



Mayor's Message

By Mayor Chris Riley

"If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours."
- Dolly Parton

STAFF ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR POLICE, FIRE/EMS, & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS

The question is how many police, fire and public work employees should each department have for our city of 3.5 square miles and 11,463, citizens based on our current and future needs? The city manager recommended we seek a company who could answer this question. Three proposals were received and Fitch & Associates, from Missouri, with nearly 40 years of experience, was awarded the contract for \$75,000 by a council vote of 4-1. The services included in this study are: identifying department organizational structure, operations, staffing, performance, programs and resources available to support community services, current and future impacts and growth for short and

long range planning. Also included in the scope of work is what are the possible effects of eliminating the Red-Light Camera program. The City negotiated a \$20,000 reduction from Fitch for authorizing the three department studies. The study will take over 4 months to complete. This expenditure will be part of the FY 24 Budget.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS FOR 2023

The City Council voted to increase the property tax exemption on a residence homestead for homeowners 64 and younger from 1% to 20% of the property value, effective January, 2023. Council also increased the homestead property tax exemption for disabled persons and persons 65 years of age or older to \$50,000, effective January, 2023.

The City of San Antonio and Bexar County also increased their homestead exemptions from 10% to 20% for this fiscal year. The average appraisal of homes in Bexar County rose by 11%. The deadline to protest this increase was in May.

By the end of July, Bexar Appraisal District will calculate the no-new revenue rate (meaning the rate which will yield the city the same property tax revenue as last year) and the voter approval tax rate (meaning the rate 3.5% above the no-new revenue rate, which the council can increase it to without triggering the right to call an election by the voters). Once the city receives these new rates, we will be able to discuss funding the priorities of the city based on the total expected revenue, as we finalize the FY 24 budget in September. Currently our city's tax rate is .48 cents per \$100 valuation, but that number is expected to be changed due to both higher appraisals and higher homestead exemptions.

As you may know, the state legislature has also passed a property tax relief bill in the special session in July, with Governor Abbott expected to approve by August 9th. This will affect the tax bill of your local school district, which has always been the highest of all taxing entities. The bill proposes an increase to your school district property exemption from

Continued on next page

Mayor's Message

Continued from cover

\$40,000 to \$100,000, among several other tax reduction components. The bill will need voter approval in a November election.

With the county and city of Leon Valley increasing their homestead exemptions, and the state legislature passing increases in school district property tax exemptions, the homeowner should see a noticeable decrease in their tax bill for 2023.

HOMELESS (UNSHELTERED) ENCAMPMENTS

The City has recently seen an increase in homeless camps and is trying to remove these camps because of the extensive fires they cause and the large amounts of trash and debris generated, which the city deals with at great expense. On staff recommendation, the Council amended Chapter 8 of the Code of Ordinances to prevent persons from camping, sleeping, lodging, and loitering in city parks, public right of ways, and drainage areas, and from using their vehicles or campers to spend the night in these areas. It also prohibits the use of private property for these activities without written permission from property owners. We currently have identified 9 encampments. On June 15th, our City held a meeting with County representatives, non-profit organizations, and City of San Antonio officials to brainstorm how we can help the unsheltered people in the region. There is no

easy solution, but the experts say affordable housing is the number 1 solution. Additionally, having an outreach coordinator in the area who engages with homeless persons is key – but it takes several meaningful engagements for a homeless person to decide to get help. There are a total of 18 outreach coordinators county wide. Haven for Hope, the downtown center which is focused on helping persons and families, serves 1600 people per day and is full. The good news is County Judge Sakai has directed the County's Economic/Community Development office to draft a plan specifically for Leon Valley and other suburban cities. The county has also dedicated \$8 million for affordable housing for suburban cities. We are working on a coordinated response with all stakeholders in the county.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **4TH OF JULY BRIEF RECAP** – the estimated attendance at the concert was 20,100. We had 4 missing children (all found), several heat related illnesses, but overall the event was a huge success! THANKS to all our dedicated staff for all their work! More specifics to follow, including the costs.
- **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – OCT. 3, 2023.** Mark your calendars for hosting a neighborhood block party to meet your neighbors, share some food and drink, as well as get to know your police officers. To sign up so the police and fire departments will come by your party, please contact Officer

Jacklyn Mendez at j.mendez@leonvalleytexas.gov.

