

# NORTH LAKE TEXAS

# Navigator

May 2021

## A Message From Mayor David Rettig

Exciting times continue in Northlake this Spring, 84 percent of the residents



of Northlake voted to ratify the adoption of the town charter during the May election which transitions Northlake to home rule status and converts our

government to a council-manager form of government. Two new councilors joined the expanded seven-person town council, Mr. Bill Moore of Prairie View Farms and Mr. Wes Boyer of Stardust Ranch. Approximately two dozen new appointments were made to four town boards, including the new Board of Adjustments and Planning and Zoning Commission. We are excited to welcome all these new representatives from many different neighborhoods to Town leadership. The new board members bring a wealth of perspectives and skillsets to our town and we're grateful for their future service. Several board members were reconfirmed including the EDC/CDC board presidents who will provide continuity of leadership to those boards.

The present members of Town Council in the first meeting also unanimously promoted Drew Corn, our Town Administrator of 14 years, to Town Manager. The council expressed their appreciation for his leadership, fiscal

management and work ethic. As part of his new role under the charter, he is required to move to Northlake and has begun the process of building a home here. We welcome the Corn family as our new neighbors and look forward to his continued dedicated service. Finally, we also said goodbye to Councilor Danny Simpson who has served Northlake for the last seven terms and did not choose to run again. We're glad he didn't go far however, since he volunteered and was confirmed to the new Planning and Zoning Commission.

Northlake's future continues to arrive in the form of new neighbors. Year to date, we are averaging 100 new homes a month, bringing with them over 300 new residents each month, bringing us closer to 8,000 residents. The Northlake Commons business expansion is imminent with dozens of businesses on the way this summer. New roads are coming all over the town to improve safety and convenience, including the new light at FM 407 and Cleveland Gibbs.



As I conclude my first term as mayor and start a second one, I want to thank residents for their trust in me to lead us forward. It has been a privilege and I look forward to what we will do together in the next few years. ▸

## A Message From Town Manager Drew Corn

On October 1, 2007, my first day of work at Northlake, I remember being asked by a councilor, "How do we know you won't take your experience you gain in Northlake and leave for a larger city in a few years?"

My response was that if Northlake followed its strategic plan, the Town would be a larger city and I could grow with it.



In 2007, Northlake had a population of about 1,500. Now the number of inhabitants is over 7,300 and if you include our service area, we top 11,000.

With the results of the recent election, 84 percent of Northlake residents have approved Northlake's Home Rule Charter. I had the privilege of being a technical resource to the Charter Commission which consisted of 19 dedicated and involved Northlake residents. These individuals came together over six meetings to craft the new charter that was then presented to the voters.

On May 13, 2021, Town Council adopted the charter and at that same meeting voted to make me the first Town Manager. As Manager, I report to Council and implement their policies. The nearest comparison in the business world is a company's board of directors

## Meet Your Northlake Councilors

and the president of the company. The Council is the board but instead of reporting to owners or stockholders, the Council is responsible and responsive to the residents. The Manager is like the company president but instead of focusing on profits, the manager balances: council expectations, resident satisfaction, resource availability, etc.

Having been with Northlake for almost 14 years, I have witnessed the substantial growth and through this growth Northlake, seeks to find the balance. This balancing act preserves large estate lots, ranches, and open space within master-planned communities and the Denton Creek greenbelt. Northlake has continued to balance the residential growth with proportional growth in commercial development to allow the Town to maintain one of the lowest property tax rates in Denton County.

I am proud to have accomplished the mission of Town Council: create and sustain a high quality of life for Northlake residents by respecting our heritage and partnering with the community to provide exceptional services, responsive governance and thoughtfully managed growth. ▸

### What is a Town Charter?

On May 1, 2021, the Town of Northlake voted to adopt a Home Rule Charter. As a town with a population greater than 5,000, the Texas Constitution allows the Town to establish its own rules for municipal government by adopting a Charter. With the vote passing, Northlake will look to its own Charter when deciding issues of structure,

power, duties and authority of its own government. It defines the form of local government and establishes organizational provisions. The citizens determine the necessary controls over their city government such as elections, referendums, initiatives, recall, and define the procedures to amend the Charter. Essentially, the Charter describes and defines local government based on local preferences and controls as opposed to general laws written by the Texas legislature.

A Home Rule city may generally take any action that is not prohibited by the Texas Constitution or statutes as long as the authority is granted in the Charter of the city. Home Rule cities have the full power of self-government and may take any action in the interest of the citizens' health, safety and welfare that is not contrary to the Texas and U.S. Constitutions or federal or state laws. ▸



Rena Hardeman, Place 1



Michael Ganz, Place 2



Brian Montini, Place 3



Roger Sessions, Place 4



Bill Moore, Place 5



Wes Boyer, Place 6

### New Boards and Members

#### Planning and Zoning

Chris Amarante, Kristen Dixon, Aaron Fowler, Michaela Monson, Jeff Nichols, Zolaina Parker and Danny Simpson.

#### Board of Adjustment

Bryan Davenport, Kathy Kliever, Robert Parker, John Stewart and Marc Thompson.

#### Economic Development

Marie Amarante, Brant Deranger, Matthew Garrett, Laura Montini, Hillary Simpson, Ian Waya and Sonya Wooley.

#### Community Development

Tom Dudark, Andy Gibson, Amy Godwin, Traci Honeycutt, Lesley Miley, Kyla Oberg and Gabe Rios. ▸

### Trash and Recycling Services

Beginning in May 2021, the Town of Northlake will take over billing from Waste Connections for trash and recycling services. Billing statements will be included in monthly residential water bills and will reflect charges for trash, recycling, water and sewer. Additionally, monthly rates for garbage and recycling services went down from \$16.23 to \$15.26.

Statements for utility services will be distributed between the 26 and 28 of each month and are due on the 15 of the following month. If the 15 of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, payment is due the following business day.

All billing-related questions (e.g., how much your statement will be, how to make a payment, when is payment due, etc.) can be directed towards the Town via email ([utilitybilling@town.northlake.tx.us](mailto:utilitybilling@town.northlake.tx.us)) or by phone (940-648-3290).

All service-related questions (e.g., to upgrade from a 65 to 95 gallon bin, what items are accepted for pickup, when bulk pickup is, missed pickup, etc.) and scheduling Hazardous Waste pickup can be directed towards Waste Connections via phone (817-222-2221) or their website (<https://www.wasteconnections.com/justin/contact-us>). ▸

