tree	No	Yes
400 Green Meadow Drive	Tree	Yes	Yes
400 Green Meadow Drive	Barbed Wire Fence	Yes	Yes
400 Green Meadow Drive	Tree (8)	Yes	Yes
100 Highridge Drive	Lights (3)	No	Yes
100 Highridge Drive	Tree	No	Yes
301 Hillside Drive	Wooden Fence	Yes	Yes
301 Hillside Drive	Wooden Gate	Yes	Yes
530 Highridge Drive	Tree (3)	No	Yes
530 Highridge Drive	Trees (6)	No	Yes
530 Highridge Drive	Trees (2)	Yes	Yes
630 Highridge Drive	Tree	No	Yes
750 Highridge Drive	Trees (2)	Yes	Yes
825 Highridge Drive	Concrete Flume	No	Yes
825 Highridge Drive	Driveway Planters	Yes	Yes
870 Highridge Drive	Trees (5)	Yes	Yes
710 Meadow Lake Drive	Tree	No	Yes
835 Meadow Lake Drive	Driveway Planters	Yes	Yes
835 Meadow Lake Drive	Tree	No	Yes
607 Stowe Lane	Brick Mailbox	Yes	Yes
700 Stowe Lane	Driveway Pillars (2)	Yes	Yes
706 Stowe Lane	Brick Mailbox	Yes	Yes
785 Carrie Lane	Brick Mailbox	Yes	Yes
775 Carrie Lane	Brick Mailbox	Yes	Yes
770 Carrie Lane	Brick Mailbox	Yes	Yes
715 Carrie Lane	Tree	No	Yes
700 Carrie Lane	Brick Mailbox	Yes	Yes
804 Carrie Lane	Brick Mailbox	No	Yes
805 Carrie Lane	Trees (7)	No	Yes
807 Carrie Lane	Driveway Pillars	Yes	Yes
826 Carrie Lane	Driveway Pillar	Yes	No
827 Carrie Lane	Brick Mailbox	Yes	Yes
575 Melody Lane	Trees (3)	Yes	Yes