- **HEAT ALERT** - June was the hottest June on record and July continues with triple digit temperatures. Please stay hydrated, avoid strenuous outdoor activities, especially in the heat of the day and be aware of the signs of heat related illnesses: heat cramps usually affecting the legs and abdomen; heat exhaustion, including headaches, nausea and vomiting and heatstroke which is the most severe, includes shallow breathing, dizziness or fainting, blurred vision. For heat exhaustion and heatstroke, seek medical attention or call 911. Stay safe Leon Valley!

My door is always open. Please call (210) 684-1391, Ext. 210 or send me an email if I can help in any way. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092 (cell)

mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov



Photo by Mark Mayfield



“David Moralez”

David Moralez is a dedicated city of Leon Valley employee, who has worked for the city

Meet your Leon Valley Utility Billing Clerk

for over 15 years. He began his career on the maintenance crew, worked to obtain a Water Operators License and joined the water crew. David worked in the water and sewer systems department for the city for over ten years. He currently serves as the Utility

Billing Clerk, assisting our residents in Leon Valley with their water bills and any other pertinent questions they may have. David is married with three children and a one-year-old granddaughter. He enjoys spending time with his family cooking and being outdoors.

Dog Pets - Signs of heat-related illness/ heat stroke:

- a.** Heavy panting, excessive drooling, glazed eyes, rapid pulse, unsteadiness/ staggering, bloody vomit, bloody diarrhea or nosebleed, dry, deep red or purple tongue, hemorrhages in the gums or under skin, coma/death.
- b.** A (Dog) temperature over 104°F.

Providing care to dogs with suspected heat-related illness.

- a.** Seek veterinary care as soon as possible, even if the dog appears to be improving. While waiting for a veterinarian:
- b.** Move the dog to a cooler area.
- c.** Gradually lower his body temperature by applying cool (not cold) water all over his body or soaking him in a cool bath.
- d.** Place cool, wet towels over the back of the neck and in the armpits, paws, ear flaps and groin area.
- e.** Direct a fan on the wet areas to speed evaporative cooling.
- f.** Offer fresh, cool water if the dog is alert and wants to drink. Do not force him to drink.



Information from The Humane Society of Texas.

Identity Theft: Signs to Look for and how to protect yourself.



Recently, The Leon Valley Criminal Investigations Division was investigating a known criminal subject involved in the theft of a motor vehicle by fraudulent activity. Once Investigators obtained enough corroborating evidence, the subject was contacted and detained at one of the local car dealerships. As the subject was rendering payment, the lead investigator observed the subject attempt to commit forgery by using a stolen check and forging the signature on the check.

Through the course of the investigation, the subject had numerous identifying items on his person such as multiple drivers' licenses, credit cards, and check books.

These items belonged to other people and not the subject. In addition, a handgun was also recovered on his person. The totality of the circumstances indicated the subject had been and was involved in identity theft to conduct unauthorized transactions, apply for credit using other person's identity and other related criminal offense. The subject was arrested, and the other offenses are currently being investigated by the Leon Valley Criminal Investigation Division.

Listed below is some information regarding Identity theft and how to recognize the signs of identity theft. It's important to know what to do when you suspect your personal information is being used or your personal

information has been compromised.

What is Identity Theft?

Identity theft happens when someone takes your name and personal information (like your social security number) and uses it without your permission to do things like open new accounts, use your existing accounts, or obtain medical services. An identity thief might even present your name and identity to law enforcement officers when he is arrested.

Identity theft can have serious consequences for you and your family. It can negatively affect your credit, get you sued for debts that are not yours, result in incorrect and potentially health-threatening information being added to your medical records, and may even get you arrested.

Identity theft can happen to anyone, but you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim. Read [How to Help Prevent Identity Theft and What to Do If Your Identity is Stolen](#).

