

City Manager's Message By Kelly Kuenstler

The first few months of employment with the City of Leon Valley have been extremely rewarding. I continue to be astounded at the professionalism of the staff and the Council. The citizens have also shown meaningful involvement and a real pride in their community. Thanks to everyone for the warm welcome and good wishes. As the City moves into 2016, I thought a brief recap of where we stood at the close of 2015 was important.

Dispatch – Leon Valley and Helotes now have a joint dispatch center. There will now be 2 dedicated fire and police dispatchers on duty at all times in Helotes that will serve both cities. This joining of forces enhances current technology, improves staff training and supervision and will save the taxpayer approximately \$250,000 on dispatch services per year. The funds will be diverted to enhance efforts in the Public Works and Fire Departments.

Leon Valley Police – We closed out 2015 with the implementation of a new bullet proof vest policy, a body

camera policy and a fitness program which strives towards acceptable physical fitness standards in this department. The Department is always available to conduct residential security surveys for Leon Valley citizens. If you are interested in this service, contact the Police Department.

Leon Valley Fire – A new brush truck was purchased from Ancira-Winton Chevrolet in late 2015 using funds recovered through a federal program called the Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program. The truck has much better emission standards than the previous brush truck and offers modern safety and performance features. Additionally, the new Brush Truck will produce fuel savings in the Fire Department as it will be dual purposed as a support vehicle for EMS calls not requiring an engine truck. With the support of several local businesses, the firefighters outfitted the truck themselves which resulted in a significant cost savings to the taxpayer. The department is

also the first in the State of Texas to unveil a high water mark initiative at Raymond Rimkus Park. They also developed a Flood

Emergency Response Plan (FERP) in an effort to improve our community's response to flooding. This plan is available on our website along with the floodplain map. Finally, this Department began 2016 with continued work towards the obtainment of an improved ISO Flood Insurance Rating. Citizens will be updated as progress continues.

Public Works – Two new water wells will be installed in 2016 in Leon Valley and bids are being advertised for these projects. A water and sewer rate hike was approved in 2015 which will go into effect in 2016. Sewer, water supply and reconnect fees will

Continued on next page



City of Leon Valley 2016 General Election

A General Election will be held on May 07, 2016, for the purpose of electing a Mayor and two City Council Members (Places 2 and 4) 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 20, 2016 – Friday, February 19, 2016, (A completed application must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 19, 2016.)
- Early voting by personal appearance is Monday, April 25 through Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

The nearest polling location will be at the Leon Valley Conference Center.

- Election Day is Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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 7th is the last day for submitting a voter registration application in time to vote in the May 7th 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.

City Manager's Message

Continued from cover

increase in March of 2016 and water rates will increase in October of 2016. Flyers with rate increase amounts will be included in next month's water bills. A mill and overlay of Huebner, from Evers Road to the City limits is planned for early summer. A sewer main replacement project and a street ranking project are also both underway. The Evers Road sidewalk repair and installation project is underway with plans being created for eventual bid. This will cover the park side of the street from Huebner to Wurzbach. Finally, the Corp of Engineers will be visiting in early 2016 in order to conduct a Huebner Creek drainage study.

Finance – Our fiscal year 2015 audit has been completed and the final report has been delivered to Council. Leon Valley will receive a clean audit with no suggestions for improvement. The report will be

submitted to the Government Finance Officers' Association for their review and we are anticipating a Certificate of Achievement Award for Excellence in financial reporting. The Leon Valley Finance Department has been given this award for 17 years in a row.

City Secretary – The City Secretary's Office processed over 350 open record requests in 2015 and also began the much needed recodification process. This office is busy gearing up for the 2016 Leon Valley General Election. In order to verse you on deadlines and rules, the office has posted a candidate packet and a notice which includes filing dates and times on the city's website. This can be found under the City Secretary/Election tab at www.leonvalleytexas.gov.

Codes/Animal Control – 2396 Code violations were addressed in 2015 and 2170 of them were resolved. 8 code violation citations were issued in 2015 and 4 of those cases are still pending in Municipal Court. The Trap, Neuter and Return

Program (TNR) completed its first full year of operation (11/14-11/15) successfully spaying and neutering 47 feral cats. Animal Control dealt with 23 stray canine cases in 2015. Animal Control Officers gained much needed certification in 2015 and re-certification was done in the code compliance office as well.

