



LA VENTANA DEL LAGO

Volume 44 Number 2

A Newspaper for El Lago

April 2025

2025 City of El Lago Elections

Jeff Tave

The City of El Lago will hold an election this year, the first time since 2021 due to a contested race for City Council Position 1. Voting will occur at City Hall, 411 Tallowood Drive for both early voting and Election Day (Saturday, May 3rd) with relevant dates below. The candidates for this year are:

Mayor: Shawn Findley (incumbent) - uncontested

City Council Position 1: John Ennis, Stephanie M. Clawson, Charles Parette (incumbent) - contested

City Council Position 2: Jeff Michalak (incumbent) - uncontested

Look for Candidate Information Form submittals beginning on Page 3 of this issue.

Abbreviated Election Calendar

April 21, 2025 - First day to vote early by personal appearance

April 22, 2025 - Last day to submit an application for a ballot to be voted by mail or an FPCA from a registered voter. Last day for County Clerk to deliver final list of registered voters that submitted annual ABBM

April 25, 2025 - Due date for filing 2nd report of campaign contributions and expenditures by 5:00 PM or midnight if filed electronically.

April 29, 2025 - Last day for early voting by personal appearance

April 30-May 3 - Deliver early voting materials to EVBB to qualify ballots (Notices must be posted 24 hours preceding delivery)

May 3, 2025 - Election Day: Polls at City Hall open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Deliver early voting ballots to EVBB (second key is delivered by Chief of Police) After 7:00 p.m. prepare unofficial tabulation of results

May 5, 2025 - Provisional ballots delivered to the County Clerk's office

Last day for receiving mail ballots if the delivery envelope arrives before 5 pm and has mark indicating it was placed for delivery at or before 7 pm

(sourced from <https://ellago-tx.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-Election-Calendar.pdf>)

Flood Plain Notice

El Lago Residents, Your property is in or near a flood hazard area, and is subject to flooding. Due to El Lago's proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, the city is especially susceptible to tidal surges from the Bay. Don't wait to get flood insurance. There is a 30-day waiting period before a policy takes effect so contact your insurance agent today. If your home floods, contact City Hall to see if a permit is needed before you make any repairs or improvements to your home.

Citizens can also contact the City's Floodplain Administrator, Bob Kosar, at 281-546-4705 to obtain flood-related information such as Flood Insurance Rate Map flood zone determinations, mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements, floodplain development and permit information, and copies of elevation certificates, as well as site-specific data such as floodway areas, flood depth data, and areas of natural floodplain functions. Copies of such documents are located at 411 Tallowood and are available upon request.

Do your part to help reduce the potential for flooding. Keep debris and trash out of storm drains so water doesn't back up that would increase the flooding risk on nearby buildings, and don't dump in the drains as they lead to Galveston Bay. We cannot eliminate flooding, but we can minimize its effects. Remember – Turn Around, Don't Drown!

[This is a paid announcement by the City of El Lago to guarantee its inclusion in the La Ventana]





From the Editor

Dear Readers –

The City of El Lago's **Saturday May 3rd** election is coming up soon and early voting has started. It's been awhile since we've had a contested election and incumbent **Charles Parette** (City Council Position 1) has two challengers: **John Ennis & Stephanie M. Clawson**. Mayor **Shawn Findley** is running unopposed as is Mayor Pro Tem **Jeff Michalak** (City Council Position 2). Good luck candidates, and thanks to all who have stepped up to serve our city.

Come to a City Council meeting, typically on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7 PM. Pay attention to your government and help ensure elected officials are serving the citizens desires. Do check the calendar on the City's website for any last minute changes. You can also get notifications (email and/or text) by creating a website account and setting your notification preferences (see link on website border). Also, if you haven't already signed up for the BlackboardConnect Notification System for pushed out notices (emergency & other city events), do so here [<http://www.ellago-tx.gov/156/Connect-CTY-Emergency-Notification-Syste>]. It's your government, pay attention & hold it accountable!

If you're on NextDoor, be sure to join the *La Ventana del Lago* group as that's where you'll find issue releases and other miscellaneous tidbits. You don't need an invite; you can join on your own. The *La Ventana del Lago Newspaper* FaceBook Group is operational (access via individual request). To join, send a request to the FaceBook Group: *La Ventana del Lago Newspaper*. You will be admitted on a temporary basis, and a request for you to complete the subscription form (on the Group page). Please complete the form (basic contact info and survey) and send it to laventana@earthlink.net within two weeks. Do note that all info collected will be for *La Ventana* use only and not disseminated in any other way. Once your completed subscription form has been received & confirmed, your request to join the Newspaper group on a permanent basis will be approved. Non-submittal of the completed form will lead to the suspension of your temporary access.

The latest issue of the *La Ventana* is available for electronic download at our website <http://lavanadellago.org/lvweb.html>. The file is in pdf format (you will need Acrobat Reader, a free utility already installed on most computers). Just click on the "Current Issue" button and the file will be downloaded (or displayed if you have an Acrobat Reader plug-in installed in your web browser application). A link to the *La Ventana* location has also been provided on the City's website <www.ellago-tx.com>, via a text link at the bottom of the home page in the QuickLinks section.

By the way, if you ever have any issues with the delivery of your paper, whether it be late, lost, found in the gutter, etc., please be sure to contact our **Circulation Coordinator, Jeff Tave**. We are only able to correct problems if we are aware of them.

Please support your community newspaper! How? Volunteer some time to write an article or two. **We're in need of general reporters** to cover miscellaneous El Lago and community activities. Another way is to give us some feedback. What do you like? What are some suggestions for improvement? This is your paper; help us satisfy your needs. Thanks for reading ...

