

Mayor's Message

By Mayor Chris Riley

CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL RETREAT

On Saturday, June 7th the new city council (Mayor Riley, Councilmembers Ruiz, Sanchez, Diaz, Martinez & Biever), City Manager Longoria and Facilitator Bob Ashcroft, met to establish one year goals and objectives for the city. Three goals with objectives were determined:

Goal #1: Economic Development/Redevelopment.

- Resolve the town center lawsuit and develop a concept for moving forward;
- Economic Development Board (LVEDC) will finalize and begin to implement their strategic plan;
- Partner with the LVEDC, Chamber of Commerce and City Council on economic development projects (Quarterly meeting was held on July 14th);
- Beautify, reduce clutter and improve our city's appearance and image through a plan of action;
- Research and develop a plan to address vacant commercial properties; and
- Be proactive and realistic in attracting and retaining businesses through economic development strategies.

Goal # 2: Customer Service/Communication.

- Become a home rule city;
- Increase public satisfaction with public safety services;
- Develop an effective system to track and respond to citizen inquiries/complaints (ON-IT program has been initiated as of June 30, 2014. Call 684-6648 to log a complaint);



Mayor Chris Riley

- Better trained staff to support customer service (move from good to great).

Goal #3: Infrastructure.

- Address Evers Road rehabilitation plan;
- Develop a plan to resolve flood control issues around the park;
- Improve traffic flow overall and in specific problem areas.

The city manager recommended the formation of three city council subcommittees to help accomplish these goals. A policy committee will also be established to address several important issues that were identified concerning the proper working relationship between mayor, council, staff and citizens.

One of the issues in the recent election was to establish a Home Rule Charter Commission. The City of Leon Valley is one of the last Texas cities in the state of over 10,000 citizens to begin the process of becoming a home rule city. (Our population was 10,151 in the

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Did You Know?

- **Coffee with the Mayor & Council has changed to the 4th Saturday of the month** – next one is August 23rd from 9:00 – 11:00 am at the Conference Center. Call me at (210) 618-2092 if you would like to have something specific on the agenda.
- **Calling all Volunteers** – A Beautification Committee was recently added to the list of city committees. We are actively looking for volunteers for this committee. The idea behind this committee was to look at ways we can beautify and enhance Bandera and Evers roads, keeping up our property values. There are also openings on other city committees for you to give back your time, talent and creative energy. Time required: One meeting a month for 1 – 2 hours per month. This is a great way to meet new people and build community! Go to www.leonvalleytexas.gov for an application to fill out and return to city hall.
- **VIA PRIMO** – Have you received a notice for jury duty? The county will give you a free bus pass for your jury service. Consider taking the Primo from Leon Valley, which stops in front of the courthouse (in about 40 minutes). You can call VIA Info at 362-2020 and ask what time the bus will be by a particular stop or if you have a smart phone text in the bus stop number and it will tell you when the next bus will be by. All PRIMO busses are hybrid (gas and electric), have Wifi on board, bus racks inside and are clean and safe. There is a bus stop in front of the DPS Center on Huebner road that has

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Lion's Roar

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2010 census). Recall, Initiative and Referendum can be elements of a home rule charter. The goal of the Commission is to have a home rule city charter drafted and finalized for a vote of the people by the May, 2015 election. Stay tuned.

ENTRYWAY MONUMENTS ON BANDERA ROAD

I have heard various comments about the Bandera Road monuments ranging from "I love them" to "how much did they cost"? This project has been in the long range plan since beautification was mandated by the citizens on the economic development sales tax ballot in 2008. In 2010, the city was unsuccessful in its application for a \$2.3 million

grant to TXDOT to beautify Bandera Road from the flyover to Eckert road. In 2011, a smaller beautification plan was prepared by architect Jim Carrillo, Half & Associates, which included the two-entry way monuments with landscaping that you see today. After TXDOT approved the plans and the city adopted a new logo, construction began in spring of 2014. The cost of these two monuments is approximately \$400,000. The monuments were paid for from the \$1.5 million CPS Energy CIED refund to our city, received in 2012. (CIED funds have also been used as the 20% match for the Hike & Bike trail grant and expansion of the Library Children's Wing). Our goal with the monuments is to enhance our city's identity and to attract people to Leon Valley, not just to pass through it!

Did You Know?

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a large parking lot to park your car. The Primo will also take you to the Medical Center and UTSA (1604 and downtown campuses).

- **Grand 4th of July Parade and Celebration** – Kudos keep pouring in on the great parade, day long activities, music, food, all culminated with a stunning fireworks display! Special thanks to everyone who helped make this a truly wonderful event (you know who you are). We will have an even better celebration next year! KSAT – 12 TV will continue as our media sponsor.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and good luck to all our students returning to a new school year!

Sincerely, Chris

Leon Valley Public Library

By Sandy Schultz, Assistant Library Director

Summer reading has been a HUGE success! Leon Valley children have read hundreds of books this summer, and continue to do so as the school year draws near. You will notice the bright summer reading t-shirts around town celebrating their success. Science themed, the programs this year brought us fun ranging from making bird feeders and learning about types of birds they will bring, to making our own bouncing balls from items found around the house.

As we wrap up summer reading, there is still a lot going on at your local library!

The first Saturday of each month is when our book club meets at 10:30 am in the library meeting room.

For our September 6th meeting, our book selection is *THE HELP* by Kathryn Stockett. For October 4th, our selection is *HOUSE OF SEVEN GABLES* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

As always, Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am is *STORYTIME* at the library. Open to all ages of children, we invite you to join us as we read, sing, and craft our way through books.

