

City Manager's Message

By Manuel Longoria, Jr.

Since we are currently in the election season, I will be writing a column in place of Mayor Chris Riley for the February and April newsletters. State election law prohibits elected officials from using City-funded media during the election season, which runs from February through May. In addition, the City Council reaffirmed this practice by prohibiting all current Councilmembers from writing in the newsletter for the 120 days prior to the election. The Mayor and Councilmember columns will return in June after the May 9, 2015 city general election.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight several projects that may be of interest to you as a resident of this city.

First, as a result of citizen input during the last election cycle, the City Council decided to study Leon Valley's governance structure to determine the possibility of establishing a local-oriented Home Rule Charter. Cities in Texas can incorporate as either General Law cities or Home Rule Charter cities. General Law cities are governed by the rules allowed by the State of Texas and Home Rule Charter

cities operate by rules specified in a local charter approved by the voters of the community. In 1952, Leon Valley incorporated as a General Law city. In July, the City Council appointed an eleven-member Citizen Home Rule Commission, and they met over a period of time to develop a proposed charter for Leon Valley. The proposed charter will be on the May 9th General Election Ballot. We have included a fact sheet in this newsletter that contains information on the proposed charter, as well as a listing of the Home Rule Commission members. We encourage you to contact commission members if you have any specific questions on this important election initiative.

Second, this summer we will be doing the much needed repair of Evers Road. The repair work will be a mill and overlay treatment of the roadway, as well as placing concrete bus pads on the fourteen (14) bus stops along the road. VIA Metropolitan Transit will be paying for the concrete bus pad through a grant to the City. The project will start in June and will be under construction through July. Please bear with us as we complete this road work.

We know you will be pleased with the results.

Lastly, I want to give you an update on the City Hall capital facilities improvement project. We recently opened the new fire station on El Verde Road. Our firefighters and paramedics are now housed in a state-of-the-art fire station that will improve service delivery to everyone in Leon Valley. We will be having an open house on Saturday, March 14, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. so you can tour the new facility. Construction has already started on the next phase of the project, which is the building of a new Police Station. The Police Station is being built at the site of the old fire house and we expect this work to be complete in June. The final phase is the administrative City Hall building, which will be completed in the January/February 2016 timeframe.

I want you to know that all Leon Valley employees are here to serve you and the entire community. If you need anything, don't hesitate to call us at 210-684-1391. I hope to see you at the Fire Station Open House.

Proposed Home Rule Charter **FACT-SHEET**

Background:

Cities in the State of Texas are established as either a Special Law, General Law City or a Home Rule Charter City. Special Law and General Law Cities are governed by the rules outlined by the State of Texas. Home Rule Charter Cities have more local autonomy, and are governed by rules established through a local charter approved by voters of the community.

In 1952, the City of Leon Valley was incorporated as a General Law City.

On July 14, 2014, the Leon Valley City Council--based on input from citizens--decided to consider the Home Rule Charter governance structure. They appointed a group of prominent and civic-minded citizens to a Home Rule Commission to develop a Home Rule Charter.

The Home Rule Commission consists of the following members: Chairman Arthur "Art" Reyna, Vice Chairman Jack Dean, Commissioner

Rudy Garcia, Commissioner Kathy Hill, Commissioner David Jordan, Commissioner Liz Maloy, Commissioner Mike McCarley, Commissioner Darby Riley, Commissioner Victor Rodriguez, Commissioner Manuel Rubio, and Commissioner Al Uvietta.

The Commission completed their work on January 7, 2015 and

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Lion's Roar

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approved a Home Rule Charter for consideration by the residents and citizens of Leon Valley. The election to adopt the proposed Home Rule Charter is planned for Saturday, May 9, 2015.

Current City of Leon Valley Governance Structure:

- The City of Leon Valley is a General Law City operating under a City Council-Manager form of government.
- The City Council consists of six (6) members - a Mayor and five (5) Councilmembers, all elected at-large and by place.
- The Mayor and City Councilmembers serve two-year terms of office.
- The Mayor serves as the presiding officer at City Council meetings.
- The Mayor votes only in case of a tie.
- There are no term limits for the Mayor or Councilmembers.
- Citizens do not have the power of initiative, referendum or recall.
- The City is limited to the governmental structures and powers specifically granted by state law.
- The City may exercise only those powers that the State of Texas expressly grants to it.

