

Welcome springtime in Hideaway! It's one of my favorite seasons of the year, especially following my least favorite season, Winter. But Winter did bring us a bit of a something to consider with the ice storm. People remember, and probably have a bit of PTSD from, the Snowmageddon 2021 and people stepped up to help their neighbors and their community. Much better prepared with our readiness, our CERT Team, our four-wheel drive community and our preparations to save infrastructure prior to the event hitting. I saw on social media people reaching out for help and people responding. And it makes us remember that the most important thing about the community is indeed the people who call it home.

The ongoing ONCOR Tree Trimming, power pole and line replacement, is moving along as scheduled. In recent times much improvements have already been made and we saw no outages during the ice storm thankfully. Other than the tree on the west side falling on power lines mid February causing an outage for a short time, we have seen much improvement, and will continue to see improvements over what we had been experiencing.

Since its inception in 1967, the community of Hideaway has undergone changes and growth. From losing the air strip, and the horse trails, the addition of the southeast developments around Ryder Cup area, planned development by the Fair Foundation has always been a part of the community. Recently they have exercised their remaining developments in the agreement with the Club over land swaps and sewer access and other trade-offs. The City has no authority in this area. This is the latest in the history of such agreements between the Club and the developer. It encompassed some development on the East side, down central, and on the far West side, which is in the territory of Lindale. The City received a request to disannex a portion of the Fair Foundation's property adjacent to 849 to receive the sewer services from the city of Lindale, which would then be available to the Clubhouse, Admin building, Golf Area, etc., to help address growing septic tank issues there, among other things. The agreement between the Club and the Developer is outside the purview of the City. The only piece of this the City had was the approval or disapproval of the disannexation request. After much discussion with each other and our city attorney, some negotiation with the developer, and a vote of the aldermen, it was agreed to approve the request for the betterment of the community at large. It was no easy task, and that is why for months prior to the vote, I had been asking the community for their thoughts and feedback through this article, social media, community events and wherever I could find you to ask. The overwhelming responses I personally received was in favor of the deal. As a result of the vote, the developer agreed to a reduction in the Right of Way payments they receive from the city by 15%. So instead of an 80/20 split, the City will now retain 95% of those funds, which we can utilize to help offset the current process of fire protection for our members/residents.

Change isn't easy. It never is. And I am one who doesn't really like change. It can be uncomfortable. But sometimes it can be surprisingly pleasant and beneficial. It often depends on my attitude toward it. I think I will look for the silver lining.

Blessings,

Chet Thomas