Warning Signs of Identity Theft

You may be a victim of identity theft if you:

- ◆ Find unauthorized charges on your bank or credit card statements.
- ◆ Receive bills or collection letters from companies that you never heard of or for accounts you don't recognize.
- ◆ Receive rejection letters for loans you did not apply for.
- ◆ Receive debt collection calls for accounts you did not open.
- ◆ Information on your credit report for accounts you did not open.

- ◆ Mail stops coming to - or is missing from - your mailbox.

How to report ID theft

To report identity theft, contact:

- ◆ The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) online at IdentityTheft.gov and call 1-877-438-4338
- ◆ The three major credit reporting agencies. Ask them to place fraud alerts and a credit freeze on your accounts.
- ◆ The fraud department at your credit card issuers, bank, and other places where you have accounts.
- ◆ Contact your local police department to file a police report.

How to protect yourself from identity theft

- ◆ Do not answer phone calls, texts, or email from numbers or people you do not know.
- ◆ Do not share personal information like your bank account number, Social Security number, or date of birth.
- ◆ Collect your mail every day and place a hold on your mail when you will be on vacation or away from your home.
- ◆ Review credit card and bank account statements. Watch for and report unauthorized or suspicious transactions.
- ◆ Store personal information, including your Social Security card, in a safe place. Do not carry it in your wallet.

Leon Valley Project Updates

SENECA WEST DRAINAGE PROJECT

In August of 2021, the city was granted \$1,346,000 for the construction of flood improvements in the Seneca West area by Bexar County Commissioner's Court. The city is to spend the money on the flood improvements and then be reimbursed by the County as the project progresses. The city approved an additional sum of \$313,482 for the engineering, design, and other services for the project and Bexar County graciously awarded an additional \$400,000 towards the project. This new drainage project will help to develop the area, pull land out of the floodplain, and stop further erosion and damage to our streets.

The construction cost, without any change orders, came in at \$1,816,415.50. The work began in January of 2023, but experienced delays due to electrical pole conflicts and weather, but is back on track and construction is progressing. The project is expected to be completed in January of next year.

HUEBNER CREEK GREENWAY HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL SEGMENT 1

The Huebner Creek Greenway Hike & Bike Trail is under construction and is expected to be completed by the end of July of 2023. The trail starts at the Crystal Hills trailhead on Shadow Mist Street and runs along Huebner Creek adjacent to El Verde Road, then to the Bandera Road bridge. There is no access to the trail along El Verde Road, so hikers/bikers will need to park at the Shadow Mist trailhead. The trail will have benches, trash cans, bike fix-it stations, trail markers, water fountains, and trail head signage. TCL Construction Enterprises, Inc. was awarded the \$986,220 bid for Segment 1, and they began construction in late January 2023. They expect to be at substantial completion by the end of June, weather permitting.

HUEBNER CREEK GREENWAY HIKE & BIKE TRAIL SEGMENT II

Segment II funding was also awarded to the city and that segment will connect to Segment I, running under the Bandera Road bridge, through the Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park and Raymond Rimkus Park to Evers Road. The engineering and design is already underway for that project and we hope to start construction in the spring/summer of 2024.

Both segments are being funded by 80% reimbursement grants from the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, through the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT. The city is responsible for all engineering and design costs and then 20% of the construction costs.



LINKWOOD – PAVONA PLACE TRAIL

The City continues its revitalization of this old walking trail, which starts in the cul-de-sac at the end of Evers Road near Huebner, and then ends at Linkhaven Street. A part of this project included the installation of a 10-station outdoor fitness station, a cedar split rail fence, decomposed granite trail surface, benches, trash cans, and doggy waste stations.

The trail renovation began with the outdoor fitness equipment station being installed and trees trimmed up. The majority of the trail fencing and surface materials have been installed and the remaining portion of trail is to be constructed over the coming months.

HUEBNER WELLSITE GENERATOR PROJECT

A bid was awarded to Central Electric Ent. & Co. in the amount of \$173,230, to construct a generator at the Huebner well site. The scope of work consists of constructing a concrete pad and then installing and connecting a generator to the well equipment. The addition of this generator will allow the well to continue to pump during electrical outages.

