



Mayor's Letter

January 15, 2017

Hello Everyone,

I HOPE EVERYONE IS off to a great 2017. This year holds special significance for our town, as we will celebrate our 40th anniversary this year. The Town of Lakewood Village was incorporated on April 26, 1977. **However, there was quite a bit of drama involved.** Our vote to decide to become a town was scheduled for April 2, 1977. This didn't go un-noticed by our neighbors. Before the vote could happen, both Little Elm and Oak Point raced toward us and annexed property to try to get to LWV before we could become a town. Little Elm extended their city limits over the Little Elm Bridge and annexed as far as they could on March 21, 1977. Fortunately, for us, they couldn't reach us, and only got as far as the northern portion of Sunrise Bay. That's why to this day; the southern part of Sunrise Bay is in our jurisdiction.

THE VOTE TO create the Town of Lakewood Village was held on April 2nd and 90 votes were cast. The results were 52 votes for, 37 votes against, and one blank ballot. **A difference of fifteen votes.** So, you probably never realized that you were only 15 votes away from living in Little Elm. Denton County certified the results on April 11, 1977 and our incorporation was officially recorded on April 26, 1977. I hope to start discussing our plans for an anniversary celebration – we're open to your suggestions.

OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS, I have had several meetings with CoServ regarding their service, as we continue to have problems with some of our motors. We believe that we have isolated the issues and we are working on some design changes to fix the problems at our wastewater plant. During our spirited discussions, CoServ officials informed me that they had noticed an increased frequency of power irregularities at our end of the distribution system. I agreed although my description of their power quality used different adjectives. Let me pass along some information that they provided me. The transmission system consists of those big towers that everyone wishes were in their backyard (just kidding). These are fairly robust – it's really hard for them to fail. The problem is in the distribution system – where the power goes from the transmission towers to the substations and then to the individual poles and lines that we see lining the roads to our homes. **It is these distribution lines that fail** when a kamikaze bird or suicidal squirrel attacks and it is this that results in us losing power.

As you have noticed, we tend to have many short power outages. Although the power comes back quickly, I can't tell you how tired I am of watching my DIRECTV receiver tell me it is "**almost there**" for 26 minutes as it reboots. (Is their satellite in geosynchronous orbit over Jupiter?) Another summer of that and my receiver will likely be fish habitat in the lake. Unfortunately, CoServ doesn't record those types of outages in their primary reporting system since they are solved quickly; **however**, they are recorded on our individual meters. CoServ has agreed to give me the data from my house so I can look at the frequency of the problem and monitor it this year.

Currently, the problem we have is that our substation is on US380, thus the "weak link" starts way up there. And there are a lot of squirrels, birds, butter-fingered construction workers, and texting drivers on FM720 who can take out a transformer between there and LWV. **The good news** is that due to the development on the peninsula, they are extending new transmission lines and building a new substation near Shahan Prairie in Oak Point. Being much closer to us, this should significantly reduce the possible number of failures. In addition, this will provide ample power to meet the needs of our planned future developments.

I HAVE RECEIVED the preliminary draft of our 2017 financial audit. We have received a clean audit opinion for the ninth year in a row. Since I created and implemented our new accounting system following my election, we have received a clean audit opinion each year from 2008-2016. Prior to 2008, the town had an audit performed only once, in 1995, however, that audit failed (the auditor refused to complete the audit engagement) due to no well-defined accounting system and a general lack of verifiable data. Rather than fixing the accounting system, the town simply didn't do any more audits. Without annual independent audits of our financial systems and controls, we could not have issued bonds and borrowed the money for our roads. The auditor will be presenting his latest findings at our February meeting.

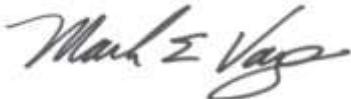
YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED the green recycling cans at the mailbox areas are back. We placed these there to facilitate recycling your junk mail – why take it home when you know you are going to throw it away. Someone asked me why the lids are locked. A colleague of mine and I installed the hinges and locks so that people wouldn't throw their trash in the bins. A couple of years ago when we put the cans at the mailboxes, people put their trash, Whataburger bags, coffee cups and used tissues in the cans. Once, someone even threw a broken printer in the can. So now, you can only put your junk mail in the slot on top, you can't open the lid. When they're full, I drag them to the street. And, obviously, be smart, sensitive materials you discard should be shredded at home. The can is for junk mail, which for me is anything I receive addressed to me in "*Little Elm*". We've been here for forty years; I think that's enough time to get it right.

DEVELOPER ACTIVITY IS CONTINUING. You may have seen rezoning signs along Eldorado as Little Elm is attempting to manage their portion of the corridor. We are monitoring the situation. As I have stated earlier, there are a lot of moving parts in motion all around us. We are on top of it.

THE RAINY SEASON IS HERE. We are continuing to monitor the concrete roads and the effects on our storm-water drainage systems. The new roads are very efficient at moving water, as we all can see. Along with the developer, we have completed significant improvements to the Peninsula/Hillside area replacing the large open inlets with covered pipes and concrete surface drains. We have identified several problem areas including the intersection at Shoreline and Peninsula and the Peninsula Curve, which is holding some water. I have met with our public works people and engineers and we are evaluating our options. We can't fix every problem everywhere at the same time, but we're picking them off one-by-one and I can promise you that when we fix a problem we do it right, and we do it once, permanently.

Remember, spring is just around the corner, if you ignore February. **It's never been a better time to be in Lakewood Village.**

Dr. Mark E. Vargus
Mayor



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