

While there are many challenges we face as a city, a consistent topic is what I refer to as "the face of our city." The great majority of the community has a lot of pride in their home sweet home. They spend time mowing the yard, keeping their property free of unsightly debris and keeping storage to an acceptable level; while others, well, not so much.

As with everything, there is a happy medium, and no one is asking for every yard to look like you live in a gated community for the famous, but the goal is to set a reasonable standard respectful of our community's "at-the-lake" origins. With that being said, this topic has been on the City Council's radar for some time and I know it causes a good deal of frustration for many of you.

The Council has recently reviewed an administrative fine process that would allow the City to fine individuals who do not comply with the City Code. While on the surface this sounds like an easy fix to some of our more challenging scenarios, there are complications that were enough to give the Council pause and take time to evaluate more options. The options being explored might result in a combination of several plans, but it remains a high priority of the Council.

In the meantime, I would ask that we have patience and respect for our neighbors. If your neighbor's yard is less than desirable, try having a conversation with them. I know that can be difficult sometimes and if that is the case, you can always call City Hall to speak with the Field Officer who can look into the case to see if there is a code violation that needs to be addressed. The City follows a complaints-based enforcement policy that strikes a good balance between rigid formulas, ordinances, and the unique characteristics of our Community; but this also means the staff is not going to actively solve an issue unless it is identified by you. So let us know when our help is needed.

On the other hand, if your neighbor's yard is clean, tidy, and has an acceptable amount of storage, you may want to look at your own yard and reflect on how you compare to your neighborhood. Offering patience and respect to our neighbors goes a long way for both sides, the face of the community and your own neighborhood.

I hope you are all enjoying the summer!

Respectfully,

**Mayor Mark Wegscheid**