The start date for this project was delayed for almost one year, as the generator itself will take 46 weeks for delivery. They do not expect completion of the project until the end of July of 2023.

YEAR 6 STREET MAINTENANCE PROJECT

The city has opened bids for this year’s street maintenance project and expects to award a contract in August of 2023. The package includes:

| Street | Limits | Description |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Seneca | Evers Rd. to Bandera Rd. | Mill & Overlay |
| Pacer Trail | Forelock to Canterfield | Mill & Overlay |
| Stable | Forelock to Canterfield | Mill & Overlay |
| El Verde | Bandera Rd. to Jeff Loop | Mill & Overlay; Pavement Repairs |

Add. Alternates

| | | |
|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Timco | Bandera Rd. to 500’ West | 6” Pavement Repair; 2” Asphalt |
| Poss Rd. | Bandera Rd. to Grissom Rd. | Mill & Overlay; Pavement Repairs |
| F. Ledge | Forest Mont to cul-de-sac | Mill & Overlay; Pavement Repairs |

Pavement Markings

El Verde
Seneca
Timco
Poss Rd.
Evers Rd.

We will also be constructing sidewalk connections in the Linkwood Addition Subdivision at the alley crossings. Funding for this portion of the project will come from the previously approved General Fund budget at approximately \$100,000.



WURZBACH SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The city was awarded a grant for partial funding of a sewer main project next to Wurzbach Road. The main runs along the boundary of the Ancira Body Shop and the Hidden Meadows apartments. The bids have been opened and we expect to award a contract in August 2023. The city was awarded a grant from the Bexar County CDBG in the amount of \$250,311.00, which will greatly offset the costs.

The other portion of this sewer main crosses Wurzbach Road and we intend to apply for another grant to replace that section next year.

HUEBNER ROAD SCHOOL ZONE

The city recently installed a lighted crosswalk on Huebner Road at Bally St. to assist high school aged children in walking to John Marshall High School. There was an old school zone in the area, but it was located further down Huebner at Hoofs Lane. The new school zone area will start in the City of San Antonio near Apple Creek and continue down Huebner towards Bandera Road past Chaparral Lane. Lighted mast arms and signage will be installed to alert motorists to the new school zone. The engineer’s estimate for the work is \$80,380.00. The bids for this project have been opened and we expect to award a contract in August 2023.



PROFILE OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER



An Active Shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearms(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

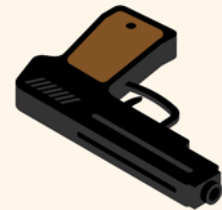
Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Typically, the immediate deployment of law enforcement is required to stop the shooting and mitigate harm to victims.

Because active shooter situations are often over within 10 to 15 minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.

Good practices for coping with an active shooter situation:

ALERT current curriculum:

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers
 - Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door
 - If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door
 - As a last resort, attempt to take the active shooter down. When the shooter is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to incapacitate him/her.



The current continuum used nationwide for active shooter preparedness:

Run- First option, remove yourself from the situation if possible and lead others to safety

Hide- If running is not an option, conceal yourself and lock yourself in a room or area by barricading yourself if possible. Make yourself a hard target.

Fight- If all else fails, use any means or items as a last resort to defend yourself and others by fighting.

If you would like for the Leon Valley Police Department to come to your civic group and give a Active Shooter Presentation, feel free to contact us.

Sgt. J. Urdiales

Fall Clean-up Week

Place items at the curb
week of August 28 , 2023



Tiger Sanitation will pick up bulky items such as old furniture, water heaters, appliances and brush.

Collection Begins on September 4th-9th, 2023 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.

Simple guidelines that will help you prepare for a safe and successful clean-up.

DO

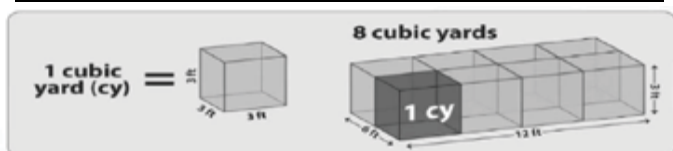
Do place bulky waste items in an area clear of obstacles, away from fences, fire hydrants or gas and water meters.

