

Mayor's Message

By Mayor Chris Riley

"Liberty and equality in a democracy are best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost."

Aristotle

WELCOME TO CITY MANAGER KELLY KUENSTLER

After a two month city manager selection process, the City Council voted unanimously on September 15th to hire Kelly Kuenstler. Ms. Kuenstler, born in Cotulla, Texas, was raised and educated in New Mexico. In New Mexico she served as County Manager in a county with a population of 29,000, a \$48 million budget, and 239 employees. This experience separated her from other applicants. She has a Master's degree in Public Administration and has many years of teaching this subject at the university level, which adds to her credentials. She was the only applicant to actually attend city council meetings and workshops prior to her interview in order to understand firsthand the priorities of our city. Her first day on the job is September 21st. Please welcome Ms. Kelly Kuenstler!

Our heartfelt thanks to Interim City Manager Hank Brummett for his

service over the last 4 months. Mr. Brummett previously served as Leon Valley's city manager from 1989 to 2000, our longest serving manager. His extensive budget experience allowed him to prepare and present a balanced budget for FY 2016. He previously assisted us as interim city manager in 2006 and 2011, so he was skilled in assisting the council to hire a new city manager. Mr. Brummett strongly agreed with the council that Ms. Kuenstler was an exceptional candidate for city manager. We wish Hank Brummett and his fiancé Sharon the best of luck as they ease back into retirement!

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS- FISCAL YEAR 10/1/15 - 9/30/16

In August and September, City Manager Brummett presented the General Fund budget for fiscal year 2016. Revenues from property tax, sales tax, franchise fees, licenses, permits, fees and fines as well as



Mayor Chris Riley

grants are projected at \$7.87 million. These revenues will fund police, fire, public works, general government, library, parks, economic development, community development, special events and the Crime Control and Prevention District. Beginning in FY 2016, a 2% merit increase will be considered for all employees, eliminating the 5% merit increase for only the first 8 years of employment in the city. Additionally, the council approved a 1.5% cost of living adjustment and \$4 per month longevity pay for each year of service.

An additional police officer will be added from Crime Control District funds, adding a total of two police officers over two years. Additionally, monies from this fund will be used for overtime pay for police officers

Continued on next page

Moving Together

State Senator José Menéndez and the City of Leon Valley will host **MOVING TOGETHER**, an innovative transportation forum for Leon Valley, Balcones Heights, Castle Hills, and San Antonio residents. The forum is free, open to the public, and refreshments will be provided.

MOVING TOGETHER will take place on Thursday, October 8th from 6pm to 7:30pm

at the Leon Valley Community Center located at 6427 Evers Rd, Leon Valley, TX 78238.

Leading transportation experts will be on hand to discuss:

- Reducing Traffic
- Rail/Freight
- Proposition 7

- Trucking
- Bicycles
- Mass Transit
- Pedestrian Safety

Please RSVP to:

Anna Alicia Romero 210-733-6604 or
AnnaAlicia.Romero@senate.state.tx.us

Mayor's Message

Continued from cover

for traffic enforcement along Bandera, Evers and Huebner roads. (This was started in August, 2015 under the leadership of City Manager Brummett).

Payment into the Texas Municipal Retirement System for all city employees, currently at 15.88%, will decrease on January 1, 2016 to 14.17%. This is the percentage the city pays of employees' gross salaries. (The City's payment is in addition to the employees' 6% contribution). The City's retirement payment amounts to \$800,138 to be paid this fiscal year, for 107 employees. Lastly, the city's medical insurance program, which provides medical, dental, vision and life insurance coverage to all employees at no cost, rose by 11% from last year (but was down from the initial projected 28% increase.)