Jeff Tave



Typically published monthly by the first Saturday

EDITOR & OPS MANAGER: GENERAL REPORTERS:
Jeff Tave (281-326-5098) Jeff Tave, Donna Ward
email: jefftave@earthlink.net

ADVERTISING/FLYERS: LAYOUT & DESIGN:
Jeff Tave (281-326-5098) Laurie Fuller (281-513-4833)
email: llmishome@gmail.com

CIRCULATION:
Jeff Tave (281-326-5098)

CONTRIBUTORS: Jeannie Kubricht, Sabrina Herod, Chris Henrichs, Heather Millar, Wendy Perez, Sara Prekosovich.

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Article Deadlines		
Issue	To Editor	Earliest La Ventana Delivery
May	April 27	May 10
June	May 31	June 7
July	June 30	July 11

ADVERTISING POLICY

La Ventana will accept personal ads from City teenagers for lost and found items at no charge. Commercial ads must be camera ready or an additional charge will be added to the prices below:

Business card ad (3 1/2" X 2").....\$46
1/8 page (3 1/2 X 2 1/2")\$53
1/4 page (3 1/2" X 5").....\$58
1/2 page (7 1/2" X 5").....\$72
1/2 page (3 1/2" X 10").....\$72
Full page (7 1/2" X 10").....\$116

Classified ad charges are: \$5 for the first three lines; \$1 each additional line. Flyers will be inserted and delivered for \$95. Full year paid in advance discount: 2%.

Deadline for the ads is the 19th of the month. For further information, call: Advertising/Flyers: 281-326-5098. La Ventana is distributed monthly except January, July and August by the first Saturday of the month, with a circulation of 1000.

May 3, 2025 City of El Lago Election - Candidate Information Forms

Jeff Tave

The candidate information forms as provided by the candidates are reprinted below in position/ballot order. Also, the League of Women Voters have posed questions to candidates of contested races, so go to VOTE411.org, select the "Find What's On Your Ballot" icon, enter your address, select "El Lago City Council Position 1," and view the candidate info & responses to the questions posed.

Mayor

Name: Shawn Findley

The candidate **did not** return a completed Candidate Information Form after **multiple** requests to do so.

City Council Position 1

First & Last Name: John Ennis

Address: 1307 Woodland Dr.

Age: 52

Length of residence in El Lago: 27 Years (Originally lived on Seaway)

Length of residence in Texas: 48+ Years

Geographic location you came from: Was born in New Jersey. My parents met in Washington DC working for IBM on the Apollo program, transferred to New Jersey to program the FAA's Enroute Air Traffic Control System where my sister and I were born, and then they transferred to Texas with IBM for the Space Shuttle program in 1976 when I was 3. I lived in Clear Lake Forest, and went to Ed White Elementary here in El Lago, Seabrook Intermediate and Clear Lake High School ('91) before moving away for college.

Reason for coming to this area:

I must give credit to my wife of 28+ years (and counting) for my return to the Home Of Human Spaceflight and specifically El Lago in 1997. She fell in love with the area when we would come visit my parents after we got married, and I'm so glad she did.

Employer: Ennis Elite Team @ RE/MAX Space Center

Title/Occupation: Team Lead / REALTOR / Transaction Coordinator

Education, Special Training, and/or Military Service: BA from Stephen F. Austin State University with a Major in Journalism and Minors in History and Graphic Arts. Have served on both sides of a press conference, as both a Media Member and Public Information Officer. Held the only state and federal license to brew beer commercially in Galveston County for many years and am currently a licensed REALTOR and Team Lead the Ennis Elite Team at RE/MAX Space Center which has sold more homes in El Lago and all of 77586 than any other agent or team, per the MLS.

A. **New Candidate: What are your reasons for filing for office and goals/objectives for office if elected:** Beyond the concern I share with my immediate neighbors regarding the most significant law enforcement and children safety issue in the city that we deal with daily (I will share more at a later date), I believe an even more critical problem facing El Lago and our 77586 neighbors West of HWY 146 is the lack of home insurance competition and options within our city as a direct result of not participating in the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) with our neighbors that surround us and benefit from it significantly. Like everyone else in El Lago, I deal with this challenge personally as our home is back with Texas Fair Plan for a third time after our last private home insurer (UPC) was ordered into liquidation in 2023 by the state of Florida. But more importantly, I also see the negative impact this has on El Lago's resale values professionally as a real estate agent. Half of the 77586 zip code (those east of Hwy 146) participate in TWIA which results in many 'reasonably-priced' private home insurance options at competitive rates where EL Lago falls just west of an imaginary dividing line outside of the current TWIA coverage area and has become stigmatized from a real estate perspective with less buyers and falling home sale prices because there are few to no 'reasonably-priced' private home insurance options or competition, leaving most residents forced to rely on the Texas Fair Plan for insurance as a last resort, because in most cases, including my own, it is the only resort. As a result, potential buyers are now being cautioned by insurance, mortgage and real estate agents to avoid parts of 77586 getting no TWIA help, including El Lago. The solution to get El Lago residents off of the Texas Fair Plan by offering more private insurance options bringing lower prices is simply to unite all of 77586 into TWIA. Right now El Lago and our neighbors in Taylor Lake Village and western Seabrook are dealing with a problem created by TWIA that can be easily solved by TWIA. Unite 77586!

First & Last Name: Stephanie M. Clawson

Address: 626 Whitecap Dr.

Age: 47

Length of residence in El Lago: 5 years and 8 months

Length of residence in Texas: 29 years and 8 months

Geographic location you came from: Originally from Northern Idaho, moved the Texas City area and then to Seabrook and now El Lago

Reason for coming to this area: We chose El Lago because of the low crime rate, the police force and the comfort and feel of the city.

Employer: Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital

Title/Occupation : Business and Community Outreach Specialist. My position was developed to bridge the gap between the hospital and the community. We do this by sponsoring non-profits, attending community events, and plugging our hospital into ways of volunteering.

Education, Special Training, and/or Military Service: I hold a Technical Degree in Computer Systems. I also am certified in Non-Profit Leadership and Management.