Have you seen more teens wandering the library? We have! Not just more teen volunteers, but our newly established Teen Group has been making themselves seen as we have initial Teen Advisory Board meetings and start planning for some FUN. If you know a teen that would like to get involved in making the LV Library more teen friendly, send them our way. An open mic night for local teen musicians looks to be on the horizon, keep posted for more on this!

A new monthly happening is the Leon Valley Community Drum Circle. Starting Saturday, August 23, and led by local drummer Kevin Cooley, this group will be meeting the fourth Saturday of each month from 10:30 – 11:30 am at the library. Come listen and/or participate.

Future happenings include Banned Book Week the end of September and Fire Awareness Month in October. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW** for Saturday, December 6th for our Annual Breakfast with Santa, details to follow.

If you haven't been to the library lately, come check us out!

"We're On It!"

by Stephen Fimbel, IT Specialist



The City of Leon Valley has established the Citizen Action Team (CAT) to help improve communication and customer satisfaction with the residents of Leon Valley. The goal of the CAT is to ensure that City service requests and information are handled, as promptly as possible, with a high level of customer service. The team is headed by the Human Resources Director and supported by the City Secretary, IT Specialist, Administration Administrative Assistant, and Receptionist. The CAT is responsible for receiving, tracking, and following-up with the public's concerns, complaints, and/or questions. Residents can call (210) 684-ONIT (6648), email OnIt@leonvalleytexas.gov, or click on the "We're On It!" button on the City website to submit a request to the CAT. The CAT will follow-up with these requests to ensure customer satisfaction because "We're On It!"

FALL LARGE ITEM PICKUP

FALL CLEAN-UP WEEK ~ SEPTEMBER 8th ~ 19th, 2014

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

COLLECTION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8th, 2014 AT 7:00 A.M.

Collection vehicles will pass down each street only once and will proceed until the entire City has been collected. Please be patient, collection may take more than one week to complete. Following are some simple guidelines that will help you prepare for a safe and successful clean-up:

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

By Melinda Smith, Dir. Public Works

DO!

- 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).
- Do stack brush with the butt ends pointing in the same direction
- 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, wire 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 your waste materials over the water meter or too close to the mailboxes.
- Don't wait until September 8th to put your items out for collection – put them out the Monday before, so Waste Management can survey what they will need to pick up. You could miss the collection for your street.

The City Manager

By Councilmember Paul Bieber

One of the most complicated and difficult positions in any city, is that of city manager. With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to our city manager, Manuel Longoria, for a job well done. His style of leadership has been to promote team work by bringing people together to deliver services to our citizens. This is evident by his surrounding himself with a strong, experienced, knowledgeable and capable team of key staff.

Under his leadership we are now in the strongest financial position in the history of Leon Valley. Our Sales tax increased from approximately 5.3 % over the last three years to 14.4 % this year. He assisted in the renegotiation of the CPS Franchise Fee to increase it by 1.5%. Since he came on the job, we have not had to increase property taxes for our operating budget. There has been a small tax increase to cover the 7 million dollar bond debt, which was approved by 64% of our citizens, for a new facility for the fire department, as well as capital improvements for the police department and city hall.

Mr. Longoria has helped Leon Valley turn the corner as businesses are gradually moving into our community with the knowledge that the culture of doing business in our city has improved. We are seen as

being open for business. Our staff, the various departments, and city council is viewed as being helpful, and the Economic Development Commission is seen as a viable group with a developing strategic plan. Mr. Longoria has also demonstrated that he can leverage money and other resources to benefit our citizens. He has arranged with TX DOT for the City of Leon Valley to take over the beautification of the Bandera Road Corridor, with regular cutting of the grass and pick up of trash. Through strategic planning, he has assisted in the rebranding of Leon Valley, some of which is evident with the new logo, street signs that identify one as being in Leon Valley, new monuments, and the signature July 4th event. A recent study on employee compensation will assist us in attracting new employees when needed and for the retention of staff - without the need to raise taxes. Speaking of our employees, it has been my observation that they are, for the most part, happy, and morale has improved. Under his leadership and approved by our citizens a "Crime District" to help ensure our safety and security was established with monies coming from sales tax. There is also a new street maintenance program approved by voters, which has to be renewed every 10 years instead of every 4 years. We are the only city



Councilmember Paul Bieber

in Texas with this status, which is significant as it allows us to leverage funds for major street repairs.

Mr. Longoria has overseen the improvements to the library and the park. A plan is in place to implement a hike / bike trail, yet keep 95% of the natural area pristine. Our citizens have free access to a swimming pool, park, natural area and library. All of which speaks to our social equity goals. He has promoted retreats for staff and city council members for problem solving and strategic planning. Mr. Longoria has met or addressed the goals set out for him by the city council over the last 3 years. Of course there are unresolved issues and problems; however, history reflects that these will be addressed. It is a compliment to Mayor Chris Riley and the sitting council members at that time for their wisdom in seeking out and selecting Mr. Longoria to be our city manager.



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 Ricardo Ruiz
Place 2 Carmen Sanchez
Place 3 Abraham Diaz
Place 4 Benny Martinez
Place 5 Paul Biever

LION'S ROAR

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The Lion's Roar

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CITY STAFF

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684-1391 x 227
Economic Development
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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

Community Events Committee

3rd Wednesdays - 6:30 p.m.

Earthwise Living Committee

2nd Wednesday -
5:30 p.m. Public Works

Library Board

2nd Monday - 7:00 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 251-1797

Code Enforcement 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.

