

Points to Ponder
by Council Woman Nancy Leek,

I have been reading the past Points to Ponder articles I have sent to you. Several things I have talked to you about have been done and some are still in process. There are cars still speeding down Delaware Drive and Kansa Drive. I still think chatter boards would be good on these two streets. I wonder if these drivers are even aware what speed they are doing?

Another thought is about our utility easements. I know most citizens don't realize there is a utility easement on their property. When a water line or sewer line break, remember these lines are on the easements when utility workers come to repair them. Yes, you mow and maintain these easement areas, but you share with the city. As I told you in the February Letter, many citizens have sheds, trees, fences on these easements. "If you have a tree that grows into the power lines it will be cut back or cut down. Our water and wastewater lines are no different. One is in the air; the other is in the ground. Just remember to look and think about it." With the work that needs to be done for the city, easements will become a big factor.

Our lagoon gates are half finished, I have been told this project will be completed by August 19th. As I have said before, nothing moves fast, but progress has been made. Several City Council members and I have attended both Pump and Power Plant and the Smith and Loveless Plant. It was good to see the difference between the two companies. On July 17th, an open meeting was held by Brian Kingsley, of BG Consultants. He talked to the City Council and explained what the procedure and cost would be to our citizens to get our new sewer lift stations and upgrade our lagoons. After this meeting and talking with our Mayor, there will be a TOWN HALL MEETING before the City Council meeting on Monday, August 12th, at 6:00 pm and Brian Kingsley will be back to explain what steps need to be done. He will also have information sheets to hand out. We must act quickly what steps need to be done. Only with the help of all of us will we succeed. Will our wastewater rates increase? Yes, but because we raised our rates in March, the rates we have to be at to get the loan will not be that high. We are currently at \$17.00 per month. We will need to increase our rates to \$26.00 to \$28.00 per month to qualify for the loan for the new sewer lift stations.

In one of my Points to Ponder articles I asked the question about which toilet paper was best for our lagoons? In another point—"If you ever look down at our sewer lift stations and our lagoons, you might think twice about what you put down your

drain.” About a month ago, sewer lift station #3 was so clogged with shop towels, diapers, baby wipes and other such items, Scott had to call a company to come out and unclog/clean the sewer lift station, which was at a sizable expense to the city, (which we all paid for). I know some manufacturers claim their diapers, wipes, etc. are biodegradable, but they are not. If you are in doubt, please dispose of these items in your garbage cans.

REMEMBER; this is our town, our sewer system, this is our water system. We are the ones who keep the city going, and are responsible to keep it beautiful, alive and well. We are responsible for the care of our city and no one else.

Please remember to come to the TOWN HALL MEETING August 12th, at 6:00 pm to understand how your money will be spent for the new sewer lift stations and upgrades to our lagoons.

Thanks, your City Council Member, Nancy Leek