



Mayor's Letter

September 15, 2023

WATER UPDATE Hydro Resources and our engineers have analyzed the pumping data and determined the technical specifications for the final pump, motor, and drive unit. These have been ordered with delivery in about six to eight weeks. Hydro is also obtaining the new 6" column pipe (what transports the water from the bottom of the well to the top) which will be installed in place of the current 4 inch test pipe. **The water emergency will continue until we take final ownership of the well.** As you can see by the generator next to the well, there is still a lot of work to do installing the permanent power and controls. I am hopeful that will happen by the end of the year. Hydro continues to be penalized \$500 per day since failing to meet the May delivery date. That's all we can legally do.

STORAGE TANKS. In order to provide adequate supplies and extra water necessary for fire flow, we need to increase both our production of water (the new well) and the amount of ground storage. Prior to the well collapsing, we had enough water production from the three wells for about 260 "average" houses according to TCEQ rules. **We currently have 260 connections (houses).** But we aren't the average user that TCEQ estimates – we all know the Shores uses a very very large amount of water in the summer. We were okay, because our tall fiberglass storage tanks hold enough water for about 500 houses according to the TCEQ formulas. So, in the summer, the wells ran 20 hours a day, but we were always in good shape because of the storage. That all changed when Well #2 collapsed. Our water production with the two remaining wells is enough for only 170 houses according to TCEQ – which is a real problem when we have 260. Our storage cannot make up for that shortfall. That is why we have been on very severe water restrictions. Twice this summer the 30 foot tall fiberglass tanks ran dry in the evening and I had to shut down the pumps. We didn't run totally out of water because of the emergency supplies we have in the small steel tank. That's why I check every night to see who is watering after 9pm.



THE BID PROCESS IS OPEN. Last week we published the notice for bids on our new 300,000 gallon ground storage tank. To put that in perspective, that one tank is enough for 1500 homes. We will be evaluating several construction options: pre-cast concrete; steel welded tanks; and

"glass" lined tanks, like the picture above. Glass tanks are economically attractive because they don't require subsequent maintenance, while the other options require periodic painting, liner replacement, and corrosion mitigation. We will award the contract at our October Council meeting. Construction should start this winter and be complete by the Spring. Later in 2024, the fiberglass tanks will be moved for our recycled water project. **By next summer, we will have enough production for over 1000 houses and storage for over 1500 homes.** This will be sufficient for the final build-out of the town.

LOOKING AHEAD. Planning is underway for the Halloween Hayride on **Tuesday** October 31st The annual Town Picnic – Chili Cookoff will be the **weekend after Halloween**, so you can unload any remaining candy. **New this year**, we will be setting up exhibits inside Town hall showcasing the new developments. You can come inside to get your desserts and see maps and drawings of the new housing developments and the preliminary designs for our new Town hall. I will be available to answer any questions, (my excuse for hanging around the goodies).

There's never been a better time to invest, live, and raise a family in Lakewood Village.

Dr. Mark E. Vargus, Mayor