



## Mayor's Letter July 15, 2022

**WATER SYSTEM IS CRITICAL** Despite the water emergency, usage has more than doubled since June and unless it decreases we are likely to run out of water before the end of the month. Let me see if I can put this in perspective. There are two issues that make the water situation an emergency. One of our deep wells collapsed and was plugged. Add in the aquifer drawdown, and our current water production has been reduced by more than 50 % , so in simple terms **WE DON'T HAVE THE WATER.** I analyzed every resident's winter and summer usage for the last two years and designed a plan that would allow you to water twice a week. So, for example, suppose we can produce 100 gallons a day. I have picked certain streets on specific watering days so that we will use 90 gallons each day. It would be tight but doable. However, you can't use 150 gallons on Monday and 30 on Tuesday. Yes, it is the same total amount, but we only have 100 gallons available on Monday so we would be out of water. **YOU HAVE TO WATER ON YOUR ASSIGNED DAYS.** So, one reason we are failing is people not following the ordinance or cheating and watering on extra days.

**TIMING MATTERS.** Here on Earth, most people go to work in the morning, Over 70 percent of our daily usage occurs between 6 am and 9 am. So, we have several options to make sure the water will be there when you wake up: (1) everyone can quit their jobs and sleep in; (2) everyone can go to work and then come home from work at noon, shower and then go back to work; or (3) **STOP ILLEGALLY WATERING AT NIGHT** and live normally. You cannot water after 9 p.m. so we can fill the tanks for the morning. It is unbelievable to me that when I check the storage tanks at 2 a.m., they have less water than at midnight. **THAT CANNOT HAPPEN.**

**We aren't stupid.** Yes, we all know it is not optimal to water during the heat after 9 a.m. **But that's when the water is available,** you can't use water when there is no water. So, it's very simple, either irrigate during the time we allow or not at all. Because of the cheating at night, we have barely enough water for the morning. The most efficient time to water is irrelevant, **because at those times WE DON'T HAVE THE WATER.**

	Average per House			50,000 Gal Violations
	June Usage	July Usage	Increase	
Stowe Lane	14,197	33,209	134%	<b>6</b>
Melody Lane	14,719	35,766	143%	<b>2</b>
Carrie Lane	13,647	26,419	94%	<b>2</b>
Highridge	9,005	19,070	112%	<b>1</b>
Peninsula	6,645	13,063	97%	<b>1</b>
Lakecrest	7,907	14,433	83%	<b>1</b>
Meadowlake	7,884	15,452	96%	<b>1</b>
Hillside	5,739	11,805	106%	<b>0</b>
Parkwood	6,898	11,495	67%	<b>0</b>
Green Meadow	7,423	14,418	94%	<b>0</b>
Woodcrest	6,116	9,434	54%	<b>0</b>
Shoreline	3,770	5,190	38%	<b>0</b>
OVERALL	2,380,190	4,831,440	103%	<b>14</b>

As you can see, the average water use more than doubled. Yes, I know it is hotter than hell, but here is the thing: **WE DON'T HAVE THE WATER**

We had 14 people use over 50,000 gallons and several were at or over 100,000. It is illegal to use more than 50,000 in an emergency and citations have already gone out. This is unacceptable and will not continue.

Our remaining wells' production is dropping by about 10 percent a month due to the aquifer. If the wells run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, we will produce about 4,500,000 gallons next month. You used 4,831,440 this month, so you do the math.

**NEW WATERING RESTRICTIONS.** Outdoor watering is illegal **BEFORE 9 am and AFTER 9 pm.** You cannot use ANY sprinklers, hoses, or irrigation systems, you cannot hand water, and you cannot fill your pools early in the morning or after dark. The fines will be \$1,000. If you see violations contact town hall and I or Linda will investigate. **If we run out of water, we ALL run out of water.**

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RUN OUT OF WATER ?    Turn the Page →**

**WHEN WE RUN OUT.** If the water level in the tanks drops below three feet the pressure pumps will automatically shut-off, to avoid cavitating and destroying the motors. Just like a balloon losing air, **you will have no water at all.** At that time, we will valve off the entire town – **there will be no water for six to eight hours until we get enough water to restart the pumps.** We will then issue a boil water notice and post on the marquee, mailbox bulletin board and website. Under TCEQ rules you will be required to boil water until we receive lab results which show no contamination. It may take three or four days to get the results. To avoid a repeat occurrence, from that point forward, no irrigation will be permitted until late fall.

**HOW DO WE AVOID IT.** It is very simple, we don't have an option, you must reduce your water use. Stowe, Melody, and Carrie use two thirds of the water in the entire Town. It is critical that the houses in the Shores get their usage down to 30,000 gallons. That's a *limit* of 1,000 gallons a day. If you look at the restrictions that the cities all around Texas are imposing, we are extremely generous. Consistent with that goal we will continue to raise the water rates for usage over 30,000 gallons. We raised the top rates twice since April and that has had little effect on the heavy users, so we will do it again. Note: If you use below 20,000 gallons, your rates are unchanged, they are the same as last year before we had the emergency. We will take additional steps.


**BYE BYE WATER METER.** For some of the heaviest users, financial penalties are not a deterrent. This week we will begin removing their water meters and replacing them with smaller low-flow meters. This will significantly reduce the amount of water that they can use. I will not allow anyone to jeopardize the safety of the Town, no matter how big your bank account.

**ENFORCEMENT.** We will continue to enforce the Emergency Water Ordinance and issue citations. You get one written warning. A second violation gets you a court summons and a meeting with our prosecuting attorney. The first round of court cases is already scheduled for early August. **You are responsible for your own water usage.** Anyone can read their water meter, anytime, any day, by just lifting the lid. If you don't know how, just give us a call at Town Hall and we will have someone read it and tell you. Your usage is entirely up to you.

**WE WILL WATER FOR YOU.** I understand your investment in your lawns. I get it. We don't have restrictions because I want to save the planet, or implement some political agenda. We don't have the water. However, being a small town, we have the opportunity to try unconventional solutions in addition to the traditional penalties and fines. For several weeks we have put in reservations all over the State to rent a water truck. When we eventually get it, **we will go around and water the front yards for you until October.** This has several advantages. First, with me doing the watering, and you reducing your sprinklers and irrigation in the front yard, you save money and I save water. Second, with the ground drying out, the likelihood of water line breaks is much higher. By watering the front, I can reduce the risk of a main break. We had two main breaks just last week that we were very fortunate to catch quickly. I understand the issues and I am willing to help, but you have to help me.

**PROGRESS REPORT ON NEW WELL.** The engineering for the new deep well is continuing. I expect to send the project out to bid in August with construction underway this Fall. The engineers are confident (I ask them every meeting) that the well will be in and operating by late Spring next year. A year from now we will have eight times as much water production and five times the water storage. And, best of all you can water all night long if it makes you happy.

**Times are tough, so it's time to rally. We just have to make it to October. Come on Everybody, we are Lakewood Village, I know we can do this.**



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

(graphic courtesy of Tyler, Texas). This is information if we post a boil water notice. **DO NOT BOIL YOUR WATER UNLESS WE TELL YOU TO.** THIS IS ONLY IF WE RUN OUT OF WATER.



# Boil Water Dos and Don'ts

## DON'T BOIL



Bathing and showering, but don't ingest the water (Boil if you have a weak immune system.)



Laundry



Dishwasher; if rinsing temperature is above 150 degrees

## BOIL



Drinking water



Baby Formula



Water filter



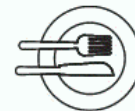
Hand washing



Brushing your teeth



Making ice



Preparing food



For your pets