Other budgeted expenditures include: \$8,440 for a new 311 Call System to report minor problems and/or information; \$120,000 for new furnishings for city hall; \$51,500 for park improvements, including development of the Silo Park on Huebner road; \$120,000 for repair and installation of sidewalks in the city, including a sidewalk on the west side of Evers; \$99,895 to support the July 4th Celebration and other city special events; \$30,000 for

relocation of administration staff during the final phase of construction of the administration building (grand opening in February, 2016); \$20,000 for new books for the Library; \$40,000 for the Leon Valley pool (on Poss road) for management fees. Approximately \$3.6 million is paid for contractual services from the general and the water company funds.

The Enterprise Fund, funded by the City's water and sewer revenues, is budgeted at \$3.6 million in revenues and expenditures. Capital expenditures (from the Enterprise Fund's reserve) will be \$385,500, including \$200,000 from storm water department to address projects identified by the Zoning Commission Master Plan analysis; \$150,000 to replace sewer mains city-wide; \$56,000 funded for a sewer jet machine.

Our city remains in excellent fiscal condition. After funding the FY 2016 budget, the city will have about \$2.3 million in reserve. This includes the \$625,000 balance from the CEID fund. Additionally, as required by ordinance, we hold \$900,000 in an emergency fund for city operations. Council will consider increasing the required amount in this fund in January, 2016.

Your property tax rate will go down from last year to \$.0561 cent per \$100 of valuation from \$.0575. There will

still be a slight increase in taxes paid on the average home in Leon Valley because average appraisals of our property increased from \$129,560 to \$138,750. The tax increase for an average Leon Valley home is \$ 32.89 annually. Property taxes are frozen for any homeowner over age 65 due to Proposition 13. This tax rate and FY 2016 budget were approved by city council on September 15, 2015 (after two required public hearings and publication in newspapers). Thank you to City Manager Brummett, Finance Director Vickie Wallace and all department heads for preparing a budget which is balanced and meets the needs of our city for the next fiscal year.

THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW

- CPS Energy Solar Hosting program is up and running! Pre-enrollment applications are on line at www.solarhosts.com for participation in the Residential or Community solar pilot programs. Contact Jason Pittman at (210) 996-1772.
- Starbucks at Bandera Heights shopping center is scheduled to open by the end of the year.

The entire city council is here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to call or email with questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Chris

Did You Know? Facts about Leon Valley

- Did you know that the Leon Valley Public Library offers faxing at a fraction of the cost of anywhere else in town?
- Did you know that all residents of Leon Valley are welcome to a FREE Library Card?
- Did you know that Leon Valley Public Library Card Holders have access to over 50 databases that would cost you money to access without your library card?
- Did you know that we are the only city in the entire country that holds both Tree City USA and Firewise Communities designations in the entire country?
- Did you know that the Leon Valley Fire Department has 3 Licensed Peace Officers?
- Did you know that the Leon Valley Fire Department host a community education safety class on the 2nd Monday of each month?
- Did you know that Leon Valley gives away free trees twice a year as part of Arbor Day and Earthwise Living day?
- Did you know that The City of Leon Valley has two halls for lease, and you do not have to live in Leon Valley to lease them?
- Did you know that we have a Northwest Senior Citizen Club at the Leon Valley Community Center that anyone can join in the activities for \$10.00 a month?



Trash & Treasure Sale

**NORTHWEST SENIOR CITIZENS
LEON VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER**

6427 Evers Road
Leon Valley, Texas 78240

**Saturday Only
OCTOBER 31, 2015
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**VENDORS NEED NOT BE MEMBERS
OF NORTHWEST SENIORS CITIZENS**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE



Making a Difference in Your Community



One recycling bin at a time!

