

Mayor's Message

By Mayor Chris Riley

SPECTACULAR 4th of JULY CELEBRATION !

Congratulations and THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to a fantastic Leon Valley 4th of July event! The day's fun events included a 5K run, the parade, carnival, plus all day entertainment with food and drink galore, which culminated with the fireworks finale at dusk! Over 20,000 people attended (and many others watched the fireworks from the area). Public safety personnel reported three heat related cases, as well as a pedestrian/vehicular accident at Bandera and Huebner Road, which we are grateful was not worse. Our entire staff, led by City Manager Kelly Kuenstler and Kristie Flores, Communications Director, and the Community Events Committee are to be commended for their efforts in organizing this event. Special thanks to all our sponsors who partnered with the city to make this event possible: Leon Valley Economic Development Corporation, Ancira, HEB, CPS Energy, Miracle Body & Paint, Leon Valley Storage, Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, Walgreens, Sunset Funeral Home Northwest, Helotes Echo and KSAT-12. Hope to see you next year!

STRATEGIC PLAN INCLUDES CODE ENFORCEMENT

In August, 2014, the city council approved adding Code Enforcement to the city's seven Strategic Goals: Economic Development, Safety and Security, Transportation, Infrastructure/Capital Plan, Environmental Sustainability, Citizen Involvement, and Parks, Recreation, Green Space & Cultural Opportunities.

The city has assigned Arson Investigator/Paramedic Todd Morgan as a Special Investigator to assist Public Works with code enforcement. Investigator Morgan has temporarily assumed these duties for 20 hours per week in an extremely efficient manner while the city trains a permanent replacement.

All citizen complaints of code enforcement violations, which may be anonymous, must be in writing. The preferred method is to go online to www.leonvalleytexas.gov and click REPORT AN ISSUE or ONIT and fill out the attached form. You can also email Investigator Morgan at: t.morgan@leonvalleytexas.gov or if you have no computer, contact him at (210) 251-1797, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The city's procedure for dealing with code complaints is as follows: An "Administrative Notice of Violation" is sent to the alleged offender. This notice is a way to educate, inform or ask for compliance with a code violation. There is not a fine, just a simple note or door hanger informing of the code violation, what is needed to correct the issue, and how many days to comply.

If there is no compliance with the "Administrative Notice", the next step would be issuance of "Enforcement Notice of Violation". This may include a second letter and a citation. Steps such as revocation of certificate of occupancy, disconnection of utility services or the city correcting the issue and billing the owner of the property may occur (usually with a lien attached to the property for reimbursement of costs expended).



The new code enforcement policy, still under review, calls for coordination and improved teamwork between all departments. We are confident that this is the right direction for code enforcement.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Beautification Committee was added as a way to approach code enforcement in a positive manner – beautify our community as a way of maintaining our property values. This volunteer committee has helped to spearhead the following three programs to add to the beauty of our community in a few short years:

- a) Reinstatement of the annual Beautification Awards. At the June 21st council meeting, 15 residential winners and 1 business winner were announced and given a Beautification sign to place in their yard for one year. Many thanks to the Forest Oaks Garden Club and the Bexar County Master Gardeners for the time they spent in judging the neighborhoods, as well as the Beautification committee for their organization of these awards. You can see pictures of the winners' homes on the city's web site. They are setting a standard of beauty in our community. Congratulations!
- b) Potted plant project – The city has partnered with various businesses to add asparagus fern pots in front

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of their businesses. Check out the Leon Valley Chamber of Commerce on Evers Road and Sunset shopping center on Wurzbach road to see this program in action!

- c) Neighborhood Renewal program - the Beautification committee invited a representative of the city of Live Oak to speak on their Clean Up, Fix-Up bi-annual effort to clean up and beautify their city. The council also heard and approved the concept in February of this year and by June, the first Neighborhood renewal effort, headed by David Dimaline, Public Works assistant director, was implemented. A portion of Old Mill neighborhood was addressed by identifying a home that needed painting, as well as street sweeping, stop sign clean-up and trimming. Supplies for volunteers and community service providers were donated by Home Depot and PPG

Paints. The next clean-up effort will be in September, 2016. The emphasis on improving property and beautifying our community is here to stay!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

For the first time in Municipal Court history, Judge Morales and Judge Phillips instituted a community service option to payment of fines. This is very significant because when an offender pays money for a fine, approximately 47% goes to the State of Texas with the City of Leon Valley keeping the balance. With the implementation of community service for payment of one's fines, the city receives 100% of the value of the fine. Between April 7 – May 12, 2016, 558 hours of community service were scheduled and 131 hours had been completed. Some examples of work performed includes picking up trash in the park, helping community development with filing, and cleaning the city pool.

