

Mayor's Message

By Mayor Chris Riley

I'm glad to be writing in the Lion's Roar again after our recent election season. The survey from St. Mary's University last fall showed that the citizens' clear preference for city communication was our newsletter.

"The simplest toy, one which even the youngest children can operate without instructions, is called a grandparent."

Sam Levenson

Wanted to share the good news that my husband and I became grandparents for the first time with the birth of our granddaughter on Mothers Day, May 10th. We're beginning to understand what this wonderful experience is all about!

HISTORIC MAY RAINS

Special thanks to the Leon Valley Fire Department for their door-to-door notification of our citizens who live along Huebner Creek to seek high ground during the downpour on May 23rd. If your home had high water

problems, please email Chief Valdez at l.valdez@leonvalleytexas.gov. He is compiling a log for future reference. Additionally, he has applied with the National Flood Insurance Program with the goal of reducing the cost of flood insurance premiums for our residents. More information can be found in Chief Valdez's article. The Fire Department is being proactive and placing the safety and welfare of our citizens first.

MAY 9TH CITY ELECTION

With a turnout of 15% of registered voters (3% higher than the City of San Antonio), citizens voted for a change in city council positions Places 1, 3 and 5. Your new city council members are as follows:

David Edwards, Ph.D., a psychologist who owns his own business with his wife, will serve in Place 1. Dr. Edwards has lived in Leon Valley for 12 years and has also been an adjunct professor at local colleges, as well as presenting to NISD PTA on childhood issues. He briefly served on the Zoning Commission prior to being elected to city council.



Mayor Chris Riley

Monica Alcocer, an attorney by profession who has lived in Leon Valley for 26 years, previously served on the Park Commission and Business Alliance committee and was a mentor at NISD. She is serving in Place 3.

David Jordan, a retired Air Force veteran, with 24 years of law enforcement experience in the military, was elected to Place 5. He has lived in Leon Valley for three years and has been involved in the community with his service on the Zoning Commission and as President of the Leon Valley Ridge Homeowner's Association.

Welcome to the newly elected council members! Their doors are open and they are ready, willing and able to respond to the needs of our community.

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Response to Heavy Rainfall in May

By Luis Valdez, Fire Chief

As we all know, heavy rainfall swept across Texas in May leaving destruction and tragedy behind. By now, we have heard the stories: in Wimberley, where the Blanco River rose 34 ft. and floated away entire homes, and in some very tragic cases, entire families. In Devine, a young girl was swept away in her vehicle on a road

she travelled every day on her way home from prom. There was so much more, and there's no doubt that May has been tough for Texans.

In Leon Valley, we received 8.5 inches of rain in May. We closed down streets on 3 different occasions, and evacuated homes in low lying areas of the city. We

also advised door-to-door to residents that lived in close proximity to Huebner Creek to monitor conditions closely and make preparations for evacuations.

Just like any response, we faced challenges. We had a motorist drive around a barricade

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Mayor's Message

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The city also thanks former council members Ricardo Ruiz, Abraham Diaz and Paul Biever for their service on the city council.

As of May 21, 2015, Manuel Longoria, Jr. ceased to serve as city manager. Our former city manager of almost 11 years, Hank Brummett, has graciously agreed to serve as interim manager for the transition period while we finalize the FY 2016 budget and select a new city manager.

UPDATE ON JANUARY 2015 ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING INITIATIVES

- A. Emergency Preparedness** – The idea discussed at the meeting was for each family to have their own emergency plan based on their specific needs. The Fire Department is developing seminars for citizens to learn more on how to prepare ourselves. Watch for details on upcoming programs at the new fire station!
- B.** The Leon Valley Historical Society and the City of Leon Valley are discussing the possibility of entering into a public-private partnership for the development of the Huebner-Onion Homestead. Work on this initiative will begin this year.
- C. Home Rule Charter** – Election held on May 9th: For Charter: 492; Against Charter: 540

THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW

- **Update on the Hike & Bike trail:** At the June 2, 2015 city council meeting, the city council will discuss and consider whether to request the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to move the Hike and Bike trail funding from FY 2015 to FY 2017 to align with the projected completion of Bexar County's Huebner Creek Flood Control project. This would give us time to develop an alternate plan, with citizen input, that will connect Raymond Rimkus Park with Crystal Hills Park. This connection was the original intent of the project.
- On May 19th, at the request of City Council member Benny Martinez and me, the council unanimously amended the Rules of Conduct for city council meetings to eliminate the sign-up requirement for citizens who want to speak at council meetings. There are still maximum times for speaking at citizens to be heard (5 minutes) and agenda items (3 minutes).
- **Coffee with the Mayor and Council will now be held quarterly.** (We have returned to two regular council meetings per month, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7PM.)
The next Coffee will be Saturday, July 25th from 9 – 11 am at the conference center. CPS Energy Vice

President Raiford Smith has been invited to communicate a new initiative: Rooftop Residential Solar Panels. This is a lease program where if you qualify (secure roof, adequate sunlight) CPS Energy will install and maintain solar panels with no money down. I heard about this program on the car radio. I thought, this compliments our new city motto: Deep Roots. Big Ideas.

- **Calling all Volunteers** – Please consider giving back one to two hours per month to your community. Visit www.leonvalleytexas.gov for a volunteer application to fill out and return to city hall.
- **4th of July Festivities in the Park** will begin with the parade at 10 a.m. and end with fireworks at 9:15 p.m. Remember that during the day there is limited shade, so please bring your umbrella. There will be five mist machines and one large tent. Please consider walking to the park due to parking constraints.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor. The council and I are all volunteers. My door is always open. If you have any questions or concerns, call or email me at (210) 618-2092 or mayorrriley@leonvalleytexas.gov.

