



NEWSLETTER

Notes From the Mayor

Springtime brings warmer weather and taxes: Most property owners received 2019 tax notices on April 1st from Tarrant Appraisal District (TAD). The new appraisals have most people upset with the increases. **FIRST STEP: PROTEST YOUR TAXES (more further down)**

Understanding your Taxes: When you look at the appraisal notice it is based on last years tax rate each taxing entity. So your “guesstimated” taxes are based on the 2019 TAD appraised value multiplied by the 2018 rates of each taxing entity. The current 2019 rates are developed and approved through a budgeting process that is required to be completed by September 30th of the taxing year. We have all been told that with the recent growth in population, housing is becoming scarce and home prices are rising. Good news if you are selling, bad if you are buying. This number is what impacts appraised value. Every taxpayer should know the definition of the following terms: Roll Back Rate, Effective Tax Rate, Proposed Tax Rate, Appraised Value and Market Value.

Smoke and Mirrors: Everyone across the state that has been affected has protested to their town council, State Representative (House) and State Senator (Senate). In turn the Governor has asked the House and Senate to propose solutions. There have been several solutions offered. 1) House Bill 2 and Senate Bill 2- no entity can raise taxes by more than 2.5% (tax cap) if you have an annual budget of \$15M or more, small cities and school districts were exempt. That was in February: by April, school districts, hospital districts are exempted and all cities and county are included in the 2.5% cap. How well do tax caps work? The City of Houston has a self imposed tax cap. Essential services are falling behind, several hundred firefighters are being laid off. There will be no improvements— no floodwater diversion projects. **LET YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, SENATOR AND THE GOVERNOR KNOW THAT YOU WANT REAL TAX REFORM.**

“RED LIGHT CAMERA” TAX SOFTWARE: Our appraisal district is generally considered to be the **Worst** in the state. In the last few years they have implemented a software based appraisal package that generates your appraised value. When you ask to see the comparable properties to which your property is evaluated, they give you a list of recently sold addresses, but do not provide the details used in the evaluation. This is public information that they are withholding and it is illegal to continue to withhold it when you request it. Additionally, any advise given at the front desk is worse than “no advice”. They will ask you to propose a “new” value for your property without allowing you any analysis time. They intimidate you during the protest process which they are trying to run as a court hearing. This is a one sided negotiation. **ALWAYS, ALWAYS PROTEST YOUR TAXES.** There are several House and Senate bills to reform Appraisal Districts. **LET YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, SENATOR AND THE GOVERNOR KNOW YOU WANT APPRAISAL DISTRICT REFORM.**

Over 65 Facts: The over 65 tax freeze doesn’t exist. Your appraised value is reduced by \$50,000.00. Each year, you will see a 10% increase in your appraised value, until market value and appraised value are equal. This occurs regardless of your age. If you are over 65, you can fill out an affidavit to stop paying your property taxes. This is in effect for the rest of your life. When you die, the property is sold, taxes and interest deducted and the remainder goes to your estate. If you are married and your spouse continues to live at the property, the deferral continues until they die. Look for form 50-126 on the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Key point here is this deferral is not available to folks who have a mortgage. **Watch House Bill—HB380 and HB1745** as these address key portions of Appraisal District reform.

TOWN HALL HOURS
Monday — Friday
7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Bulk Trash Items must be out
by 7AM on 5/15 collection will
conclude on 5/18

MAYOR - Patrick Jacob

COUNCIL MEMBERS

PLACE 1 – Don Pitts

PLACE 2 – Kathy Livingston

PLACE 3 – Wesley Hearn

PLACE 4 – Amy Robinson

PLACE 5 – Bill Mohr

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 9, 2019

City Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Bulk Pickup begins @ 7 AM

Monday, May 27, 2019

Town Hall Closed for

Memorial Day

Friday May 31, 2019

Last Day to Renew

Pet Licenses



7th Annual Senior Synergy Expo Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:30 am—1:30 pm

This will be held at the Will Rogers-Amon G. Carter Jr. Exhibit Hall. Come learn about the services available in Tarrant County that will empower boomers, seniors, and caregivers to live a healthier lifestyle. You can register at www.seniorsynergyexpo.com

Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney Sharon Wilson has published her 2017 Annual report. View the report at <https://tinyurl.com/DA-Annual-Report>

Annual Pet License Renew

Deadline Friday, May 31st

Just a friendly reminder, dogs and cats must be registered annually with the Town. The fee is \$8 per pet. Proof of current Rabies vaccination is required. Registration hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Call 817-237-1234 ext. 307 with questions.



Lakeside Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

Honor the men & women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

May 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
	6	7	8	9 <i>City Council Meeting 6:30 PM</i>	10	11
	13	14 <i>Municipal Court 3:30 & 5 PM</i>	15 <i>Bulk Pickup Items must be out by 7 AM</i>	16	17	18 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	 Town Hall Closed	28	29	30	31 <i>Last Day to Renew Pet License</i>	