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.

Do limit amount to be picked up to 8 cubic yards - (6ft. x 12ft. x 3ft.). See diagram below. Any volume over 8 cubic yards will be at an additional charge to the resident.

Visual Representation of Eight (8) Cubic Yards



DO NOT

Do not mix scrap iron, wire or any other metal objects with brush and shrubbery.

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

Do not place discarded items on vacant lots or commercial establishments.

Do not block sidewalks.

Do not place discarded items under low hanging tree limbs.

Do not block piles with parked vehicles.

Do not wait until September 6th to put your items out for collection. You could miss the collection for your street.

Thanks! Together, we can keep Leon Valley clean!

For information, contact Public Works, 210-681-1232.





Water Restrictions for Leon Valley Water System Customers

Approximately 2/3rds of the city are on the Leon Valley water system. The remaining 1/3rd (Forest Oaks, Castle Estates, Hodges subdivisions, most businesses) are on the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). If you are not sure, check your water bill. Because SAWS now has the Vista Ridge pipeline as a supplemental water source, they have chosen not to advance water restrictions from Stage II.

Leon Valley does not have an additional water source and we are regulated by the Edwards Aquifer Authority, and they are considering additional watering restriction in the coming days, due to the lack of rainfall in the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone. If we then have to restrict water usage even further, we will announce the reduction on our website and in social media. We are asking all citizens to do their part in helping to conserve water at all times, but especially in times of drought.

Below are the Leon Valley watering restriction regulations:

(A) Stage I restrictions. When stage I is in effect, the following restrictions apply:

(i) Landscape watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is allowed only once a week before 11:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. on your designated watering day, in accordance with the last digit of the property address as follows:

| Last Digit of Address | Day of Week |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 0—1 | Monday |
| 2—3 | Tuesday |
| 4—5 | Wednesday |
| 6—7 | Thursday |
| 8—9 | Friday |



All businesses and apartment complexes will use Wednesday as their watering day.

(ii) No person may use groundwater for an ornamental outdoor fountain or similar feature unless a variance has been obtained for 100 percent nonpotable water use.

(iii) Owners of exempt Edwards formation wells must comply with these restrictions.

(iv) Operators of athletic fields must submit a conservation plan to the city. Athletic fields may not irrigate between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

(v) Residential washing of vehicles or other equipment is allowed only on assigned watering days and times. A hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle or bucket of five gallons or less may be used. Water should not be allowed to run into the street.

(vi) Washing of impervious cover such as parking lots, driveways, streets or sidewalks is prohibited.

(vii) Hand watering with a hand-held hose, soaker hose, drip irrigation, bucket or watering can is permitted any time and any day.

(viii) All nonpublic swimming pools must have a minimum of 25 percent of the surface area covered with evaporation screens when not in use. Inflatable pool toys or floating decorations may be used for this purpose.

(ix) The use of commercial carwash facilities is allowed any day.

(B) Stage II restrictions.

(i) Landscape watering is permitted once a week from 7:00—11:00 a.m. and 7:00—11:00 p.m. Landscape watering by means of a properly installed irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is permitted on the authorized watering day during the designated hours listed in this subsection. Watering with drip irrigation or five-gallon bucket is permitted any day, but only between 7:00—11:00 a.m. and 7:00—11:00 p.m. Watering with a handheld hose is allowed any time on any day.

(ii) Filling of all new and existing swimming pools is prohibited, unless at least 30 percent of the water is obtained from a source other than the aquifer. Groundwater may be used to replenish swimming pools to maintenance level.

(iii) Draining of swimming pools is permitted only onto a pervious surface or onto a pool deck where the water is transmitted directly to a pervious surface, only if necessary to:

a. Remove excess water from the pool due to rain to lower the water to the maintenance level;

b. Repair, maintain, or replace a pool component that has become hazardous;

c. Repair a pool leak; and

d. All nonpublic swimming pools must have a minimum of 25 percent (25%) of the surface area covered with evaporative screens when not in use; inflatable pool toys or floating decorations may be used for this purpose.