New Candidate: What are your reasons for filing for office and goals/objectives for office if elected: During hurricane Beryl, I noticed a breakdown of communication between the city and its citizens. Many were left with unanswered questions and concerns about what was happening around the city. There wasn't a clear representative from the city to be the voice of information. I would work to change the city council meetings to one a month and make it a live feed for residents who are unable to attend and still want to hear and see the meetings. With only one meeting, more can get done. More residents can show at one time to be heard and it allows the council to have 4 weeks to work on agenda items and reportback instead of only 2 weeks. This would help ease up stress and allow them the proper time for follow-up and communication. Having one spokesperson to communicate during natural disasters and city events would greatly cut down on miscommunication. I would also aid in making El Lago more visible out in the community through the partnerships I've made through the hospital. I noticed at lunches and meetings that El Lago is not in attendance where I believe we should be. This will help the community know who we are and how El Lago is contributing to the Bay Area. There are multiple areas that I can use my life and prior experiences to enhance the city. Citizens are always welcome to reach out to me directly for more information.

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Continued from page 3

First & Last Name: Charles Parette

Address: 327 Pebblebrook

Age: 64

Length of residence in El Lago: 12

Length of residence in Texas: 43

Geographic location you came from: Born in Arkansas

Reason for coming to this area: Exxon HQ recruited me in college

Employer:

Title/Occupation: retired

Education, Special Training, and/or Military Service: Computer Science degree

B. Incumbent: What are your reasons for filing for re-election? What goals did you achieve while in office? What additional goals/objectives do you plan to achieve? : I love El Lago and want to keep the city a kid-friendly environment, where they feel safe walking or riding their bikes to the parks and pool. El Lago is fortunate enough to have long-term residents as well as new couples starting their families. What other city can say they have second and third generation families living in their city? You'll see me walking the neighborhood every day for exercise, and I'll be the one waving to you in the car or wishing you a great day as I walk past.

You've probably seen me volunteering at the city events: setting up at the city celebration, guarding adult hot chocolate at Carols in the Park, sponsoring the swim team, city celebration, and fishing tournament awards. I also support the Ed White elementary PTA. I volunteered several weeks with debris cleanup after Hurricane Beryl managing the debris removal. You'll also see me on Pebblebrook on Christmas Eve making sure the street is covered with luminaries. I also do service work at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

My 35 years at ExxonMobil as an IT person, had me managing projects, both big and small. I am very good at attention to detail, process management, managing budget and staff, delivering a finished product, keeping everyone safe. I look at all sides of an issue, and look to resolve them in a fair, unbiased fashion that benefit the majority of El Lago citizens.

As a council member:

Worked with the Parks Board to bring our parks up to code and secure new equipment.

Worked with the Moon Tree Committee to secure a tree at Armstrong Park.

Wrote and promoted our new Short Term Rental ordinance.

Ensure we're providing city services within our budget, and looking for additional revenue sources.

City Council Position 2

First & Last Name: Jeff Michalak

Address: 303 Willow Vista Drive

Age: 54

Length of residence in El Lago: 23

Length of residence in Texas: Forever

Geographic location your came from: I was born in the Heights in Houston and grew up in Spring, but spent a lot of time in Galveston and some time in Clear Lake with friends with boats.

Reason for coming to this area: I met my wife Cam in 1998 at the Outpost Tavern listening to a Jimmy Buffett cover band and never left.

Employer: Amazon

Title/Occupation: Senior IT Manager

Education, Special Training, and/or Military Service: BS in Information Technology, MBA in International Business

B. Incumbent: What are your reasons for filing for re-election? What goals did you achieve while in office? What additional goals/objectives do you plan to achieve? :

For those of you who remember my bio from a few elections, this will look very similar, because my thoughts and motivations for serving you on city council have not changed. My commitment is to serve this community with a calm, thoughtful attitude. I believe an important trait for our community leaders is the ability to separate issues and decisions from personalities and preconceptions, and I hope you have witnessed this trait in my engagements. I currently serve as the Mayor Pro Tem, Investment Officer and the Ombudsman of the city. My goals, as always, are to ensure the long-term success of El Lago, provide our neighbors with valuable services and amenities, protect our property values, and have fun while we do it!

As I state often, I consider this a city of my friends. We have lived and raised children here for many years and I cannot imagine living anywhere else. I will continue to serve you and this city as your councilperson for as long as you choose to grant me the privilege of representing you.

My commitments as your councilperson remain the same as when I began in 2015.

I will make decisions based on what I believe is best for our citizens.

I will stand up for what I believe to be right, and true, and good.

I will be your friend; just don't ask me to agree with you all the time.

And I will wear a Hawaiian shirt to every council meeting.

Peace, love, and El Lago! Viva El Lago!



Trowels & Tribulations In a Suburban Garden: April 1 - 30

Donna J. Ward, Certified Texas Master Gardener

Gardeners attempting to follow the timelines set out herein are aware that this newspaper is not published in conjunction with those timelines. The first day of each month of publication, Trowels & Tribulations can be found on the City of El Lago web site: www.elago-tx.gov.

Wipe the sweat from your brow – you’ve spent the last few weeks and probably months laboring in the garden – it’s time to enjoy the fruits of your labor. You’re probably overseeing a mass of blooms; enjoy a bouquet on the breakfast room table – they go great with coffee and a doughnut. Most spring bloomers will have a longer blooming period if blossoms are cut and brought inside. Each spring my grandma’s table was decorated with a jelly jar filled with sweet peas, petunias, and snap dragons blossoms.

Our neighborhood’s established azaleas survived the unusually cold winter, but ours didn’t perform as well as usual. The flowers didn’t seem to last as long, and one of ours didn’t even set buds. It appears to have healthy leaves and it has the same exposure as the others – go figure..... Speaking of malfunctions – the oaks in our yard produced zero, nada, zip acorns – none – not even one. I’m not complaining as many semi wakeless nights have been spent hearing multitudes of them hitting the wooden deck just outside the bedroom window. But I’m puzzled as to why none were produced. Don’t get me wrong, I’m not objecting.