Sincerely, Chris

Heavy Rainfall

Continued from cover

placing themselves and rescuers at risk. A vehicle was stopped from attempting to cross a low-water crossing, the same crossing our firefighters rescued two men from just last year. This was in addition to responding to ongoing non-weather related calls for emergency service.

Homes in Wimberley outside the 500-year flood plain were heavily damaged. This illustrates the need to improve our collective understanding and readiness as a

community and as first responders. Moving forward, we are finding and making improvements to achieve this goal. Improvements as simple as helping citizens easily identify their exact location in the floodplain can help raise awareness and encourage preparedness. Also, helping to understand flood insurance options, know evacuation/shelter options, and plan for special considerations.

In the coming months, look for updates and additions to our website, literature at our library and fire station, and community outreach classes. Lastly, please know that the entire city staff is working on improving our floodplain management program, which may result in lowering your flood insurance rates. We will be sure to provide updates!

Leon Valley Public Library

Summer time means our annual Summer Reading Program at the Leon Valley Public Library. This year, we are rewarding EVERYONE for reading. Yes, you read that right.

It's not just the kids who get all the fun and goodies! Teens and adults, you can stop by beginning June 6 and pick up a special bookmark to record your summer reading. For the Children (12 and under), our theme is **EVERY HERO HAS A STORY**. This just screams super hero, doesn't it? Saturday, June 6 from 10:30 am – 12 noon our Super Hero Training Academy kicked off our summer program. The excitement will continue throughout the summer as we make our capes, cuffs, masks, gadgets and have lots of activity, craft and learning classes packed with FUN! We will be rewarding the kids on a weekly basis for their daily reading and wrapping up the summer with a big bash and lots of prizes.

Our regular programming does not stop for summer reading, however. Be sure to mark your calendars for our regular events:

Every Thursday at 10:30 am is **Storytime**, concentrating on Super Colors this Summer.

Every Friday at 10:30 am is **The Adventurers is Storytime with more advanced activities**, concentrating on Storybook Heros.

June 6, July 11, August 1, and September 12 at 10:30 am is our monthly **BOOK CLUB** schedule.

Stop by the library to pick up a bookmark for a reminder, complete with list of books we will be reading!

Every second and last Thursday of each month our **CHESS GROUP** meets starting at 3:30 pm and runs until the last player is finished or 8 pm. All ages and skill levels welcome!

The fourth Saturday of each month at 10:30 am is our **LEON VALLEY DRUM CIRCLE**. No musical skills required, open to all ages. This is not a "group", but rather a public participation event. Come try it out, bring the kids! You might be very surprised at how much fun the entire family will have together!

Big Events to Mark on Your Calendar:

Saturday, June 20 at 2:30 pm Joe McDermott Concert at the Library. Joe is a children's recording artist that is great fun for the entire family. He will have the kids jumping, riding horses and roller coasters, sleeping on the floor and simply going WILD as the adults laugh, tap toes, and sing along. NOT TO BE MISSED!!!



Joe McDermott,
Children's
Recording Artist

Friday, June 26th at 10:30 am we have some of our local heroes doing a program at the library, our **Leon Valley Fire Fighters!**



Saturday, July 4th at 10:30 am is the Leon Valley Fourth of July Parade. We invite the children in the community to decorate their bikes, wagons and their families, and come walk in the parade with the Library. The Thursday prior (July 2) at 10:30 am, our storytime craft will be making something to wear or shake in the parade. Meet at the LDS church on Huebner at 9 am on parade day to get your goodies to wave and toss as we march!

Wednesday, August 19 at 10:30 am a COW is coming to the library, courtesy of the SW Dairy Farmers!

There is MUCH more planned, these are just some highlights. Stop by the library and say hi, see our new books, pick up a calendar and your reading logs so that you don't miss out on any of the fun! You can also "LIKE" us on Facebook to keep up to date.

Contact us at any time at: 210-684-0720 or you can always email our librarian at s.underwood@leonvalleytexas.gov.

Leon Valley Public Library.....
CHECK US OUT!!!

Artwork permissions at: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/issuesadv/kidscampaign/kidslogoandart> Photo courtesy of the artist.

LEON VALLEY CODE OF ORDINANCE REMINDER:

Article 6.03 Weeds, High Grass And Debris

Homeowners or tenants are responsible for keeping their lawns mowed, clipped mulched or cleared and the property free of litter (garbage, paper, cardboard, wood, glass, bedding, auto parts, appliances, limbs, etc.). The property must be maintained between the curb in front of the house (or if no curb then from the edge of the pavement) to the middle of the alley (or the back property line if there is no alley). Weeds or grass more than 12 inches high is a violation of the City Code. Failure to do so may result in a court citation.

Please help us keep Leon Valley beautiful!





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

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The City of



CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor** Chris Riley
- Place 1** David Edwards
- Place 2** Carmen Sanchez
- Place 3** Monica Alcocer
- Place 4** Benny Martinez
- Place 5** David Jordan

LION'S ROAR

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The Lion's Roar

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- Public Works**
Melinda Moritz, Director
681-1232

Communications Department
Darrick Green, Director
684-1391 x 253

CITY MEETINGS
All meetings at City Hall
unless otherwise specified.

City Council
1st & 3rd Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.

Board Of Adjustment
Meets as required

Coffee with the Mayor
Quarterly, 4th Saturday -
9-11 a.m.

Community Events Committee
4th 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 Monday - 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
Meets as required

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.

