

A Letter from Mayor Jones

Fellow Citizens:

Good grief, what interesting times we live in! I could write a treatise on what has happened within our town over the last few weeks, but I will try to keep it to a few salient points.

First, let me reassure you your city hall is open and operational, and your municipal government continues to provide all essential services. Our police department is fully operational, and the city hall lobby is open, allowing you to make utility payments as you have in the past. However, we encourage you to use social distancing, or use the outdoor drop box. *(This is a perfect opportunity to sign up for free automatic pay, whether through your checking account or through a recurring credit card number.)*

The recent heavy rains have caused a myriad of problems, including a sinkhole on Kay Lane and a large sinkhole on the 13th fairway at the golf course. Our expert public works staff has repaired the Kay Lane sinkhole, but it was necessary to bring in an outside contractor for the golf course. This problem was unfortunately created by a poorly-designed and installed water line when the course was reconfigured years ago.

The rains also caused a Fort Worth city sewage system to back up and overflow into the waterfall at Airfield Falls. I have since learned this occurs occasionally during heavy rains. As soon as events normalize, we will be making formal request to the City of Fort Worth and state authorities to require Fort Worth to remove and relocate this overflow valve inside its own city limits.

The recent rains also caused a mud and drainage problem in the 5800 blocks. This is caused by a citywide poor drainage system, and was exacerbated by builders not following our ordinances on silt fencing, allowing mud to drain from the jobsites. As a result, through the fine work of Nader Jeri and Joey Alvarez, 13 stop work orders were issued to builders throughout the city. I am confident these builders now fully understand what we expect in terms of following our ordinances, being good neighbors, and protecting our existing homeowners.

As of now, we are moving ahead with our May 2nd municipal elections. This is an important election, as four of our five council positions are being decided, and three councilmembers not seeking reelection. City secretary Brandy Barrett has worked with the county elections office and we comply with the social distancing requirements. Hopefully those restrictions will be lifted well before then. If you are disabled or 65 or older, you can vote by mail, but the application for ballot by mail must be received by the county by April 20th. I have included an application for this voting option. In addition, we will make our community room a socially-distant compliant early voting location, which starts on April 20th. Of course, more news will be forthcoming on our municipal election.

In that vein, if the current “shelter-in-place” orders are extended beyond the current April 7th deadline, we may be forced to cancel the April 14th candidate introduction luncheon, and the CCPD and P&Z meetings scheduled that evening. If necessary, the city council meeting that evening will be held remotely, with only essential staff and me in the council chambers, and no in-person attendance. If that becomes necessary, we will provide instructions for citizen participation to the extent reasonably possible. We will keep you advised as circumstances change.

If the candidate introduction luncheon scheduled for April 14th is cancelled, we will ask the candidates to make individual video recordings, and we will make all the candidates' recordings available for your review on the city's website.

Please allow me to address the future of garbage collection in our town. This is in the very preliminary stages, it will be months before a decision is made, and there will be at least two public hearings, at which all citizens will be invited to state their preferences.

The city is contemplating *adding* alley collection; we are not contemplating elimination of street collection. Additionally, we are looking at *adding* larger recycle bins. Neither option is available with the current contractor. As I understand the discussions to this point, if we change companies, 1) citizens are not required to have a recycle bin, 2) citizens can choose either a 93-gallon or a 65-gallon trash bin (both on rollers), 3) citizens can choose either a 93-gallon or an 18-gallon recycle bin (similar to recycle bins currently in use), and 4) as currently available, elderly or disabled citizens can request to have the bins moved to and from the curb for their convenience.

Again, we are at very preliminary stages with these plans, and I assure everyone that all of you will have ample opportunity to provide the public safety committee and the city council with your input.

As I close, **I would be miserably remiss if I did not tell you how immensely proud I am of your city staff.** Under brutal circumstances -- *we are operating in a declared disaster, you know* -- and without a city administrator, they are working and operating at an incredibly high level. I am in city hall interacting with our staff daily, and I am in awe of their devotion to our citizens. We have an amazing municipal team here in Westworth Village!

Finally, on a personal note, I want you to know how much I deeply appreciate all your kind words and support. It has been a difficult time, but the city council and I are committed to doing our jobs, and performing at the level you should expect from us. With your support and confidence, and especially through the extraordinary efforts of our exemplary and dedicated city staff, I know we will get you through these difficult times.

As always, please call upon me if I can be of service to you.

Respectfully,



Mayor Kelly Jones

Helping Hands

To the Residents of Westworth Village:

We are working to create a volunteer civic organization to help our citizens—especially our senior citizens—who for physical or financial reasons cannot tend to their homes or yards as they may want to or were once were able.

This is a strictly nonprofit endeavor to provide our community a service we feel is needed in our little town. If you know of anyone who may benefit from our help, or who may be interested in volunteering or donating in ways other than work, we are interested in hearing from you.

This is an aspiring organization, so we welcome any questions, concerns, or suggestions. The best ways to contact us are:

Abraham Elizondo, 817-919-4258
aelizondo63@yahoo.com

Michael Dingman, 817-437-2601
michaeldingman177@gmail.com

911 Telecommunicators Week

National Public Safety Communicators Week is **April 12th—18th**. We rely on their vigilance and preparedness 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to ensure the safety and security of our community. We thank them for all that they do!

Drug Take Back Cancelled

Due to the COVID-19 precautions currently in place throughout the country, the DEA has elected to cancel the National Drug Take Back event, which was scheduled for April 25, 2020.