If you brought home any purchases from the March 29th Dig ‘n’ Design Plant sale, be sure and keep them well watered. If they are container plants be aware that each watering leaches nutrients from the soil. Most fertilizers will tell you the ratio at which to mix for containers. Follow those directions – more is not better, and is actually harmful.

Do you have a paper shredder in order to safely discard personal information? Do you bag the shreds and toss them into the trash? I stopped doing that a while back, as I discovered that these shreds make great mulch. A half barrel – the home to a white beautyberry shrub now has about an inch worth of shredded paper on the soil’s surface. Looks trashy? Of course it does, but if you cover the shreds with hardwood mulch it’s attractive and who knows what’s underneath?

If your azaleas have finished their bloom cycle – get out the pruners and bag of fertilizer. I tend to cut back about 1/3rd as we have the Formosa variety, and they have a tendency to get rather large, so keeping them in a size that doesn’t overwhelm the front of the house is preferable. Don’t wait too long to prune or you’ll be removing bud producing growth – and there will not be a performance next spring. When you’ve finished pruning apply a fertilizer. Wait a month and feed again – and a third time if possible. Don’t feed after the first of June. My preference is an organic 6-2-4 formulation for practically everything, but there are formulations especially for azaleas. If that is your preference use the same on hydrangeas, irises and magnolias.

Not quite satisfied with your several years old landscape but don’t want to start all over – why not give it a refresh with a few ornamental grasses? Tuck a few in among your shrubbery and flower beds. They add eye interest, texture, shapes – and motion! If you didn’t get around to planting any ornamental flower seeds, not to worry - nurseries are stocked with an abundance of bedding plants. That shady spot would appreciate some impatiens or begonias. Caladiums want the soil to be warm before planting. Some folks plant on Easter, as it’s often sufficiently warm by then.

Okra also appreciates a warm soil and their seeds don’t even think about germinating until the soil is suitably comfortable. April is not too late to plant wax and snap bush beans. Also cucumber seeds, southern peas, and southern squash if you hurry. Transplants of eggplants are looking for a home and how about a different hot pepper to spice up your oriental culinary endeavors? I’m a fan of the latter and find it impossible to find those itty bitty Thai peppers on the grocer’s produce shelf. I found a transplant at one of our local nurseries, so I’m growing my own. If you haven’t planted a tomato by now either forget it or buy the largest plant you can find. Once the night time temps become warm, fruit no longer sets.

We are all looking forward to harvesting those veggies from our own south forty – beats anything from another state or country that has been picked green, and then bounced around and bruised in the back of a truck for who knows how many hundreds of miles? Ours will taste and look even better. Notice I didn’t say cheaper, but the accomplishment of growing our own is priceless.

Changes Coming at Arlan’s Market

Donna Ward



Changes – they are coming. Yesterday I visited with management of Arlan’s Market and was told that significant changes are in the process of being made. They recognize how important it is that their current and previous customers become aware of what is being implemented.

When the new owners took possession in late 2023 they deviated from the usual products that have been preferred by this neighborhood for decades. Unrecognized brands and unfamiliar foodstuffs appeared on shelves, the meat department, and the produce area. Now realizing that these unfamiliar commodities do not concur with the demographics of this community, they are working diligently to again provide those food products that this neighborhood has come to expect. Your preferred variety of heart-healthy, cholesterol-free cooking oil should return, and if you previously enjoyed a well-known premium delicatessen brand of cold cuts, it’s probably returning also. You can bet the jars of pickled pig’s ears will disappear, and I suspect the beef hooves in the meat department will likely follow. Feel free to scratch prickly pear from your shopping list. Management sincerely requests our patience, as this turn around can’t be completed overnight, but they want you to know that they are doing all they can to make our return a pleasant experience as soon as possible. I, like many of you, are eager to welcome Arlan’s Market back to the neighborhood.

WCID No. 50 Minutes for the February 2025 Board Meeting

Sabrina Herod

The following are highlights of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors that took place on February 14, 2025. Complete minutes are available at the District office at 1122 Cedar Lane, and on the WCID No. 50 website at www.wcid50.org.

Citizen Comments – None.

Engineer's Report – Jonathan Liu presented the report and some of the items discussed were: a) Continued coordination with the Developer for the development south of NASA Road 1. Awaiting response from the Developer regarding comments we submitted after review of plans. b) Activities progress for the water model update to calculate capacity for the water line across Taylor Lake. c) NASA Road 1 Lift Station Replacement - Awaiting acquisition of the proposed lift station site. d) Waterline Rehabilitation Phase I - Finalization on the scope of the rehab is progressing with Coordination with the Operator (John R.) is in progress. e) The Phase II MS4 General Permit - 2025 renewal has been submitted to TCEQ, awaiting response.

Acquisition of Lift Station Site – The metes and bounds survey of the proposed site has been completed. The appraisal is being prepared and will be presented in the Executive Session at a future meeting.

Superintendent's Report – John Riley presented the report and some of the items discussed were: a) Ensured the District's facilities remained operational during the recent freeze. b) Newman Regency installed a rental blower and took the District's blowers for the Wastewater treatment plant to be rebuilt. c) Waste Management removed 80 yards of sludge from the wastewater treatment plant. d) Replaced a leaking water tap at 1606 Loch Lake Dr. e) Isolated and disinfected both clarifiers at the wastewater treatment plant to kill the daphnia. f) AAA jetted stopped up sewer main at 4101 NASA Road 1. g). Replaced the chlorine line for the #2 well at the water plant. h). Replaced a leaking check valve for the #5 booster pump at the water plant.

Office Manager's Report – Sabrina Herod presented the report and some items discussed were: a) Financials are circulating for review, discussion, and approval. b) Weeks Service Company replaced the air conditioning start capacitor on the unit that services the front office. c) The January 2025 report from the Harris County Tax Office (HCTO) shows the District's taxes are 75.53% collected. d) The paying agent fee for the March 1 billing cycle was made electronically and is listed on the current check register presented for approval. e) The Water Smart Application has been completed and submitted for approval. The contact information for Principal Paulson has been received and contact has been initiated for participation by Ed White Elementary in the Harris Galveston Subsidence District Water Credit Program.