What is a Home Rule Charter?

- Under the Home Rule structure, a city exercises powers granted by the State of Texas but also has the ability to adopt measures of local importance not specifically authorized by the state.
- Citizens, by local election, determine form and powers of government
 - Form of Government
 - Powers of the City
 - Limitation on powers of the City
 - Terms and Powers of the Mayor and Councilmembers

- Removal of Elected Mayor and Councilmembers
- Number of Councilmembers that serve on the City Council
- The right of citizen petition for a referendum, the power of referendum allows citizens to petition the City Council to repeal a decision already made by the City Council.
- The right of citizens to petition City Council for initiative to adopt a specific issue of importance to the petitioners.
- The power of recall allows citizens to petition for the removal of a City Councilmember from office.

Summary of the Proposed Home Rule Charter:

There are eight (8) Articles in the Proposed Home Rule Charter

- **Article One: Form of Government & Powers** — pertains to the local Form of Government and adopts the City Council-City Manager Form of Government.
 - The City Council serves as the policy board and appoints a City Manager that is responsible to administer the policies adopted by the City Council.
- **Article Two: Boundaries** — pertains to the Boundaries of the City.
 - Provides for the continuation of the existing boundaries of the City of Leon Valley, and process for annexing and releasing of City territory.
- **Article Three: The City Council & Mayor** — provides the general powers and duties of the Mayor and Councilmembers.
 - The City Council will consist of seven (7) members - a Mayor and six (6) Councilmembers.
 - The Mayor and Councilmembers are elected at large and by place.
 - The Mayor and Councilmembers will serve three-year terms.
 - The Mayor shall have the same voting privileges as the Councilmembers.

- The Mayor will not have veto powers.
- The Mayor and City Council Members will be subject to term limits as follows:
 - No past, current, or future elected official shall serve, or have served, more than three (3) consecutive terms and no more than five (5) terms during a lifetime.
 - **Article Four: Elections** — pertains to City elections and provides information on how to file for office, run-off elections and the regulation of elections.
 - **Article Five: Administrative Organization** — refers to the administrative organization of the City and outlines the powers and duties of the City Manager.
 - **Article Six: Initiative, Referendum and Recall** — relates to Initiative, Referendum and Recall.
 - Gives residents and citizens of the city the authority to have an initiative, referendum and recall.
 - Outlines the process that citizens have for handling an initiative, referendum and recall issue.
 - **Article Seven: General Provisions** — provides general provisions in the charter to establish guidelines for conflicts of interest, disaster clause, future charter review, and settling of claims.
 - **Article Eight: Transitional Provisions** — provides guidance to the City on how to transition from our current General Law Status to Home Rule Status.

Need More Information:

- You can go to www.leonvalleytexas.gov to view a copy of the entire Home Rule Charter online, or;
- Get a copy by contacting City Secretary Sandra Passailague at 210-684-1391 or email her at s.passailague@leonvalleytexas.gov.

Vote

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015 ON THE BALLOT ISSUE CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOME RULE CHARTER.

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes for the voters only, and by law, the City of Leon Valley cannot and does not take a position either in favor of or against this Election issue.

Message from the Water Department

Winter Sewer Averaging

Sewer charges for residential customers are based on a winter sewer average. The average water consumption used during the winter months (November 15-February 15) determines your monthly sewer charge for the next twelve months. The new winter average goes into effect on the March billing each year. Should you have a leak during this period, you may request a Sewer Adjustment Form from the Utility Billing office. Forms must

be received no later than May 1st for consideration. Contact Yvonne Acuna at 210-684-1391 ext. 224 or yacuna@leonvalleytexas.gov to request a form.

Toilet Rebate

Currently the City of Leon Valley has a toilet rebate program in place that allows for replacement of up to two toilets. A rebate of \$50.00 per toilet will be applied to the customer's water account. To apply for a rebate, please call Public Works at 210-681-

1232. Public Works will set up an appointment to inspect the new low flow toilet and if necessary remove the old toilets.

