



## *Mayor's Letter*

February 15, 2022

**UTILITY UPDATE.** Prior to last weeks severe weather, we had already winterized our utility system and everything operated normally - just like during last year's big freeze. You might not think of it, but it is actually beneficial for you to use some water when we have these freezing events. Our tanks are full and, because the big users are irrigation systems which aren't running, we aren't going to run out of water. So, feel free to do some laundry and wash the dishes, it will keep water running through the system so it will be even more unlikely that anything will freeze (we have heat strips on the fill pipes just in case).

On the subject of weather, you might not know it, but we have a snow and ice removal plan. We treat our roads when there is a multi-day freezing rain and snow event (like last week). We use a special melting compound that is environmentally friendly and will not negatively affect the lake or animal life. **The product is effective to zero degrees** so we apply the treatment at sunrise to maximize its effectiveness. We focus our attention on the intersections, Eldorado entrance, and the hills. We try and keep about 2,000 pounds of the material on hand - this is enough for about 10 days of treatment.

**DEVELOPMENT.** At our recent February 10th meeting, the Town Council unanimously approved the preliminary plat for the Northshore at Lakewood Village development. This project will be the traditional Lakewood Village development where they will sell the lots and the buyers will hire a builder and construct their dream home. **The Town has now approved all three developments:** Northshore, First Texas, and Taylor Morrison (outside the town) to begin engineering and push dirt. Large maps are on the walls at Town Hall if you would like to see the concept plans and lot layouts (they are also on our website). I would be happy to answer any questions at Town Hall if you stop in.

**LEISD.** In May there will be a bond issue election for the school district. **If approved there will be no change in the tax rate. Your tax rate won't go up.** They are proposing to expand the high school and construct three elementary schools. This is all being driven by the explosive growth in our area which you all can see going on around us. Oak Point Elementary is significantly overcrowded and with the five hundred new homes coming here we have no place to put the children. Logically, the first school to be built will be Lakewood Village Elementary (my name not theirs) and open in the Fall of 2024. As I said in the previous Mayor Letter, our new houses will start being occupied in late 2023 or early 2024, so the timing is perfect.

On a personal note. I know there are some of you who don't want a school. **Growing up in Florida,** I loved having my elementary school at the end of my street. It was great. However, high school was a different problem. Florida also had explosive growth, but back in those days, for economic reasons the elderly on fixed incomes wouldn't vote for the bond issues. So, there were no new schools and no new money (my high school didn't even have air conditioning). We were on double sessions with Junior and Senior classes running from 7 am to noon and Freshman and Sophomores from 12:30 to 5:30. **My senior "year" I went to school from 7:00 to 7:55.** We missed out on a lot. We have to do something; we can't kick the can down the road without serious consequences for the children. I will talk more about this topic next month.

**A little snow, then 80 degrees must mean Spring is coming. There's never been a better time to be in Lakewood Village.**

Dr. Mark E. Vargus  
Mayor

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