



Mayor's Letter

February 15, 2023

WELL UPDATE. I signed the official Order to Proceed with the well construction on February 1. Hydro Resources – Mid Continent is officially on the clock and has 120 days to complete the well and have it operational. In our contract there is no exception for weather, so the clock is ticking. We will not go through another summer on emergency water restrictions - they have a hard deadline in June. **There is a lot more to the project than just the well.** The well is across from Town Hall, therefore the "fill" line from the well to the storage tanks must go under Highridge. We have already done that bore and installed a 12" steel water line under the road and tied it into our pressure tanks. We are currently working on the electronics and control systems, including a new emergency generator platform, new power feeds, upsizing transformers, relocating diesel fuel supplies, replacing the old suction lines and installing new service and fire pumps. And that doesn't include any of the new infrastructure to support the new 300,000 gallon storage tank to be manufactured here next fall. It's a very busy time.

Tomorrow we will be running a 24-hour test of the pressure plane connected to our 50,000 gallon steel ground storage tank. The new well will produce 600 gallons per minute or about five times the current production. This is great, however, if we connect the fill line to the existing fiberglass tanks, it will blow the tops off of the tanks. (Think about filling a glass of water with your pressure washer.) We need to significantly increase the size of the air vent stacks on top of the tanks to handle the rapid displacement of air when the water comes in. This will require both fiberglass tanks to be drained and taken offline while we cut into them. During that time we will only be able to run the town on the steel tank, but both wells will be operating. Our typical winter usage is about 40,000 gallons a day, so the 50,000 gallon tank can easily handle the volume. **However, just to be safe, when we take the fiberglass tanks offline in a couple of weeks, we will go to code red for probably two days.** It will be brief, just please be smart and limit your water usage during peak times from 6am to 9am while we make the repairs.

GOOD PLAN, BAD LUCK, GREAT WORK BY OUR CITIZENS. As I told you last month, we were prepared for an ice emergency. We had tons of supplies and the equipment was tested and ready to go. When the ice hit, we fired up the spreader and the spindle split in half. **So much for planning !** However, instead of giving up, I called Councilwoman Serena Lepley and Mayor Pro-tem West and told them to put the word out that we needed help. Soon Dean Schindler, Chris Bissonnette, Sumera Syed, Clint Bushong, Linda, Sam, and even Santa Claus (Danny Cook) joined Serena and Darrell at town hall. The crew managed to fling the snow-melt from the back of pickup trucks and hit the intersections and the hills on Melody and Woodcrest. **As I have said many times, it's easy to do nothing.** But they did a great job and I am so appreciative for them stepping up and getting it done.

The lake is full and Spring break is only about four weeks away. There's never been a better time to be in Lakewood Village.

Dr. Mark E. Vargus
Mayor
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