(iv) Restrictions stated in stage I remain in effect, unless added to or replaced by stage II rules.

(v) Owners of exempt wells must comply with these restrictions.

(vi) Washing impervious cover such as parking lots, driveways, streets, or sidewalks is prohibited. Health and safety exceptions to this rule may be requested from the city in writing.

(vii) Hotels, motels and other lodging must offer and clearly notify guests of a “linen/towel change on request only” program.

(viii) Restaurants may serve water only on request (to reduce dishwashing).

(ix) Charity carwashes are allowed only at commercial carwash locations.

(C) Stage III restrictions.

- (i) All restrictions stated in stage I and stage II remain in effect unless replaced by stage III rules as follows.
- (ii) Landscape watering allowed only every other week with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. on your designated watering day, as determined by your address. Watering with drip irrigation is allowed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but only from 7:00—11:00 a.m. and 7:00—11:00 p.m.
- (iii) Hotels, motels and other lodging must limit linen/towel changes to once every three nights, except for health and safety.
- (iv) Groundwater from the aquifer may be used when and to the extent necessary to prevent danger to public health, safety, or welfare.

(D) Stage IV restrictions.

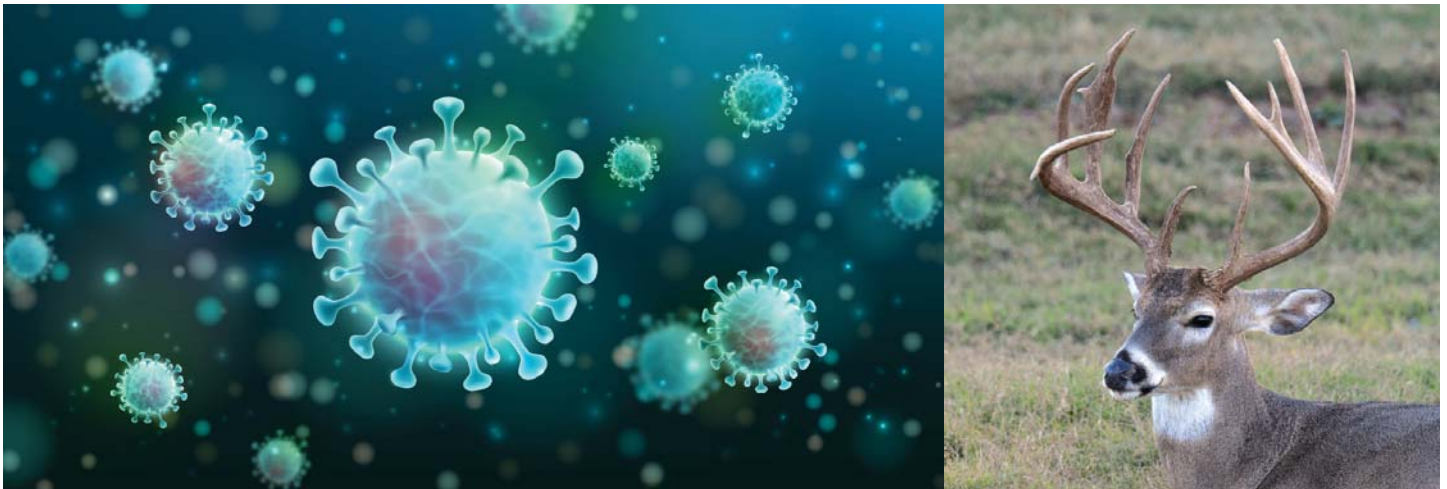
- (i) Stage III landscape irrigation restrictions remain in effect.
- (ii) A drought surcharge is assessed on all accounts for water used or assumed to be used for landscape irrigation. The surcharge is to remain in effect for a minimum of one complete billing month and will remain in effect if stage IV is still in effect at the beginning of the next billing month.