Order Levying Additional Penalty for Delinquent Taxes - In accordance with the Texas Property Tax Code, Mr. McNiel presented the subject order. The order must be approved annually and provides for the adoption of an additional 20% penalty above the District's past due payment fees for defrayment of collection expenses. Late fees are applied on unpaid balances as of April 1 for all personal property and July 1 for all real property. A motion to approve the Order as presented was made by Sheila Brown. The motion was seconded by George Shea, Jr. and approved by all. The order was presented to and signed by both the President and Secretary of the Board.

Annual review of FTC identity theft red flag policy - Douglas McNiel presented a resolution affirming review of the identity theft red flag policy outlining efforts to ensure the District's protection of personally identifying information associated with water and wastewater accounts. A motion to approve the resolution was made by George Shea, Jr. The motion was seconded by M. B. Eisenbarth and approved by a unanimous vote. The order was presented to and signed by both the President and Secretary of the Board.

Annual Financial Reporting to Texas Comptroller pursuant to Senate Bill 625 (Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 203, Subchapter D) - Mr. McNiel discussed the annual filing requirement as set forth in the code. A motion to authorize the filing of the report to the Texas Comptroller was made by Mark Foster. The motion was seconded by George Shea, Jr. and approved by a unanimous vote.

Executive session (closed meeting) to consider pending or threatened litigation in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.071, the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.072 – An Executive session was not held.

Items for Inclusion on Board's Next Agenda - Items for Inclusion on Board's Next Agenda - The next Board meeting will be held Friday, March 14, 2025, at Noon.



Significant Items from the Minutes of the El Lago City Council Meeting on February 19, 2025

Jeannie Kubricht

Direct excerpts from the official minutes deemed to be of interest and edited for space. Full minutes available on the city website <www.ellago-tx.gov>.

Citizens' Forum

- A resident stated support for the proposed zoning ordinance update and asked the City Council to listen to citizen requests.
- A resident thanked City Council and Mayor Findley for taking time to review updating the zoning ordinance and stated he felt the home setback line should be the rule for storing "towed" vehicles.
- A resident asked City Council to approve the proposed zoning ordinance and thanked the City Council for their time.
- A resident asked for details of the upcoming Mardi Gras Parade.
- A resident stated her support for the proposed zoning ordinance and thanked the Mayor and City Secretary for getting the streetlight fixed in front of her house.
- A resident stated the ordinance regarding storing towed vehicles was updated 20 years ago and asked City Council to consider the impact to the whole city.
- A resident stated that RVs have gotten bigger and felt the city should update the zoning ordinance to reflect that.

City Official, Board, Commission, Committee & City Service Report

- **City Events** (City Secretary) - Jeannie Kubricht, City Secretary, gave report on upcoming events such as Mardi Gras, Volunteer Fair, Beautification Day, and City Celebration.

Councilmember's Report

- **Councilman Parette** - Mayor Findley informed the City Council that reports will be listed on every meeting agenda to better track projects and asked Councilman Parette to review the city security cameras and key card systems.
- **Mayor Pro Tem Michalak** – No report.
- **Councilman Clark** – No report.
- **Councilman Wallace** - Councilman Wallace stated he would be working on McNair Park baseball field repairs next.

- **Witty Park** – Councilman Wallace stated the grant was complete, mulch was installed, and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be in late March.

- **City Entrances** – Councilman Wallace reported he was currently meeting with designers and should have some ideas for the March 19 meeting.

- **Councilman Streeter**

- **Abandoned vessels in marina**- Councilman Streeter gave a report on abandoned vessels and current cleanup efforts to remove them from the late. He asked for an ordinance to address the issue.

- **Business registration**- Councilman Streeter asked to separate the city's business registration requirement and fire inspections. Fire Marshal Walter Horton stated the business registration form helps him know who to contact to schedule inspections. Mayor Findley appointed Councilman Streeter to review the business registration ordinance.

Mayor Findley stated that agenda item requests should be emailed and require two Councilmembers to be added on a meeting agenda otherwise he approves or denies.

Mayor's Report

- **FY24 Audit Update** - Mayor Findley stated the auditors informed us the city's FY24 financial audit would be delayed to April 2025.

Consent Agenda

- **Check Detail for checks printed from February 5, 2025 through February 19, 2025**
- **Minutes from the City Council meeting for February 5, 2025**
- **FY25 1st Quarter Balance Sheet**
- **FY25 1st Quarter Profit and Loss**
- **FY25 1st Quarter Investment Report**
- **Resolution 2025-02 Annual review of investment policy**

Hearing no objections, Mayor Findley declared the consent agenda approved.

Old Business

- **Discuss and take necessary action for proposed Ordinance 512 amending appendix A "Zoning" updating regulations for storage of towed vehicles** - Councilman Clark motioned to approve and Councilman Parette seconded. Councilman Parette thanked the citizens in attendance who commented and stated he supports updating ordinances when its needed. Councilman Streeter asked for the proposed ordinance to address utility easements. Councilman Wallace stated consistency and safety were most important and the city is missing revenue for not enforcing current ordinance. Councilman Clark gave an overview of the process to update and propose the ordinance. Councilman Clark voted in favor. Councilman Wallace, Councilman Parette, and Councilman Streeter opposed. With a majority vote, the motion didn't pass.

Mayor Findley recessed the meeting at 8:13PM and resumed the meeting at 8:20 PM. Councilman Clark was not in attendance.

