



Mayor's Letter

April 15, 2016

ELECTIONS. Democracy is here and we're doubling down with two separate elections. First up is the Lakewood Village sales tax proposition. As I discussed in my previous letter, recently enacted State legislation gave all Texas towns the authority to re-organize how they allocate their sales tax collections. In response, on August 13, 2015, the Town Council voted unanimously to dissolve our Economic Development Corporation. The Town Council now seeks voter approval to shift the sales tax revenues from the EDC to the General Fund (the Town). **Regardless of the outcome, there cannot be an increase in the tax rate.**

On our ballot you will be asked to approve two things:

- (1) to remove the one-half cent sales tax that was collected for the EDC (i.e. 0.5 % → 0 %) ; and
- (2) to add the one-half cent to the Town general use fund (i.e. 1.0 % → 1.5 %)

The Lakewood Village Election dates are:

Early Voting: April 25 – April 30th 8am – 5pm

May 2 – May 3 7am – 7pm

Election Day: May 7th 7am – 7pm

The second election will be the Republican Party runoff election at LWV Town Hall on Tuesday May 24 for one-day only from 7am – 7pm. During the elections and early voting, please be extra careful as you get your mail and use the driveway as the number of people walking around town hall will be significantly increased.

IT WAS WORTH THE WAIT. A lot has happened since March 31, 2004 when LandPlan Development purchased the 77 acres at the front of town. The various concept plans spanned nearly a decade as both good and bad events complicated the development (the toll bridge, Eldorado Parkway, the housing crash and great recession, the Toyota relocation).



On Friday April 15th, I had the honor of receiving the preliminary plat and official submittal of development plans for our newest community. The project will enhance the uniqueness of Lakewood Village and is very complementary to our shared vision of what makes us great. It has been an eventful ride and this event represents the

culmination of a lot of time consuming hard work and commitment by past and present Councils including Mayors Bowers and Schnittker, Mayor Pro-Tem Kenny G., and my current colleagues on the Council, Carl, Clint, Ed, Gary, and Ray.

The project will consist of 49 estate home sites each one acre or larger. Green space dedicated to the Town include areas for the nature trail and park land. New concrete roads will include the construction of a road connecting the town entrance to Stowe, as well as the East-West perimeter road. Currently the submittal is undergoing a technical review by the Town Engineers to evaluate the utilities and road construction designs. This review will be complete in approximately two weeks. **We have scheduled a public hearing on May 12th to allow citizen comment on the project's preliminary design. The proposed development will not require a zoning change.** My goal is to address all regulatory issues and have the project information available to everyone by May 1st.

ON A SOMEWHAT FASTER TRACK, our latest addition to the playground was installed this week. This Spring we made some necessary repairs and added new material to the surface. Next up is more TLC for the equipment including sanding and treating the wood components. We are also looking at possibly adding sun shades to the top of the



equipment. The sorry state of our previous swing set was brought to my attention by the Gang-of-Five, although I suspected the parents were really behind it. Sensing a great opportunity to delegate a task that I knew nothing about, I challenged Serena Lepley to do the research while we would provide the funds. I think you can tell from the picture it has been a great success. **I think this is a great case in point.** With more and more of our time spent with developers beating down our doors, planning and engineering for water and sewer improvements and concrete roads, we sometimes overlook simple things that can really make a difference. Small things are important too, it's not that we don't have the funds, it's just that we don't know about it. Sometimes, things fall through the

cracks as new issues arise and the manpower gets re-directed. So, please let us know if there is something that you think needs fixing, it doesn't have to be a game-changer. Trust me, no one on the Town Council is against replacing the faded pink yield sign, it's just that it's gotten lost in the mix. **Another case in point,** a resident asked me why we didn't clean the dirty, bug encrusted glass on the street lights in the Shores. I've only been driving down Melody, Carrie, and Stowe for 12 years, and I never thought of it, and probably never would have. Little Elm Services performed the cleaning last week as part of their mowing task.

A FEW QUICK NOTES. Our utilities operator has noticed that we are getting a significant amount of rain-water infiltration at the sewer plant. Please make sure that the clean-outs in your yards and at your house are tightly capped, and be careful not to destroy the tops with your mower. Large amounts of rain water in the system can over-run the lift station pumps and be detrimental to the treatment process.

We are continuing to evaluate all possible options for repairing Melody and Carrie Lane including Denton County, piggy-backing on Little Elm's annual road repairs, sending it out to bid, and maybe even waiting for LandPlan to put in roads. We're looking at all the possibilities. We know we have to do something. We will fix it.

The Oak Point PTA cancelled their color run. We hope to welcome them back next year.

Spring is here, it's a great time to be in Lakewood Village

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Vargus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Mark E. Vargus
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