We have moved into the newly remodeled City Hall at 6400 El Verde Road which was originally approved as the Municipal Facilities Bond Project in 2012 by the voters. On behalf of the Mayor, the City Council and the staff, a special thanks is extended to the Bond Oversight Committee and the citizens who made this project possible. Please feel free to stop by for a tour of the new facility any time. May 2016 bring each and every one of you health and happiness. Please let me know if there is anything that the City of Leon Valley can do to assist you.

Kelly Kuenstler
Leon Valley City Manager

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 2016, registered voters, who are citizens of Leon Valley, will vote for Mayor, Council Place No. 2, and Council Place No. 4.

WHEN:

Under Chapter 41 of the Texas Election Code, uniform election dates are specified. Except as otherwise provided, general or special elections in the State of Texas shall be held on either the first 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 the first Saturday in May. (May 07, 2016)

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. Email is: s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov

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 7, 2016 General Election ballot beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2016. All applications for a candidate's name to appear on the May 7, 2016 General Election ballot must be filed with the office of the City Secretary before 5:00 p.m. of February 19, 2016. 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 19, 2016 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).

Leon Valley, a Keep Texas Beautiful Affiliate Beautification Committee

The Beautification Committee, City of Leon Valley, has implemented a planted flower pot project in partnership with business owners, as a first step in beautifying Leon Valley. The flower pots planted with young asparagus ferns add a softer look to the brick and concrete surrounding most businesses and once mature will draw the attention of customers as well as passersby.



The partnership is entered into by agreeing to properly care for the plant(s) and by replacing the plant(s) upon disease or death. The signed agreement is kept on file with the Beautification Committee.

To date, 13 potted plants have been distributed. We welcome the following businesses as partners in helping to beautify Leon Valley: Leon Valley Café, Red Wing Shoes, World Finance Corporation, Funeral Caring USA, Sunset Plaza, Texas Pride Insurance, and Leon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce.

The project will commence in the Spring as vendors replenish their stock of pots and plants. If interested in participating in the program, please contact Jerry Perales, Staff Liaison, Beautification Committee, at j.perales@leonvalleytexas.gov or Donna Charles, Secretary, Beautification Committee, at donna.charles@sbcglobal.net.

Leon Valley Beautification Committee's Beautification Awards Program

To the benefit of residence, businesses, and the community, the Beautification Awards Program is being revitalized! After a brief absence, the program has been reviewed and reworked in order to highlight the residential and business properties which set standards for the community.



There is no need to apply for these awards. Annually in May, the judges, members of the Gardening Volunteers of South Texas will review each of the 19 neighborhoods and the businesses which are located in and around these neighborhoods, as well as those along Bandera, Evers, and Grissom Roads, and select the award recipients. The recipients will each receive a yard sign, which will be posted for one year, signifying that they are "winners". The judges will consider landscaping and hardscaping which

- enhance rather than detract from buildings
- are environmentally friendly, yet aesthetically pleasing
- add interest and appeal to general areas
- are well tended

The importance of the work leading to these awards is that current and potential residence and property owners will view the City of Leon Valley and the neighborhoods as prime places to live and thrive.

27th Annual Earthwise Living Day - "Wholesome Planet, Healthy You"

Saturday, March 5, 2016 • 9 am to 2 pm

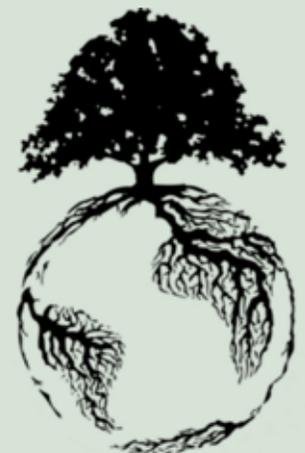
The Earthwise Living Committee of Leon Valley is pleased to announce that because of the high turnout for Texas Recycles Day back on November 15, 2015 (and many requests for another), we will be collecting recyclables at our **27th Annual EWL Day event, "Wholesome Planet, Healthy You" on March 5, 2016, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. by the LV Library Parking Lot, in front of Kinman House, at 6425 Evers Rd.**

We will be accepting all appliances, electronics of all sizes and types, batteries – NO ALKALINE – (rechargeables, Lithium, Nic-Cad, Dry Cell, and Car), old or unused medications, aluminum, steel, tin, iron and copper, plastic bags, corks and bottles (plastic and glass). We will also be collecting clothing and shoes, which can be but do not have to be usable or clean, merely textiles for recycling.

