



## *Mayor's Letter*

October 15, 2023

**WATER UPDATE** The current outlook for the well final completion is estimated to be February of 2024, which would be approximately 300 days late. In addition to the \$500 per day in damages we are assessing, we are exploring all of our legal options. The good news is that the well is constructed as designed and we are able to produce over 500 gallons per minute from the Twin Mountains Aquifer. We have performed extensive water tests and the water quality is very similar to what we produce from our existing wells. Some users of the Twin Mountains have to filter the water and run it through chillers because in various places (due to elevation) it comes out hot with significant levels of salts. **Fortunately, we don't have that issue.** Our water is cold and no filtering is necessary.

**Last week I submitted a formal request to TCEQ under Chapter 30 TAC 290.39(i)** for an expedited review and emergency authorization to connect the well to our system and begin official use. This process would give us an exception to use the well as we wait for Hydro to install the electrical, controls, pump, motor, column pipe, concrete pad and fence. In anticipation of this, we have been performing water quality tests over the last month which are required as part of the emergency exception process. I hope to have the official approval later this week. Once we have that, we will terminate the extended water emergency.

**INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS. WWTP.** In the last month we awarded AUC the construction contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant components for \$1,884,700. The total budgeted cost is \$5.2 million, which includes plumbing, equipment, a new lift station and various line and electrical relocations. This project will quadruple the capacity of the WWTP, which will be sufficient for all future construction in the town and ETJ. I will put on my engineering hat and we will act as the general contractor. I expect to save over \$1 million by running the job ourselves. Developers will pay 80 percent of the final cost though capital improvement contributions and future tap fees.

**STORAGE TANKS.** Earlier this month, we also awarded the contact for a new 300,000 gallon ground water storage tank to Aquastore for approximately \$749,000. We will also be the general contractor for this project. The total budgeted costs for this project are \$1,340,300. I expect to be significantly under budget. Through developer agreements and future tap fees, developers will pay approximately 90 percent of the final cost.

**HALLOWEEN HAYRIDE.** Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup>, trailers will be leaving Town Hall promptly at 6pm. We will have 5 trailers with Gary Newsome and his gang leading the procession. As always, golf carts are welcome to join in and tag along. **With bulk trash on November 9<sup>th</sup>, please try and wait before you place items on the street so that we can navigate more easily and better keep an eye on the little ones running everywhere.**

**FALL FESTIVAL AND CHILI COOKOFF.** Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 4pm – 6pm. **Sugar Beet Kitchen** will be preparing pulled pork, shredded chicken, and hotdogs for everyone. **Jumping Jacks Entertainment** will have new inflatables and a GAGA pit. As always face painting and balloon artists will be in the house, as well as lots of interactive games for the kids. If possible bring a dish or dessert to share. New this year, inside Town Hall we will be displaying maps and drawings of the new housing developments along with the preliminary designs for our new Town Hall on Eldorado Parkway and Lakewood Village Elementary. Come out and see our future.

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

**Dr. Mark E. Vargus, Mayor**