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LAKEVIEW POLICE ACTIVITY FEBRUARY- MARCH 2025

911 HANG UP	3	LOUD MUSIC NOISE	7
ABUSE NEGLECT CHILD ELDERLY	4	LPR/PLATESCAN ALERT	0
ACCIDENT MAJOR	4	INTOXICATED DRIVER PERSON	7
ALARM BURGLAR	15	MINOR ACCIDENT	12
ALARM PANIC	1	NARCOTICS VIOLATION	3
ANIMAL CONTROL PROBLEM	10	PARKING VIOLATION	156
ASSIST BY LAW	47	POLICE PURSUIT	4
ASSIST CITIZEN	22	PROPERTY LOST RECOVERED	2
ASSAULT	3	PRISONER PROCESS	70
BURGLARY	4	RECKLESS DRIVER CONDUCT	5
BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	1	SEXUAL ASSAULT	1
CIVIL PROBLEM STANDBY	3	SUICIDE ATTEMPT/ PSCHIATRIC	2
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	3	SUSPICIOUS CIRC PERSON VEHICLE	35
DEATH INVESTIGATION	0	THEFT	7
DISABLED VEHICLE	3	TRESPASS	2
DISTURBANCE	10	TRAFFIC HAZ PROB DIRECT RELAT	5
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	1	TRAFFIC STOP	557
FLAGDOWN	0	THREAT TERRORISTIC	5
FOLLOWUP	18	UNAUTHORIZED USE OF M/V	1
FRAUD	6	UTILITY REQUEST	1
HARASSMENT	3	VIOLATION CITY ORDINANCE	48
ID THEFT	0	WELFARE CONCERNS	20
INTOXICATED DRIVER PERSON	0	WEAPONS	1
LOST MISSING RECOVERED ABDUCTED	2	WARRANT SERVICE	1

Lakeview Police Department Cases (El Lago): Feb & Mar 2025

Date	Location	Type
02/16/2025	4100 Block NASA Pkwy	Theft / Intimidation
The victims reported that they had been receiving threatening text messages and phone calls from a former employee that had been recently fired from a local restaurant for drug use. The victims advised that the former employee also stole a fishing pole from one of the victims and they are fearful that the suspect, who has an extensive history of violence, may return to the business and harm them. The investigation is ongoing.		
2/17/02025	Bellgrove Dr.	Credit Card Fraud
The victim reported that an unknown suspect had used their credit card on a Door Dash delivery. The victim has no idea how their credit card information was stolen or by whom. The victim has never used Door Dash. There are no suspects at this time.		

02/22/2025 4400 Block NASA Pkwy. Criminal Mischief
Workers at a local fast-food restaurant reported that a customer had become angry when they made a mistake on a customers order. The customer, who had been drinking, decided to punch the window glass out of the front doors to the business. Lakeview Police Officers found the suspect nearby and took him into custody. The damage to the business was estimated at about \$5,000. and the suspect was charged with felony criminal mischief and booked into the Seabrook city jail.

02/26/2025 100 Block Lakeshore Dr. Possession of Drugs and Weapons
A Lakeview Police Officer stopped a vehicle on traffic for a minor traffic violation. The driver of the vehicle smelled strongly of burning marijuana . A search of the vehicle was conducted and a loaded 9 mm pistol, a small amount of marijuana, suspected psilocybin mushrooms, and amphetamines were found. The driver, an 18-year-old Houston resident, was arrested for the weapons charge and booked into the Seabrook city jail. The suspected drugs were sent to the lab and a warrant will be issued for the drug possession should the lab results return positive.

03/04/2025 Hedgecroft Dr. Fraud
The victim reported that an unknown person was using a counterfeit paper license plate that had the same number of one issued to them by the Texas Department of Transportation. The unknown suspect was using to travel on toll roads in Texas, running up hundreds of dollars in toll road fines in their name. There are no suspects identified at this time.

03/08/2025 400 Blk Lakeshore Dr. Theft
A Lakeview PD Officer was checking the bathrooms at McNair Park when they discovered an Amazon package that had been opened and discarded in the bathroom. It was later determined that the package had been delivered the night before to an address on Lakeshore Drive and then stolen by an unknown suspect. The merchandise was valued at about \$45. There are currently no suspects or witnesses at this time.

03/09/2025 900 Blk Cedar Ln. Burglary of a Residence
The victim reported that 3 days prior to making this report they had a electric scooter stolen from inside their attached garage. The victim later spotted a local 17 year old residence riding the scooter in El Lago and attempted to recover it. When the thieves were confronted by the victim, the fled the area and the victim called the police. LPD Officers responded to the area and located the thieves in the 1000 block of Cedar Lane. One of the suspects confessed to entering the victims garage and stealing the scooter. The suspect was arrested and charged with burglary of a habitation. The suspect was transported to the Seabrook City Jail and booked without incident. The stolen scooter was returned to the victim.

3/15/2025 4000 Blk NASA Pkwy Hit and Run
The victim was riding their bicycle in the bike lane in front of Billy's Donuts when they were struck and run over by a pickup truck exiting the parking lot onto NASA Pkwy. The pickup truck driver did not stop and left eastbound on NASA Pkwy. The victims bicycle was destroyed and the victim suffered serious injuries to their leg. A suspect in this case has been identified and the investigation continues.

03/18/2025 400 Blk Kirby Rd Hit and Run
The victim reported that sometime during the night an unknown suspect struck their brick mailbox that had been built at the curb in the 400 Blk of Kirby Rd. The mailbox was completely destroyed and is valued at \$5,000. Vehicle parts left at the scene indicate that suspect vehicle is a 2021-2024 Ford F-150 pickup truck. The truck will be missing it's passenger side view mirror. There are currently no suspects at this time.

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03/19/2025 1300 Woodland Dr. Criminal Mischief

The victim reported that he was visiting his girlfriend over night and a known suspect poured bleach in the gas tank of his truck, causing major damage to the engine. The cost to repair the engine was over \$3,200. The investigation is ongoing.

03/25/2025 1300 Blk Woodland Dr. Stalking

The victim reported that her ex-boyfriend has been continuously stalking her by driving past her house in the middle of the night honking his horn, showing up at restaurants and bars while she is out with friends. He has also been distributing nude photos of her to her friends and other persons that she socializes with. A warrant for Stalking has been obtained for the ex-boyfriend.