NO foodwaste containers, Styrofoam, or hazardous material. **Household hazardous materials can be collected FREE once annually at your home** by calling and scheduling with Waste Management.

wmatyourdoor.com or 1-800-449-7587 or email atyourdoor@wm.com

Help Keep Leon Valley Beautiful!



Leon Valley Becomes First in Texas to Participate in FEMA High Water Mark Initiative

By Luis Valdez, Fire Chief

Flooding is not exclusive to Leon Valley and the team here is simply working very hard to become the best managers of our floodplain. This management includes mitigation projects, emergency planning and preparedness, and community outreach and education. One of our goals includes earning an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Rating System. Earning this rating would provide a percentage discount for flood insurance, and the higher the rating, the bigger the discount percentage is given. A Class 5 rating, which is the highest rating in the State of Texas would translate to a 25% discount in flood insurance premiums. The City of Leon Valley has only 45% of homes near or in the floodplain that are covered by flood insurance. Our hope is that our work will make flood insurance more affordable for those that currently have it, and make it more attainable for those that want it or need it.

The City has shored up its floodplain ordinances, required water detention in new construction, installed state-of-the-art flood sensors in the creek and more. Most recently, we won our petition to the City of San Antonio that changed their Unified Development Code to now require mandatory detention in the Huebner Creek watershed upstream of Leon Valley. We have also developed a new Flood Emergency Response Plan (FERP) in our effort to provide consistent excellent service, and have increased our use of social media outlets to improve our emergency communication. You can now also find additional specific information about our floodplain at our Public Library and the fire station training room.

As we worked towards our goal of earning a flood insurance rating, we came across the FEMA High Water Mark Initiative. The goal of the Initiative is to improve community education and outreach.

This includes the posting of a sign that indicates the highest level that flood waters have reached

in Leon Valley's history. Our hope is that when people walk past the sign they are reminded of the inherent dangers of flash flooding in our area, and take time to learn and prepare their families. Our sign was unveiled on January 9th at Raymond Rimkus Park along the walking path across from the City swimming pool. The City of Leon Valley became the first city in Texas to participate in this initiative. We also earn points towards our goal of earning a high flood insurance rating.

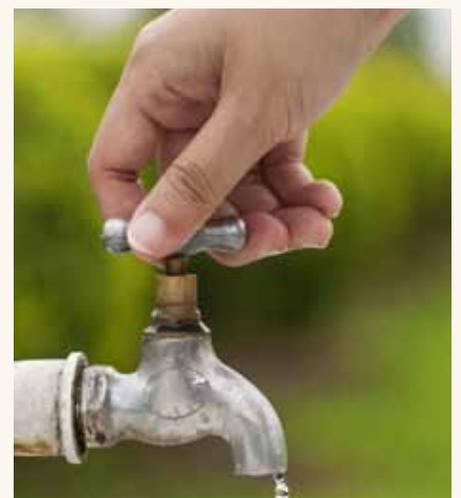
Congratulations to Leon Valley for leading the way in floodplain community outreach and education. There is much more to come! Remember that while there is nothing we can do to prevent flash flooding entirely, there are plenty of things we can do to better manage the threat and prepare our response. Thank you and stay safe!



Do Your Part to Conserve Water

1. Water your yard thoroughly, but only as needed—usually no more than one inch, once a week.
2. Use drip irrigation for plants and gardens, and water early in the morning to minimize evaporation.
3. Collecting rainwater for landscape use is great for the plants and can save you water and money.
4. Install aerators to cut in half the amount of water used by each faucet.
5. Fix faucet leaks, which can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water a year.
6. Install a water-efficient showerhead. It can save the average family 2,900 gallons of water and \$70 in energy and water costs a year.
7. Check your toilet by using a leak-detection dye tablet. Leaks can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day.
8. Replace older toilets with water-efficient models and save up to 4,000 gallons of water a year.
9. Washing only full loads of laundry can save an average household more than 3,400 gallons of water each year.
10. Invest in an ENERGY STAR-qualified clothes washer, which typically uses about 50% less water and 25% less energy per load.

