

City Manager's Message

By Manuel Longoria, Jr.

I'm on the verge of completing four years as City Manager of Leon Valley. I was appointed City Manager in May 2011 and I'm very thankful and appreciative to the Mayor and City Council for giving me the opportunity to serve the citizens of this community. The position of City Manager is one that carries much responsibility and I always strive to do my best in providing service and producing results that benefit the collective community. I want to take the opportunity in this column to explain the role of the City Manager position as well as the roles of the Mayor and City Council, especially now that a Home Rule Charter is under consideration for Leon Valley that recommends the City Council-City Manager form of government.

A City Manager is an executive in charge of the administration of the city's government. He or she is sometimes referred to as the administrative manager or chief operating officer of a city's government. City Managers are not elected to the position, but are specifically hired by the City Council. As the administrative officer of a city, the City Manager may create the city's budget, oversee the day-to-day operations of the individual departments, make personnel decisions, and provide advice to and

carry out the specific policies of the City Council. In theory, he or she does not typically make or set specific policy initiatives, but rather, carries out the policies and directives as set by the Council and the Mayor. The Manager serves at the pleasure of the City Council.

Generally speaking, there are two main forms of city government that are most popular. The first type is known as a Mayor-Council form of government, where executive power is vested in an elected Mayor, while legislative power resides in an elected City Council. In some cities, the power of the Mayor eclipses that of the Council, and the City Council is limited to advisory or oversight duties. Other cities have a stronger Council, with the position of the Mayor relegated largely to ceremonial or figurehead status.

The second main type of municipal government is known as the City Council-City Manager form of government. Leon Valley currently operates under this system and the proposed Home Rule Charter reaffirms this structure. This type of city government generally consists of a City Council and a Mayor who is also typically a member of the Council. The Mayor and City Council are elected by the people. The Mayor and

the Council then hire a professional manager to oversee the operations of the city government and to implement the policy decisions of the Mayor and Council.

The position of City Manager is believed to have originated in the early 1900s here in the State of Texas. The theory behind this form of government was that local government would run more effectively and efficiently if led by a professional Manager who implemented the policies set by elected officials. It was also believed that the apolitical nature of the position would remove any undue and inappropriate political influence from the administration of a city's operations.

Individuals that have served in the position of City Manager will say that longevity in the position can be short term for a variety of reasons. That said, professional City Managers have an objective to set a pathway of improvement that will improve the city organization to benefit the entire community and make the city they serve a better place.

I hope you enjoyed this brief tutorial on city government and the City Manager position. As always, please let us know how we can be of service to you.

Leon Valley Firefighters Win Lone Star Award

By Luis Valdez, Fire Chief

The Leon Valley Fire Department is proud to report that they are the recipients of this year's "**Lone Star Achievement Award**" presented by the Texas Fire Chiefs Association. The award is presented to the most innovative and progressive fire prevention program in Texas. Leon Valley Firefighters worked through 2014 to

expand on an already excellent program by improving outreach through social media, expanding fire prevention education to senior citizens, and the addition of The Cooking Safe Apron Program.

The department has experienced a reduction in cooking-related emergencies in 2014, and our work in fire prevention was recognized

by the Texas Fire Chiefs Association and the Texas State Fire Marshal.

Leon Valley Firefighters will continue the work of keeping Leon Valley safe and being a leader in the fire service. Make sure to "Like" our page at <https://www.facebook.com/LeonValleyFire>. Stay informed and stay safe!

May 09, 2015 General & Special Election – Voting Calendar

Early Voting will be held at the Leon Valley Conference Center & Election Day Voting will be held at the Leon Valley City Hall Council Chambers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	April 27th 8 am – 6 pm	April 28th 8 am – 6 pm	April 29th 8 am – 6 pm	April 30th 8 am – 6 pm	May 1st 8 am – 6 pm	May 2nd 8 am– 8 pm
May 3rd No Voting	May 4th 8 am – 8 pm	May 5th 8 am – 8 pm	May 6th No Voting	May 7th No Voting	May 8th No Voting	May 9th ELECTION DAY 7 am – 7 pm

*For a complete list of poll sites please visit Bexar County Elections Department at <http://elections.bexar.org/index.html>

You must be registered in Leon Valley to vote in this election. Please be reminded that April 9, 2015 is the last day for unregistered applicants to submit a federal postcard application. You are welcome to contact the City Secretary (210) 684-1391 extension 216 for assistance with voter registration.

Voting by mail has been available to elderly voters and voters with physical disabilities in Texas for decades. Applications for a ballot by mail must be submitted to the Bexar County Elections Department no earlier than 2 months before Election Day and no later than 9 days before.