03/26/2025 400 Blk Bayou View Burglary Motor Vehicle

The victim reported that sometime during the night an unknown suspect broken into and several tools were stolen. The value of the stolen tools is approximately \$800. There are no suspects or witnesses at this time.

03/27/2025 100 Blk Lakeshore Dr. I.D. Theft

The victim reported that an unknown suspect had used their personal identifying information on multiple occasions to open credit card accounts. The applications were denied and the victim suffered no actual loss. The victim has since place a freeze on their credit to safe-guard against any future attempts.

03/30/2025 4100 Blk NASA Pkwy Theft

The victim reported that he had left his Yeti cooler in the bed of his pickup truck in the parking lot of his apartment complex overnight. When he returned in the morning he discovered it had been stolen. There are no suspects or witnesses at this time.



Submissions: If electronic format ONLY Microsoft Word (version 98 for Mac OS or 1997-2003 for Windows OS) formats to "jefftave@earthlink.net." No hard-stop format; let text wrap, please. If you send any photos, we prefer B&W (or color converted to grayscale) and 300 dpi resolution (or size no greater than 100 Kb).

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New Business

- **Discuss /Approve Resolution 2025-03 to amend the city's Master Schedule of Fees** - Councilman Parette motioned to postpone until the next meeting to add Exhibit A to resolution and Councilman Streeter seconded. All voted in favor thus the motion passed unanimously..
- **Discuss and take necessary action to approve social media management agreement with Social Assurance** - Jeannie Kubricht, City Secretary, presented the three bids received, explained the need for the services to better communicate with residents and allow two-way conversations through social media. She stated an update to the communication policy was needed to designate how open records requests are to be received. Councilman Wallace stated he felt the city is behind on this. Councilman Parette motioned to approve, and Councilman Wallace seconded. Councilman Parette and Councilman Wallace voted in favor and Councilman Streeter opposed. With a majority vote, the motion passed.
- **Discuss and take necessary action for city's proposed artificial intelligence (AI) policy** - Councilman Wallace stated he felt the policy was a good start and since this technology is rapidly changing, the City Council should review the policy annually. He also stated artificial intelligence should be used as a tool for efficiency. Councilman Parette stated the city has a small staff and would benefit from the use of AI. No action was taken.

Future Agenda Item Requests - Loose Dogs; Building Access System Upgrades; Security Camera Upgrades; Review Employee Manual (April); Building Standards Commission membership; General Engineering Services Agreement (March); Government Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software (March); Review city sign policy/ordinance.

Items requested were: communication policy, AI policy, FY26 Budget, flashing stop signs, and new development.

PASSED and APPROVED this 5th of March 2025.

*** To listen to full audio of the February 19, 2025 City Council Meeting, please go to the City's website at www.ellago-tx.gov, under the "Agenda Center." ***

Residents: If you come across dead blue jays or crows,
please contact
Rhonda Murgatroyd @ 713-705-5897.

Significant Items from the Minutes of the El Lago City Council Meeting on March 5, 2025

Jeannie Kubricht

Direct excerpts from the official minutes deemed to be of interest and edited for space. Full minutes available on the city website <www.ellago-tx.gov>.

Citizens' Forum

- A resident asked about the recently painted bike lane on Bellgrove Drive being enforced by LPD and asked the city to request the mud from construction be removed from the eastbound lane on NASA Parkway.
- A resident asked the city to allow members of the LPD and SVFD the use of facilities free of charge.
- A resident stated their thanks for recently filling potholes and acting on blinking stop signs.
- A resident stated some city businesses had electronic signs out of compliance..

City Official, Board, Commission, Committee & City Service Report

- **Seabrook Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report** – Assistant Chief Erin Bristow gave a report on the February 2025 calls for service..
- **City Attorney, Philip Boedeker Introduction** – City Attorney Philip Boedeker introduced himself as the city's new attorney.
- **Lakeview Police Department Report**– Chief Nunn gave a report on the February 2025 calls for service, officer promotional assessments, and officer resigning at LPD.

Councilmember's Report

- **Councilman Parette**
 - **City Security System** – No updates given.
 - **Building Access Card System** – Working with city staff to streamline memberships
- **Mayor Pro Tem Michalak** – No updates given
- **Councilman Clark** – Councilman Clark mentioned the RV ordinance
- **Councilman Wallace**
 - **Parks: Witty Park** – March 29, 2025 at 10:30AM ribbon cutting ceremony with Precinct 2 to complete grant
 - **Parks: Baseball field repairs** – Getting quotes to align with FY26 budget
 - **Emergency Management: City Signs/Entrances** – Looking at grants for these; will review designs at future City Council meeting
 - **BAHEP**- General membership coming up
- **Councilman Streeter**
 - **Abandoned vessels**– Identifying ordinance language to address and share with other lake citiesCouncilman Streeter mentioned business registration and HOAs.

Mayor Findley stated that agenda item requests should be emailed and require two Councilmembers to be added on a meeting agenda otherwise he approves or denies.

Mayor's Report

- **City Events** – 3/1: Volunteer Fair had about 20 attendees; Shamrocks & Service is community beautification day on March 15; City Celebration is April 12
- **Lifeguards**– City hiring lifeguards; apply online
- **Blinking Stop Signs** – Currently getting pricing, locations established

Consent Agenda

- **Check Detail for checks printed from February 19, 2025 through March 5, 2025**
- **Minutes from the City Council meeting for February 19, 2025**
- **Discuss/Approve Resolution 2025-03 to amend the city's Master Schedule of Fees**

Hearing no objections, Mayor Findley declared the consent agenda approved.

Old Business

- **Discuss/Approve city's proposed artificial intelligence (AI) policy** - Councilman Parette motioned to approve the adoption of the city's proposed artificial intelligence policy and Councilman Clark seconded. All voted in favor thus the motion passed unanimously.

Workshop to discuss proposed updates to communication policy

Workshop discussion included increasing the city communication via social media, one source designated for open record requests, test run of open comments on social media, and adding disclaimer and public information instructions to communication policy.