Washing Machine Rebate

Energy efficient washing machines may qualify for a rebate on your water bill of \$100.00. To request a rebate form, please contact Yvonne Acuna at 210-684-1391 ext. 224 or yacuna@leonvalleytexas.gov. A copy of your receipt will be required.

Proposed Silo Park



The City has acquired a 3.839 acre parcel of land in the 7500 block of Huebner Road (near the Department of Public Safety office, church, and silos). The property was donated to the City of Leon Valley by the developer. A portion of the parcel was developed into a detention pond; however, there are approximately 1.439 acres remaining that may be developed into a pocket park.

The Leon Valley Park Commission has already held three public hearings to gain citizen input on the type of amenities desired at this park and will hold one more public hearing on Monday, March 9, 2015, 7:00 pm, at the Leon Valley City Hall, located at 6400 El Verde Road. We want to know what the rest of the citizens would like to see developed at this park, so we hope to see you there!

Online Registration is Now Open!

21st Annual Basura Bash

February 21, 2015



The City of Leon Valley will participate again in the 21st Annual Basura Bash Event, cleaning 2,100 feet of Zarzamora Creek (Between 410 and Bandera, located in front of the HEB). The event begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 12:00 p.m. On February 21st, at 9:00 a.m., registration tables and refreshments will be located in the HEB parking lot next to the creek. If you are interested in volunteering, please register online at www.basurabash.org. Last year, over 55 volunteers removed 71 bags of trash, 6 tires and 4 shopping carts from Zarzamora Creek.

26th Annual Earthwise Living Day - "Sustainability 101"

Saturday, March 7, 2015 (rain or shine) • 9 am to 1 pm

This event is the longest running annual environmental event in Bexar County – the Earthwise Living Committee strives to bring awareness to all aspects of eco-friendly living, and thus, the protection of our natural resources.

This year's theme is "Sustainability 101", featuring demonstration booths for everyday eco-friendly living. We will be teaming up with **Spare Parts** (recycling art) and other great supportive sponsors to bring this popular free, educational family event to this area. The event takes place inside the Leon Valley Community and Conference Centers, located at 6427 Evers Road.

The event will include individual specialty booths, organic cooking demonstrations, food preservation, organic gardening, electricity created from bicycles, rainwater harvesting, children's recycled art activity, children's musical presentations, free trees from City Public Service. The event will offer a recycling drop-

off center for wine bottle corks, clothing, computers, electronics, scrap metal and expired medications.

FREE Admission & Door Prizes

Please join us for a fun-filled and educational morning!

Reduce, reuse, recycle – not just our duty, but a way of life!



City Dedicates and Presents New Fire Station

By Luis Valdez, Fire Chief

After almost one year of construction, and many more years of planning by dedicated professionals and volunteers, the new, state-of-the-art Leon Valley Fire Station was presented on January 16th with great success. The ceremony opened with bagpipes and drums, followed by the presentation of station flags, and comments from the Fire Department, Mayor Riley, Bond Oversight Committee Chairman Pedro Esquivel, and special guest former Councilman (1970-1973) and Fire Commissioner Murray Hacker. Rather than a ribbon cutting, a section of red fire hose was uncoupled (twisted apart) by Mayor Riley and Fire Chief Luis Valdez. This uncoupling marked a new beginning in our department's history, with support from the City and residents.

The outpouring of support for this project was quite overwhelming. It was made clear that the success we were enjoying was, in part, the result of many years of excellent service provided by all who have served Leon Valley. We are overwhelmed and grateful for the amount and type of donations from area businesses that wanted to help furnish the fire station. From the 10 Tempur-Pedic mattresses, 2 large screen televisions, and custom made hose rack to our new custom dining room table made from an old section of bowling alley lane and two fire hydrants, and two large custom made signs the Leon Valley community and surrounding area

helped furnish the new fire station. One of our local business owners, Ms. Brenda Tellez, delivered a new cutlery set and dishes that she purchased while she was out shopping.