You may vote by mail if you are:

- Going to be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting
- Sick or disabled
- 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- Confined in jail, but eligible to vote

Please complete and return your application between 60 days and 9 days prior to the election for which a ballot is requested. Applications are available at City Hall or for further information, please call (210) 335-0362.

Bexar County Elections Department must receive your marked ballot by **7 p.m. on Election Day.**

Leon Valley Public Library

SUMMER READING is around the corner! Seems hard to believe, doesn't it? We are looking forward to a very active and fun summer and our theme this year is **"EVERY HERO HAS A STORY"**. There will be super hero training academies, hero super power cuff making classes, reading challenges, and so much more. The big one to put on your calendar right now is SATURDAY JUNE 20 at 2:15 pm. Children's recording artist, Joe McDermott will be rocking the library. This is one NOT to be missed.

Joe will have the kids jumping, rolling, wiggling and all out wild as the parents tap their feet to his wonderful tunes. Keep your eyes open for Summer Reading Registration Forms, available at your library in May 2015.

STORYTIME for the under school aged kids is held every Thursday at 10:30 am. Come meet other parents and kids as we read, sing and wiggle



Joe McDermott,
Children's Recording Artist

our way through books. Every storytime includes crafts as well! With beautiful weather arriving, there will be bubbles and chalk drawing at storytimes as well, so come meet new friends and make a morning of it! Remember, Raymond Rimkus Park is just across the street and great for taking a picnic lunch after storytime!

Our **SMART SHOPPERS** group has launched and will concentrate on living well and spending less.

We will learn about great deals, seasonal buying, couponing, extreme couponing, shopping apps, frugality and so much more. There is talk there will be a coupon swap at some point and field trips to hear special speakers around town, perhaps bringing some to us as our group grows!

The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am. Children welcome, we will arrange for movies or activities for the kids if possible. Perhaps a homeschooling teen to entertain them?

For more information you can contact Sandy at the library – 210-684-0720. Library members involved that you can also gain more information from (often at storytime) are: Jackie Chavez and Linda Crews.

If you haven't been into the library lately, come over and CHECK US OUT!

FACT-SHEET

Proposed Home Rule Charter



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 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.

We need YOU!!

Boards, Commission and Committee Appointments to be made in June!

The Leon Valley City Council is looking for volunteers to serve on the various boards/commissions/committees the City has.

We currently have the following vacancies:

The Library Board of Trustees –
Two (2) Alternate vacancies;

The Stormwater Advisory Committee –
One vacancy;

Board of Adjustment – Three (3) Alternate vacancies;

Tree Advisory Board – One (1) Alternate vacancy;

Leon Valley Economic Development Corporation –
One (1) vacancy.

Applications to serve are available at City Hall as well on the City's website at www.leonvalley-texas.gov/mayor_and_city_council/volunteer.php. The deadline to submit your application is May 31, 2015. Please drop off your application or send it via email to the City Secretary at s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov

IMPORTANT NEWS:

City Council Will Now Be Held Twice A Month.

City Council adopted Ordinance 15-002 on March 9, 2015 changing City Council meetings from once a month back to twice per month. The Coffee with the Mayor and City Council will continue but instead of being held monthly, they will be held quarterly.

Upcoming meetings dates:

Tuesday, May 5th at 700 pm
Regular City Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00pm
Regular City Council Meeting

Saturday, May 23 9:00 am-11:00 am
Coffee with the Mayor & City Council

Tuesday, June 2nd at 700 pm
Regular City Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 16th at 7:00pm
Regular City Council Meeting



HOMESTEAD FIESTA UNDER THE STARS

Benefit for the Huebner-Onion Homestead & Stage Coach Stop Restoration & the Leon Valley Historical Society

Thursday • April 16, 2015 • 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

\$35/person (Non-refundable)
\$300/table of 8 (Non-refundable)

Huebner-Onion Homestead
6613 Bandera Rd., Leon Valley, TX 78238
Parking available at City Hall and Seneca Plaza, but please let's be good neighbors and not park in front of open business

Heavy Hors-D'oeuvres • Beer • Wine • Live Music

Rain Date – April 23

Help Us Restore the Homestead!

Tickets Available Online at www.LVHistoricalSociety.org

Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors



KHILL PROPERTIES



P.O. Box 380644, Leon Valley, Texas 78268-7644
www.lvhistoricalsociety.org

You're invited to join the Forest Oaks Pool

at 6620 Forest Grove St.

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, May 16th
from 1-6pm

FREE SWIM
Sunday, May 17th
from 1-6pm

Discounted membership rates
Available until 6pm, May 17th

For more information about swim lessons, swim team, water aerobics and more go to www.forestoakspool.org



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

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



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

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. 226

CITY STAFF

- City Manager**
Manuel Longoria, Jr.
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, Planning Manager
684-1391 x 227
- Economic Development**
Claudia Mora, Director
684-1391 x 231
- 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
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.