(4) End of emergency drought management plan. The emergency drought management plan and [restrictions] for each stage may be terminated or changed at the discretion of the city manager after the trigger condition of a stage has been exceeded and after considering the J-17 water well level, pumping trends, current precipitation and the outlook for additional precipitation.

(5) Use necessary for public health or safety. Notwithstanding any provision of these rules, underground water may be used when and to the extent it is necessary to prevent danger to public health, safety, or welfare, or to the extent required by state or federal law.

(7) Use of recycled water. The use of recycled water may be used to irrigate any day between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 a.m. without waste. Signs identifying property as using a recycled water source must be posted on site at a location where the general public can view it.





Covid and Deer

From the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON (July 11, 2023) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) released national research from its first year of studies and sampling of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) for active infection of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. These studies show that SARS-CoV-2 is likely to have spread widely within the U.S. white-tailed deer population. Additionally, our research shows that SARS-CoV-2 was transmitted from humans to deer, mutated, and was potentially transmitted back to humans. This research is helping us understand if cervids, such as white-tailed deer, are acting as a host or “reservoir species,” meaning an animal host where the virus can survive and potentially change.

While experts are still learning about SARS-CoV-2 in animals, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus to humans.

“APHIS’ work to answer critical animal and public health questions around SARS-CoV-2 is continued with this research,” said Dr. Mike Watson, APHIS’ acting Administrator. “However, additional research using a One Health approach is needed to understand what the risks are to wildlife conservation and public health with continued circulation of this disease in wildlife.”

APHIS is currently in Year 2 of this research and has expanded disease surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 to other members of the deer family and additional States, territories, and Tribes. During the first year of sampling, APHIS and partners sampled over 11,000 white-tailed deer for SARS-CoV-2. We detected the virus in 12.2% of white-tailed deer, and 31.6% had antibodies indicative of previous SARS-CoV-2 exposure. Year 1 surveillance data, questions and answers, and other information on the APHIS white-tailed deer surveillance program are available on the Agency website.

The collaboration between APHIS, state wildlife agencies, and others to conduct wildlife surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 is part of a more significant effort to strengthen our Nation’s ability to detect and respond to future emerging diseases in animals.

APHIS partnered with the University of Missouri and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on a recently published study resulting from this surveillance, “Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in free-ranging white-tailed deer in the United States.”

Between November 2021 and April 2022, APHIS, state and tribal wildlife agencies, the Ohio State University, and the University of Missouri conducted wildlife surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in free-ranging white-tailed deer, collecting more than 9,000 respiratory samples in 27 states. We found that SARS-CoV-2 was transmitted from humans to white-tailed deer at least 106 times in the United States, mutated, and then in three instances may have been transmitted back to humans. This study is available online at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-023-39782-x>.

Oak Wilt – Know Before You Trim!

Have you seen the dead and dying Oak trees along Evers Road and in the Monte Robles Park neighborhoods? These trees died from oak wilt, and it can spread rapidly. Early detection & prompt action are essential for successful management of oak wilt. The specific measures taken depend on several circumstances but should include appropriate combinations of the following:

Prevent New Infections

- ⚠️ Cut and dispose of diseased red oaks immediately
- ⚠️ Avoid wounding oak trees, including pruning, from February through June
- ⚠️ Sterilize/sanitize all pruning equipment between trees and paint all wounds and fresh stumps regardless of season
- ⚠️ Handle oak firewood cautiously, burn all firewood before spring, and never store unseasoned oak wood from infected trees near healthy oaks
- ⚠️ Cover unseasoned firewood (from infection centers and unknown origins) with clear plastic and bury the edges of the plastic
- ⚠️ Infected red oaks that die in late summer, fall or early winter should be cut down & either burned, buried, or chipped soon after discovery to prevent fungal mats that may form on these trees the following spring
- ⚠️ If not possible, infected trees should be injected with herbicide

or deeply girdled with an ax and stripped of all bark 2 to 3 ft above the soil line

- ⚠️ Drying of the wood before spring



discourages formation of fungal mats

- ⚠️ The least hazardous periods for pruning are during the coldest days in winter and extended hot periods in mid- to late summer

Regardless of season, all pruning cuts or other wounds to oak trees, including freshly-cut stumps and damaged surface roots, should be treated immediately with paint to prevent exposure to contaminated insect vectors. Any type of paint (latex, oil-based, spray-on, brush-on, or wound dressing) will suffice. Transporting unseasoned firewood from diseased red oaks is a potential means of spreading the oak wilt fungus. Oak wilt can't be transmitted by burning infected firewood;

however, fungal mats may form on unseasoned oak firewood in storage.

