



Mayor's Letter

June 15, 2020

ROAD UPDATE. This week the concrete paving is set to begin on Stowe Lane and take about two weeks to complete. The rebar and concrete forms are being set-up over the next couple of days. Ed Bell Construction will be placing "door knockers" at each residence affected by the pour. As I have stated previously, you need to make plans to be unable to access your driveway for at least 48 hours. You must find an alternative location to park your car and it cannot be on the street. Stowe Lane will be a one-way street for several weeks as work is being done. It is unlikely that you will encounter another car, but if so, then just pull over into the nearest driveway to let the other car pass. We had the exact same process back in 2014 for Phase 1 and there were no problems. I don't expect any this time.

AT&T Many people have been frustrated with the recent outages, especially since you are working from home. This has nothing to do with the road construction. Construction on Stowe Lane cannot possibly affect AT&T lines on Hillside, Lakecrest, or anywhere other than Stowe. That random AT&T guy has been living at our Town entrance in that switching cabinet for years - their quality issues have nothing to do with our roads.

Several weeks ago, I walked the Shores with our Kimley-Horn engineers and AT&T engineers to evaluate several lines that need to be relocated. Over the years, when repairs were made, the contractors did not put the repaired lines in the utility easement, instead they placed the lines along the edge of the road. Maybe they were afraid of hitting sprinklers, who knows. **That was a bad decision. Now it must be fixed.** From the edge of the roadway, the first 19 feet of grass are the Town's right of way. That land is owned by the Town (you still must mow it). Your property starts at your water meter. **The land between your water meter and the street is for the exclusive use of the Town.** This is where we put our water and sewer lines, fire hydrants, street signs, and drainage inlets, pipes, and ditches. **The commercial utility easement is the first ten feet of your property behind the water meter.** That's where CoServ, AT&T, and Suddenlink must place their equipment. So, if you stand at your water meter and you see CoServ transformers or the AT&T pedestals in front of you, then they are in the wrong place.

From our inspection it was clear that nearly all the AT&T lines are not in the easement. So, rather than move all the lines, AT&T has made the decision to abandon them and start over. **AT&T is going to re-install all the lines in the Shores.** I know your next question. NO, they are not going to install fiber optic - they are going to lay the same old two strand copper wire that they are abandoning. They will not upgrade the service. They will be boring new lines and constructing new pedestals that will be in the utility easement - in your front yards on your property. If they damage your property (hit your water line or sprinkler), they must fix it. The roads will not affect CoServ.

SUDDENLINK Last week I approved Suddenlink's permit to install new high-speed internet in the Shores. Obviously, they are going to have to access the same easement as AT&T, so we need to coordinate their boring along with the road construction. They will begin laying cable this week on Melody Lane and the entire job should take approximately two months. According to my discussions with their engineers, the top speed available should be in the gigabyte range for downloads.

We're working harder than ever to keep moving forward, and our future looks brighter each day. **There's never been a better time to be in Lakewood Village.**

Dr. Mark E. Vargus
Mayor

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