We are very grateful and humbled by all of this generosity and kindness; and we wanted to share these names with all of you here:

Intertek Automotive Research, QualTel Communications, Sol Media Group, Bob's Computer and Repair, Bexar County Auto Reports, Primrose Lane Adult Daycare, Familia Cristiana Iglesia, A Place For Kids Daycare, Goose Automotive, Backyard Kids Learning Center, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Sunset Plaza, All Aboard Daycare, St. John's Baptist Church, Gospel of Truth, El Sendero Church, Service King, Country Home Learning Center, Kids Galaxy Daycare, Leon Valley Storage, Gloria's Barber College, Louis Shanks Furniture, JH Customs, Servpro, Ameraguard, XgrafX, Pena Upholstery, Propane Depot Miracle Body and Paint, Luv-n-Care Daycare, Walgreens, Stratford Towers, Freedom Baptist Church, Bandera Bowl, Tellez Tamales, Peter Piper Pizza, Leon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, John Marshall High School, Aaronn's, Buddy's Home Furnishings, Home Depot, San Antonio Fire Department, Best Buy, HEB, Bartlett Cocke General Contractor, OCO Architects, and Wade's Welding.

Please, join us for our open house Saturday, March 14, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; so, you can tour the new Fire stations. Thank you from the Leon Valley Fire Department!

Spring Clean-Up Week

Place items at the curb: March 9-13, 2015

Waste Management will pick up all your bulky items such as old furniture, water heaters, appliances and brush.

Collection begins on March 16, 2015 at 7:00 a.m.

Collection vehicles will pass down each street only once and will proceed until the entire City has been collected. All commercial tree trimmers will be required to haul away all trimmings.

Simple guidelines that will help you prepare for a safe and successful clean-up.

Do

Do limit amount to be picked up to 8 cubic yards (6ft. x 6ft. x 6ft)

Do place bulky waste items in an area clear of obstacles, away from fences, fire hydrants or gas and water heaters.

Do place discarded items and brush at your normal pick-up location(s).

Please stack brush with the butt ends pointing in the same direction and notify all commercial landscapers that brush must be hauled away and not placed at the curb.

Do have Freon properly removed and disposed from refrigerators and air conditioners and properly tagged by a qualified Freon disposal technician.

Don't

Don't mix scrap iron, or any other metal objects with brush and shrubbery.

Don't put out commercial or industrial waste, construction material, tires, batteries, oil, paint, or other household hazardous waste. These items will not be picked up.

Don't place discarded items on vacant lots or commercial establishments.

Don't place discarded items under low hanging tree limbs.

Don't wait until March 16th to put your items out for collection. You could miss the collection from your street.

Thanks! Together, we can keep Leon Valley clean! For information, contact Public Works, 681-1232, or Waste Management, 1 800-800-5804

Want to File for Candidacy?

Who, What, When, Where, and How?

Elections – Candidate Qualifications for City Council

- **MUST** be a citizen of the United States.
- **MUST** be at least 18 years old.
- **MUST** be a qualified voter of the City of Leon Valley.
- **MUST NOT** have been determined mentally incapacitated by a final judgment of a court.
- **MUST NOT** have been finally convicted of a felony (unless pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities).
- **MUST** have lived in Texas continuously for one year.
- **MUST** have lived in Leon Valley continuously for at least one year

WHAT:

The Leon Valley City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1 “General Provisions”, Article 1.03 “Elections” states “An election shall be held as provided in state law each even-numbered year to elect a mayor and two councilmembers at large for the city council, to wit: Council Place No. 2 and Council Place No. 4. An election shall be held as provided in state law

each odd-numbered year to elect three councilmembers at large for the city council, to wit: Council Place No. 1, Council Place No. 3, and Council Place 5.”

In 2015, registered voters, who are citizens of Leon Valley, will vote for Council Place No. 1, Council Place No. 3, and Council Place No. 5.

WHEN:

Under Chapter 41 of the Texas Election Code, uniform election dates are specified. Except as otherwise provided in the Election Code, general or special elections in Texas shall be held on either the second Saturday in May; or the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The City of Leon Valley holds their General Election the second Saturday in May.

This year, the General Election will be held on May 09, 2015.