New Business

- **Discuss/Approve Ed White 5th grade pool party variance to allow more than 50 people** - Councilman Parette motioned to approve pool variance to allow more than 50 attendees for the Ed White 5th grade pool party and Mayor Pro Tem Michalak seconded. All voted in favor thus the motion passed unanimously.
- **Discuss/Approve event room variance to allow LPD Officer Robert Smith to pay resident rate** - Councilman Clark motioned to approve event room variance to allow LPD Officer Robert Smith to rent event room at the resident rate and Councilman Wallace seconded. All voted in favor thus the motion passed unanimously.

Future Agenda Item Requests - Update City Engineer Ordinance (Mar. 19); General Engineering Services Agreement (Mar. 19); Government Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software (Mar. 19); Appoint Election Judges (Mar. 19); Review Employee Manual (April); FY26 Budget Workshop (April); FY24 Financial Audit (May); Board, Commission, Committee appointments (May); Review city sign policy/ordinance; Loose Dogs.

Councilman Wallace requested to add a workshop to discuss city entrance designs.

PASSED and APPROVED this 19th of March 2025.

*** To listen to full audio of the March 5, 2025 City Council Meeting, please go to the City's website at www.ellago-tx.gov, under the "Agenda Center." ***



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El Lago NeighborLine

Jeff Tave

Here again is the updated El Lago Neighbor Business Line, a list of business owners who desire to promote their services to fellow El Lagoans. The La Ventana in no way endorses these businesses, rather we are reporting their availability. With that in mind, here is our current list by type to date. If you are interested in adding your name/business to the list, please contact Jeff Tave (281-326-5098 or via email: jefftave@earthlink.net) by April 27 (for the May issue). The listing fee is \$5 per issue (3 lines) or \$40 for a full year (9 issues). All fees go towards supporting the operations of your community newspaper.

CPA

- **Coggin, John:** John F. Coggin CPA PLLC, El Lago Resident since 1985. Full service CPA firm offering individual/corp. taxes, accounting, payroll & monthly financial statements. Offices @ 2511B NASA Pkwy STE A203 (Seabrook) in Lakeside Yachting Center directly behind Classic Café, 713-408-1318 or john@jcoggincpa.com. www.jcoggincpa.com

Erosion Control

- **Mitchell, Alexis:** Got Erosion along your waterfront property? Call the premier certified erosion control experts of the USA today! Resident for 2 years offering shoreline erosion control with SOX Erosion Solutions, 281-799-3902 or amitchell@soxerosion.com. www.soxerosion.com.

Fitness/Virtual Classes

- **Campos, Kimberly:** MEbody Online, Work out from your home w/ live instructor. Pilates, Adult Ballet, barre360, stretching classes. All levels welcome. Very important to stay moving! Call/text 281-984-7325 or themebody.com.

Realtor/Realty Services

- **Knis, Toni:** Texas Shore Properties UTR, Texas Realtors. Local El Lago resident (12 years) & full service Realtor. It's a Sellers Market right now, so call 832-474-2863 for a FREE Market evaluation of your home. Visit [www.HAR.com/toniknis].

Bookkeeping, Sales Tax, Payroll, Business Support

- **Coggin, Laurie:** Southwest Bookkeeping, full service bookkeeping offering financials monthly, payroll, sales tax and request, come see us. Offices @ 2511B NASA Pkwy STE A205 (Seabrook) in Lakeside Yachting Center directly behind Classic Café. El Lago Resident since 1985. For info, contact 281-532-1518 or swestbooks@aol.com.



Classified*Classified*Classified

- Join the El Lago Baby-sitting Co-Op. It's a great way to exchange baby-sitting at no cost. We just exchange tickets; for example, two tickets pays for 1 hour of baby-sitting. Plus, we have monthly kid and parent fun activities. Please join us or call Peta at (281) 326-1340 for more information.
- Join the La Ventana Team! We are looking for an Advertising Director. Call Jeff Tave at (281) 326-5098.
- Baby-Sitting 14 year-old who loves kids. Call Alicia (281) 291-0942.

Local Restaurants Offering Take-Out (Some Delivery)

Jeff Tave

Support our local restaurants who now are limited to take-out/delivery and limited hours. Ones in the immediate area are below:

- Athenas Corner:** 281-549-6278, athenascornertx.com, DoorDash, GrubHub
- Boondoggles Pub:** 281-326-2739, boondogglespub.com
- Dave's Smoke House** (on Kirby): 281-326-7164
- Gabachos:** 281-326-5697, gabachos.net, DoorDash
- Hunsa Thai Kitchen** (in Arlan's Center): 281-532-6339, GrubHub, seamless.com, DoorDash
- Iguana Ranas Cantina** (Lakeside Shopping Ctr): 832-864-2855, myiguanasranas.com, DoorDash, GrubHub
- Jack in the Box:** 281-326-1101, jackinthebox.com, DoorDash
- Las Anitas Mexican:** 281-326-2200, lasanitas1.com, DoorDash
- Pelican Grill:** 281-326-6149, pelicanbreakfast.com
- Sam's Boat:** 281-326-7267, samsboat.com
- Seabrook Classic Cafe:** 281-326-1512, 281-326-1546, 832-766-9745, 832-766-9759, 832-766-9762, seabrookclassiccafe.com
- Subway** (in Arlan's Center): 281-326-2288, subway.com, post-mates.com, DoorDash
- The Flame Tacos** (in Pelican Plaza): 281-326-2288, theflametacos.com, DoorDash
- Valdos:** 281-326-3866, DoorDash
- Villa Capri:** 281-326-2373, frenchiesvillacapri.com
- Village Pizza & Seafood:** 281-326-3200, villagepizzaseafood.com, seamless.com, Grubhub, DoorDash
- Viola & Agnes' Neo Soul Cafe:** 281-326-2226, www.neosoulfood.org
- Wong's Chef:** 281-532-3027, 281-532-3037, wongschef.com, DoorDash

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