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING

- City Budget Hearings for fiscal year 2017: Wednesday, August 31st, 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday September 6th, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. The FY 17 budget will be adopted on September 20th;
- TXDOT public hearing on Bandera Road options;
- Oak Wilt education sponsored by the Tree Advisory Board. Oak wilt has appeared in the Castle Estates and Monte Robles neighborhoods. A class to address this issue will be scheduled this fall.

Dates to be determined. See ENEWS or website (www.leonvalleytexas.gov). Please call or email if we can help in any way. The council and I are here to serve you.

**Sincerely, Chris
(210) 618-2092**

Practice Home Escape/Evacuation Plan

By Luis Valdez, Fire Chief

We should all be familiar with the phrase, "Practice makes perfect". This is the whole reason we train so much in the fire department, to prepare our skills so much that our actions become second nature during an actual emergency. All families need to have an emergency plan, and everyone has different needs or challenges to address. That's why it's so important to plan ahead with your families, and practice. This will help you identify ways to overcome those challenges individually. What might work for my family, may not for yours.

Generally, there are three types of actions you need to prepare for; a home escape plan that would be needed for a fire or other emergency that forces an evacuation, a shelter-in-place plan that may be needed when facing an emergency right outside your home, such as a tornado, and

an evacuation plan that involves emergency shelter.

A home fire escape plan has some very basic components that are needed in order to be successful; Having smoke detectors that work, crawling low through smoke, knowing at least two ways out, having a meeting place, and NEVER going back inside until released by the fire department. Remember, the fire department installs free battery-operated smoke detectors, and will change out your batteries when needed anytime, just call 210-684-3219 to make an appointment. Batteries should be changed twice a year corresponding with daylight savings time.

There may be a time that it is best that your family shelter-in-place. This is a precaution aimed to keep you safe while remaining indoors. (This is not the same thing as going to a shelter

in case of a storm.) Shelter-in-place means selecting a small, interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. It does not mean sealing off your entire home or office building. Make sure your family all knows where this designated room is, and let us know if you need help assessing the best rooms in your home to shelter in place.

A large area disaster such as a flood may require that you have to evacuate your home. The emergency shelters for the City of Leon Valley are John Marshall High School located at 8000 Lobo Lane and Pat Neff Middle School located at 5227 Evers Rd.

As always, we encourage everyone to learn more, plan ahead, practice, and keep your families safe. Thank you, and make sure to follow us on Facebook, NextDoor.com, Twitter, or by visiting the City website.

Clean-Up Week!

Place items at the curb: August 29, 2016

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

Collection begins on September 5, 2016 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 are required to haul away all trimmings. Please assure vehicles are not parked at the curb in front of large item piles.

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.

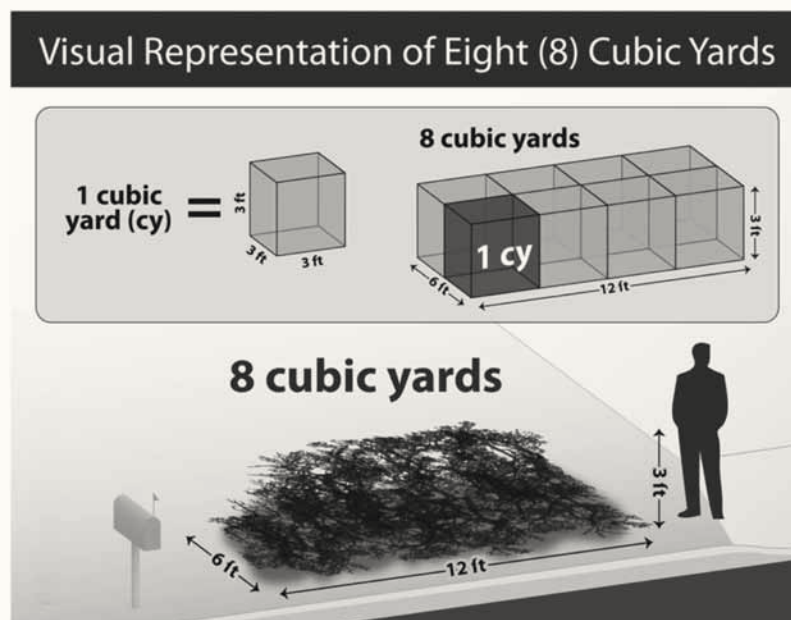
Don't put out commercial or industrial waste, construction material, tires, batteries, oil, paint, or other household hazardous waste. These items will not be picked up.