WHERE:

The Office of the City Secretary is located at Leon Valley City Hall, 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas,

78238. Office Phone Number is: 210-684-1391, Ext. 216.

HOW:

Individuals interested in running for office in Leon Valley should contact the City Secretary to pick up a Candidate’s Packet. This same packet is also available electronically on the City’s website at http://www.leonvalleytexas.gov/government/city_council/government/election_information.php Candidates are able to file for a place on the May 9, 2015 General Election ballot beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 28, 2015. All applications for a candidate’s name to appear on the May 9, 2015 General Election ballot must be filed with the office of the City Secretary before 5:00 p.m. of February 27, 2015. Write-in candidates may file to be a candidate in this election with the office of the City Secretary before 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2015 Names of “write-in candidates” do not appear on the election ballot.

For more information, please contact the Office of the City Secretary at (210) 684-1391 extension 216 or the Bexar County Elections Department at (210) 335-VOTE (8683).

City of Leon Valley 2015 General Election

A General Election will be held on May 09, 2015, for the purpose of electing three City Council Members (Places 1, 3 and 5) for two year terms.

General filing and voting information can be found on our website: http://www.leonvalleytexas.gov/government/city_council/government/election_information.php

Below is a list of key dates:

- Candidate filing period is Wednesday, January 28, 2015 through Friday, February 27, 2015, (A completed application must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2015.)
- Early voting by personal appearance is Monday, April 27 through Tuesday, May 5, 2015. The nearest polling location will be at the Leon Valley Conference Center.
- Election Day is Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The Leon Valley Conference Center is an Early Voting location, in addition to the Main Early Voting Location at the Bexar County Justice Center located at 300 Dolorosa in San Antonio. There will be additional voting locations as determined by the Bexar County Elections Administrator. A registered voter may vote at any poll site within Bexar County during Early Voting but must vote at the specific poll site as determined by precinct number on Election Day. Check our City’s website for up-to-date information on where and when to vote.

April 9th is the last day for submitting a voter registration application in time to vote in the May 9th General Election or for requesting transfer of registration in time to vote in new precinct (not

in the same county and territory). For more information or assistance with registration, please contact the City Secretary at (210) 684-1391 extension 216.





Leon Valley City Hall
6400 El Verde Road
Leon Valley, TX 78238

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CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Chris Riley
Place 1 Ricardo Ruiz
Place 2 Carmen Sanchez
Place 3 Abraham Diaz
Place 4 Benny Martinez
Place 5 Paul Bieber

LION'S ROAR

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CITY STAFF

City Manager
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684-1391 x 219
City Secretary
Saundra Passailaigue
684-1391 x 216
Finance Department
Vickie Wallace, Director
684-1391 x 223
Community Development
Kristie Flores, Director
684-1391 x 227
Economic Development
Claudia Mora, Director
684-1391 x 231
LV Public Library
Joyce Trent, Librarian
684-0720
Fire Department
Luis Valdez, Fire Chief
684-3219
Police Department
Randall Wallace, Police Chief
684-3215
Public Works
Melinda Moritz, Director
681-1232

CITY MEETINGS

All meetings at City Hall unless otherwise specified.

City Council
2nd Monday - 7:00 p.m.
Board Of Adjustment
Meets as required
Coffee with the Mayor
4th Saturday - 9 -11 a.m.
Community Events Committee
3rd Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.
Earthwise Living Committee
2nd Wednesday -
5:30 p.m. Public Works
Library Board
2nd Tuesday - 5:30 p.m. - Library
Park Commission
2nd Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.
Stormwater Committee
Quarterly, 1st Monday - 7:00 p.m.
Tree Advisory Board
3rd Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.
Zoning Commission
4th Tuesday - 6:30 p.m.
Community Advisory Group
Quarterly, 4th Thursday
Conference Center - 5:30 p.m.

CITY NUMBERS

Keep these numbers handy

Emergency Number for POLICE, FIRE and EMS 911
City Web Site Address
..... www.leonvalleytexas.gov
City Hall..... 684-1391
Animal Control & Code Compliance 251-1797
..... 204-9979
Fire 684-3219
Police 684-3215
CAT 684-ONIT (6648)
Human Resources 684-1391
Dead Animal Pickup 1- 800-800-5804
Public Works 681-1232
Library 684-0720
Waste Management
..... 1- 800-800-5804
Community Center Rental 684-1391 ext. 225
Senior Citizen's Club 522-9966
City Hall, non-emergency Police and Fire operations may be contacted at the above numbers Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Closed weekends and holidays. Public Works Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