Presently, no vectors have been proven to transmit the fungus from live oaks to other oak trees, but diseased wood from any oak species should never be stored near healthy oak trees unless precautions are taken.

It is best to purchase wood that has



been thoroughly dried for at least one full year. If firewood from diseased trees is stored near healthy oak trees, it should be covered with clear plastic with the edges buried to prevent insects from leaving the pile

Trees cannot get oak wilt from the smoke of burning diseased wood - the fungus that causes oak wilt is very heat sensitive. The problem with firewood is the potential for storing contaminated wood. If the wood came from an oak wilt center and has fungal mats, then the beetles visit the fungal mats & fly off & infect the

healthy trees in your yard. The best precaution is to always buy well-seasoned firewood.



If you cut down infected oaks, cover the wood with a clear plastic for one year - this will ensure that the fungus is killed by the summer heat. Once the wood has dried out to the point



where the bark is falling off & the wood is cracked, then the fungus that causes oak wilt is no longer viable (alive).

For more information on Oak Wilt please contact: <https://texasoakwilt.org>



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

PRSRTD STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TX
PERMIT NO. 1001



CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor** Chris Riley
mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov
- Place 1** Benny Martinez
benny.martinez@leonvalleytexas.gov
- Place 2** Josh Stevens
josh.stevens@leonvalleytexas.gov
- Place 3** Philip Campos
philip.campos@leonvalleytexas.gov
- Place 4** Rey Orozco
rey.orozco@leonvalleytexas.gov
- Place 5** Will Bradshaw
will.bradshaw@leonvalleytexas.gov

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 228

CITY STAFF

- City Manager**
Crystal Caldera
210-684-1391 x 219
- City Secretary**
Saundra Passailaigue
210-684-1391 x 216
- Finance Department**
210-684-1391 x 223
- Planning & Zoning Department**
Mindy Teague, Director
210-684-1391 x 234
- LV Public Library**
Regina Reed, Director
210-684-0720, x 240
- Fire Department**
Michael Naughton, Fire Chief
210-684-3219, x 281
- Police Department**
David Gonzalez, Police Chief
210-684-3215, x 255
- Public Works**
Melinda Moritz, Director
210-681-1232, x 203
- HR Director**
Lisa Hernandez
210-681-1391, x 212
- Community Relations Director**
Crystal Miranda
210-681-1391, x 228

CITY MEETINGS

All meetings at City Hall unless otherwise specified. All meetings subject to change due to Covid-19

- City Council**
1st & 3rd Tuesday - 6:00 p.m.
- Board Of Adjustment**
Meets as required
- Citizens Police Advisory Committee**
Quarterly, 3rd Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.
- Coffee with the Mayor**
Quarterly, 4th Saturday - 9 -11 a.m.
- Earthwise Living Committee**
2nd Wednesday -
5:30 p.m. City Hall
- Economic and Community Development Advisory Committee**
Meets as needed
- Library Board**
2nd Tuesday - 5:30 p.m. - Library
- Park Commission**
2nd Thursday - 6:30 p.m. -
Conference Center
- Planning & Zoning Commission**
4th Tuesday - 6:30 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** 210-684-1391
- Animal Control & Code Compliance** 210-684-6557
- Non-Emergency Fire** 210-684-8897
- Police** 210-684-3219
- Human Resources** 210-684-3215
- Dead Animal Pickup** 210-684-6557
- Public Works** 210-681-1232
- Library** 210-684-0720
- Tiger Sanitation** 210 333-4287
- Community Center Rental** 210-684-1391 ext. 228

City Hall, non-emergency Police and Fire operations may be contacted at the above numbers Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.
Public Works Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