- Please place your bin at the curb by 7 am on your recycling day,
- Please do not include any items with food waste on items and please make sure all items are clean.
- You can use additional personal containers as long as they are clearly marked "Recycling Materials"

**Plastic Codes (1,2,3,4,5,7)
Beverage Bottles &
Food Containers
Household products/
chemical bottles**
• **NO TOYS • NO FILM •
NO PLASTIC BAGS**

Always Recycle:



**Plastic Bottles
& Containers**



**Steel & Aluminum
Food & Beverage Cans**



**Paper, Newspaper
& Magazines**



**Flattened 12"x12"
Cardboard & Paperboard**



**Food & Beverage Cartons
and Juice Boxes**



**Glass-Clear, Brown
& Green**

Do NOT include in your recycling cart:



NO Food Waste



**NO Plastic Bags
& Film**



**NO Foam Cups
& Containers**



NO Needles

Texas Recycles Day



Sunday, November 15, 2015
2pm - 6pm

Leon Valley Public Works
6429 Evers Rd.
(down Alley-Kinman Rd.)

Bring old or unused medications, batteries, oil, grease, cardboard, paper, newspaper, phonebooks, aluminum, steel, tin, small electronics, plastic bags, bottles (plastic and glass).

**NO foodwaste containers, styrofoam,
or hazardous materials.**

Help Keep Leon Valley Beautiful!

What's New at the Leon Valley Public Library?



Our **NEW BOOKS** are front and center as you walk into the library, don't miss them! If you don't see what you are looking for, be sure to ask. Chances are it's simply checked out and we can be sure and place you on the wait list. Don't forget that the library also offers you DVDs at NO COST. And yes, we have the latest releases!

Fall is fast approaching and we'd love to see you at some special events. Saturday, October 10 at 10:30 am, we will be holding a **PUMPKIN CREATIONS CLASS**. Saturday, October 17 at 10:30 am will see our popular **RECYCLED BOOK PUMPKIN CLASS**, and of course, October is not complete without a **HALLOWEEN PARTY** on Saturday, October 31 from 10:30 am – 12 noon.

The library will be hosting a **"COMMUNITY COFFEE"** once a month, nothing formal, simply coffee in the library with some good conversation. Our first coffee will be on Friday, October 16 from 10 – 11:30 am and we're calling it our **"BREW HA-HA"** as Halloween is approaching!

In November, we will be participating in the LV Arbor Day Celebration and our **NOVEMBER COFFEE** will be on Friday, November 20 at 10:30 – 12 noon. Programming is on-going with lots being added all the time. Be sure to pick up your calendar at the library to stay up to date, or follow us on **FACEBOOK!**

Don't Forget Our Regularly Scheduled Events...

Storytime has had such incredible response and has grown rapidly, we are now offering **TWO** sessions each week. **ADVENTURER'S CLUB** will investigate the Alphabet this fall, meeting on Wednesdays at 10:30 am. This group is geared to 3-5 year olds. **THURSDAY STORYTIME** meets each Thursday at 10:30 am and is geared to younger children and families with multiple children spanning the age ranges.

BOOK CLUB meets the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 am.

ADULT COLORING EVENINGS

have proved to be extremely popular. Due to popular demand, we are attempting to have **TWO** coloring evenings per month, alternating between Tuesdays and Thursdays. Check our calendar or call the library for dates, always from 6-8 pm.

The **LEON VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT** holds a **CRIME AWARENESS PROGRAM** for the community, the Second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the library.



Our **SMART SHOPPERS GROUP** meets every third Wednesday at 10:30 am at the library. This group concentrates on how to live well for less by making smart choices when shopping and dining out.

LEON VALLEY DRUM CIRCLE

is a participatory group that is held the fourth Saturday of each month at 10:30 am. No musical or drumming experience necessary, this is more therapeutic than music! All ages welcome, drums provided!

The **CHESS GROUP** meets the second and last Thursday of each month beginning at 3:30 pm. All ages and skill levels welcome, we meet you where you are and will teach the game and skills.

Many thanks to the record breaking crowds that came to our Summer Reading Program. We had such fun and hope you did too. Batman sends his best.....

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

www.leonvalley.lib.tx.us • <https://www.facebook.com/leonvalleypubliclibrary>



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. 226

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
- 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

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.

