

on the council, I have personally been the recipient of hostility and threats. The next person who feels like that is an appropriate way to behave, I would encourage you to stand up and get involved. It is not until you see things from the other side, that you will truly understand how inappropriate that kind of behavior is. There are so many ways to be involved in this great town: town council, committees, MDD, picking up trash, social events, parks development, etc., etc. GET UP, GET INVOLVED!

I do want to say that one of the truly remarkable things about being involved in small government is that I have found it to be quite apolitical. I honestly don't even know which of my fellow councilmen are more conservative or more liberal. The reason is that IT DOESN'T MATTER! It is always about the individual issues, which are argued on their own merit. Oh, our state and federal governments could take some lessons from small towns.

Finally, I want to talk about Linda Asbell, our godsend of a town manager. She is the glue that holds this town together. She works tirelessly, never complains, and takes on any and all tasks that the council and the townspeople request of her. And yet, I am aware of many times when she has been verbally abused by unhappy townspeople and contractors. Despite that, never have I heard her speak a harsh word, or speak in anger. There should NEVER be an occasion to speak harshly to her, let alone scream and yell. She has this town's best interest at heart and isn't deserving of that. I would encourage everyone to let her know how important she is to the town. She treats Lakewood Village like it is her home, and we should let her know how much we appreciate her.

I realize that this letter hasn't been all sunshine and light, but I felt it was important to let everyone know what your council is about and what they go through. They are doing their best to do what is right for the town as a whole. Unfortunately, that might not always be what we, as individuals, think is in our own best interest. Sometimes, it is necessary to rise above our self-interest and recognize what is better for our community. That doesn't mean that we will all agree on everything. But, we need to be able to discuss things civilly, compromise when we can, and move on when we can't. In addition, we all need to know that the councilmen are people, they are your neighbors. Please treat them as such.

I am incredibly proud of our town, and thankful to be a part of it. It has been an honor to serve.

Carl Menckhoff, MD
Mayor Pro-Tem
Lakewood Village, TX