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 Sept 5th to put your items out for collection. You could miss the collection from your street.

Here's what eight cubic yards looks like:



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

“Book A Librarian” Or “Check A Tech”

The Leon Valley Public Library recognizes that not all patron information needs can be satisfied through a 5-10 minute reference transaction at the circulation desk and so provides both “Book a Librarian” and “Check-a-Tech” services. The goal is to offer assistance to those who seek one-on-one guidance for questions that require more time or preparation.

“Book a Librarian” or “Check-a Tech” allows you to reserve a free half hour session with a professional reference librarian or library technician.

Examples of the services we can help with include:

- 1) Filling out a job application
- 2) Using one of the Leon Valley Public Library’s databases
- 3) Setting up an email account
- 4) General computer help: photos, printing, basic computer use
- 5) Creating a reading list
- 6) Downloading eBooks or audio books to a device
- 7) Help with genealogy research
- 8) And BEYOND!

In addition, for quick, email questions you may contact s.underwood@leonvalleytexas.gov



How It Works

- 1) Appointments may be made using the attached “Book A Librarian/Check-a-Tech” form.
- 2) Appointments are available during Leon Valley Public Library operating hours. No appointments will be scheduled on holidays.
- 3) Patrons requesting appointments must allow at least seven (7) days advance notice.
- 4) To cancel an appointment, the patron must call the Leon Valley Public Library during operating hours and provide his/her name and the time of the scheduled appointment.
- 5) Based on the subject of the appointment and staff availability, Leon Valley Public Library staff will determine who will assist the patron for the appointment.
- 6) Staff assigned will be based on availability and expertise.

What We Can’t Do

- 1) Offer medical, legal, business, or financial advice except to help the patron find reputable sources that can provide answers to these questions using one of the Leon Valley Public Library’s databases.
- 2) Provide technical support or troubleshooting for personal computers or devices except when it concerns utilizing Leon Valley Public Library services such as using the catalog, checking out eBooks or accessing Leon Valley Public Library databases.
- 3) General computer help: photos, printing, basic computer use.
- 4) Library staff members are not technology experts and may not be able to provide assistance with certain computer operating systems, software, or applications. In these cases, the Leon Valley Public Library staff will provide the patron with resources for self-directed learning.
- 5) Type or proofread documents.
- 6) Offer job hunting or career advice beyond connecting the patrons with helpful resources.
- 7) Provide tutoring.

Check Out the Library

Summer reading was a great success with record attendance at programs throughout the summer! Throughout the month of August we will continue increased programming for the children to keep them active and reading, ready to start school at the end of the month!

We are offering a new service at the library: Book a Librarian/Check a Tech. We realize that quick interactions during a busy day don't always fulfill your needs of learning a new skill or gaining the knowledge you seek. Stop in the library for a form to schedule a 30 minute appointment with a professional librarian or a

library technician to get in depth help on things such as research, learning about our databases, genealogy, setting up an email account, how to use eBooks, format a resume...and so much more!

The library is available to you 24/7 via eBooks, over 5,000 eBooks at that! We are part of the Lone Star Digital Consortium and you can find a direct link to our eBooks on our website (www.leonvalley.lib.tx.us) or our FaceBook Page.

If you haven't been in to see us recently, please stop in! We love visitors and helping you find what you are looking for!



Save the Monarchs!

Monarch butterfly. Photo by David Mizejewski.

Leon Valley has taken the Monarch Butterfly Pledge. Our Mayor Chris Riley along with other local Mayors and municipalities have taken action to help save the monarch butterfly whose population has declined by 90% over the last 20

years. For the next several months you will see the City's efforts to educate the public as well as create local habitats for these beautiful creatures. You can do your part by planting milkweed and learn to garden organically instead of

using harmful pesticides which harm the butterflies and eliminate their ability to breed. For more information on what you can do visit: <http://blog.nwf.org/2015/02/saving-monarchs/>



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

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CITY COUNCIL

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

LION'S ROAR

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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**
Denise Frederick
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

Kristie Flores, Director
684-1391 x 234

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

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

1st Monday - 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Commission

4th Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.

Community Advisory Group

Meets as required

Beautification Committee

3rd Wednesday - 4:15 p.m.
Fire Department

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.