See more at: <http://www.takecareoftexas.org>



NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE APPLICATIONS FOR PLACE ON THE BALLOT

(AVISO DE FECHA LIMITE PARA PRESENTAR SOLICITUDES PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA)

Notice is hereby given that applications for a place on the City of Leon Valley, Texas General Election ballot may be filed during the following time:

(Se da aviso por la presente que las solicitudes para un lugar en la boleta de la Elección General de City of León Valley, Texas se pueden presentar durante el siguiente horario:)

Filing Dates and Times: (Fechas y Horario para Entregar Presentaciones)

Start Date: (Fecha Inicio)
January 20, 2016

End Date: (Fecha Limite)
February 19, 2016

Office Hours: (Horario de la Oficina)
7:30 am – 5:30 pm Monday-Thursday; and 7:30 am – 11:30 am Friday

Physical address for filing applications in person for place on the ballot:

(Dirección a física para presentar las solicitudes en persona para un lugar en la boleta)

City of Leon Valley
6400 El Verde Road
Leon Valley, Texas 78238

Address to mail applications for place on the ballot (if filing by mail):

(Dirección a donde enviar las solicitudes para un lugar en la boleta (en caso de presentar por correo))

City of Leon Valley
Attn: Office of the City Secretary
6400 El Verde Road
Leon Valley, Texas 78238

Presenting “Flash”, Leon Valley’s New Brush Truck

By Luis Valdez, Fire Chief

We are pleased to report that our new brush truck was completed and presented on January 7th at Ancira Chevrolet. The event was attended by our Mayor and City Council, Mr. Ernesto Ancira, Mrs. April Ancira, and Ancira General Manager Herman Murray. The Leon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce and several Television reporters, City staff and Leon Valley citizens were present for the unveiling.

Before we unveiled our new brush truck, our Mayor officially retired “Betsy”, our 1976 Chevrolet brush truck. This truck was purchased for \$50 from the Leon Valley Police Department as a seized vehicle, and then built by Leon Valley Firefighters. “Betsy” has responded to thousands of calls over the years and helped protect our city and support our neighboring communities when called upon. Mayor Riley read a proclamation officially retiring and thanking “Betsy” and then officially placed her “out of service”.

It was explained that funding of our NEW brush truck came from a federal reimbursement called the Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program (ASPP). In 2015, we were able to recover expenses from providing emergency services to the community through this special federal recovery program. The amount that was recovered was \$40,427, and we were

supported by City Council in our request to apply the funding to support the needs of emergency services. One of those needs was to replace our 40-year-old brush truck. Generally, the cost of a custom brush truck is much more expensive and can in fact, be well over \$100,000.00.

So, at no extra cost to our citizens, this truck was purchased and outfitted with heavy-duty 10-ply tires, suspension, a brush guard, spot lights, and trailer hitch by Team Ancira. We were then assisted by local businesses for emergency striping, side steps, lighting, and upgrades in the

power plant. These businesses include: XGrafX, Ameraguard, Line-X, and G&R Automotive. Leon Valley Public Works and the Fire Department installed the emergency lighting, water tank and pump, plumbing, and refurbishing the hose bed and hose reel. We are certainly proud that the truck was equipped entirely here in Leon Valley!

Students at both Driggers Elementary School and Leon Valley Elementary School were asked to help us name our new brush truck. They unanimously selected, “Flash”.

“Flash” is a brand new Chevrolet 2500HD 4x4 powered by a 6.0 Liter v8 engine. The truck is outfitted with suspension upgrades, firefighting tools and also brings improvements in performance, safety and emissions. The Fire Department would like to thank everyone for their support, and welcome “Flash” to our team!





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

PRSRD STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TX
PERMIT NO. 1675

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

The Lion's Roar is published by The City of Leon Valley, Texas, six times a year. Any publication of The City of Leon Valley, whether draft or final is the sole property of The City of Leon Valley and cannot be reproduced or distributed in any way, whether in print or electronically, without the express written consent of The City of Leon Valley. For questions or comments regarding the information contained herein, contact:

The Lion's Roar

City of Leon Valley
6400 El Verde Road
Leon Valley, Texas 78238
(210) 684-1391, x. 233

CITY STAFF

- City Manager**
Kelly Kuenstler
684-1391 x 219
- City Secretary**
Saundra Passailaigue
684-1391 x 216
- Finance Department**
Vickie Wallace, Director
684-1391 x 223
- Community Development**
Elizabeth Carol, Director
684-1391 x 227
- City Attorney**
Roxann Pais Cotroneo
684-1391 x 217
- LV Public Library**
Sandy Underwood, Director
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

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 Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.

Stormwater Committee

Quarterly, 1st Monday - 7:00 p.m.

Tree Advisory Board

1st Monday - 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Commission

4th Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.

Community Advisory Group

Meets as required

Beautification Committee

3rd Wednesday - 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.

