



Mayor's Message

By Mayor Chris Riley

"Success comes from curiosity, concentration, perseverance and self-criticism."

- Albert Einstein

**ANNUAL EARTHWISE
LIVING DAY – MARCH 4,
2023**

**9:30AM – 1:30 PM –
LEON VALLEY COMMUNITY
/CONFERENCE CENTERS**

Everyone is invited to come to this free, family educational event, celebrating 33 years of bringing our community together to expand our knowledge of preserving the environment. Earthwise Living Day is the oldest environmental fair in Bexar County, beginning in 1990, when Leon Valley led the way by establishing the first recycling program in Bexar County and South Texas.

This year's theme: Combating Climate Change One Household at a Time, is timely and expedient as we continue to experience climate change in our daily lives. There will be educational booths addressing how individuals can reduce their

carbon footprint and collectively make a difference. Topics include solar power, water conservation, recycling, transportation and waste reduction. There will be musical performances by our Leon Valley elementary schools, food and plant sales, the VIA educational bus, children's recycling art activities and door prizes. Some of our major sponsors have been the City of Leon Valley, Tiger Sanitation, CPS, SAWS, Sunset Northwest Funeral Home and Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union. Bring your old medication and wine corks to be recycled. Hope to see you there – RAIN or SHINE!

Additionally, throughout 2023, the Earthwise Living Committee will be partnering with the Leon Valley Public Library to host speakers, either live or by Zoom, who will continue educating our citizenry on what we can do to achieve sustainability and mitigate the effects of climate change. Look for date announcements.

**UPDATE: SUPERFUND SITE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY
GROUP (CAG)**

2004, "contaminants of concern"

were discovered in the ground-water and indoor air at Savings Square shopping center. Several contaminants including tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), dichloroethane (DCE), vinyl chloride, and toluene were found to have leaked into groundwater from a former dry cleaning business in Savings Square and the former Pilgrim Cleaners, both on Bandera Road. In 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed Leon Valley as a Superfund site and the Community Advisory Group (CAG) was formed. After the contamination was discovered, several private wells were tested. Those found to be impacted were plugged and affected homes were connected to a public water supply. The City of Leon Valley public water supply wells have been tested for the above chemicals numerous times and testing has always indicated the water is safe to drink. After EPA completed its remedial investigation in 2012, EPA issued its Record of Decision in 2013. In 2016, a Remedial Design was initiated and was completed by November

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2020. What this means is EPA has developed a process to clean up this superfund site with the highest regard for safety of the public, property owners, staff and subcontractors. The contract duration is five years (2023 – 2028). There will be a multi-pronged approach to cleaning up this site. Funding for the cleanup has come from the private responsible parties and the federal government. For a more detailed analysis, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/bandera-road> and <https://www.leonvalleytexas.gov/bc-cag>.

LEON VALLEY GREENWAY HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL

On January 5th, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the end of El Verde road for Phase one of the new Leon Valley Greenway Hike & Bike trail. The trail is being funded through an 80% construction reimbursement grant to the City through the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. Total cost (without change orders) is \$988,220. The trail will connect with the City of San Antonio's trail system at Crystal Hills trailhead located off of Shadow Mist and will run along El Verde Road, along Huebner Creek, eventually going under the Bandera Road bridge to connect with the sidewalk that leads to the Huebner-Onion Homestead. The contractor, TCI Construction, estimated it will take six months to build, weather and materials permitting. A future reimbursement grant has also been approved to extend this trail from Bandera Road bridge

through the CPS easement and along the fire break in the Natural Area through Raymond Rimkus park to Evers Road at Poss Road. Construction for this portion of the trail will begin in 2024. This is a great quality of life improvement for all our citizens. Thanks to the City Council, Melinda Moritz, Public Works director, the Hike & Bike Committee, engineers from the Ardurra Group and TXDOT District Engineers for helping this project become reality!

JUST WANTING TO LET YOU KNOW.....

- Please sign up for the new **My Leon Valley App** on your cell phone.

There is no charge and you can use this function to report any issue to the city, including attaching pictures! This is replacing our ON-IT system.

- Please **do not block sidewalks** when parking in your driveways.
- Save the date of Saturday, April 22, 2023 for a **Picnic Brunch with the Council** (instead of Coffee with Mayor/Council) from 11 am – 1 pm on the greenspace in front of the Conference Center. More details later.
- New **“Kraken variant” – XBB.1.5 – is the latest strain of COVID** to be detected in the states and Texas. The new subvariant is more transmissible than previous strains and seems to be doubling every two weeks – a rate public health officials in the state have never seen in the past. There is no evidence that this latest strain makes people any sicker than previous strains. Metro Health officials recommend getting the bi-

valent booster and wearing a high quality mask in crowded, indoor spaces.

- **Visit these Leon Valley destinations:** Raymond Rimkus Park and the many pocket parks, The Aquarium (their landscaping is very attractive), Northside Museum, and the Huebner-Onion Homestead and Natural Area, just to mention a few.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year! Thank you for the privilege of serving you as your Mayor. My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to contact me. Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092 (cell)

mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov



Photo by Mark Mayfield



Earthwise Living Day

33rd Annual Event

"Combating Climate Change One Household at a Time"



Join Us!

Saturday, March 4, 2023
9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Leon Valley Events Center
6427 Evers Road

Bring Your

- Wine Corks
- Expired Medicine Bottles
- Your Own Coffee Cup

Help Protect The Earth

Come learn how we can make Earthwise Living Choices Every Day!

Longest Running Environmental Event in Bexar County

www.leonvalleytexas.gov

Eco-Exhibits

Children Performances & Activities, Over 30 Vendors, Food, and MORE

Free Trees!

While supplies last



New Furniture at the Leon Valley Public Library!

The Leon Valley Public Library is excited to announce the arrival and installation of new furniture! Along with the furniture are several new electrical ports to help patrons charge their devices while at the library. The furniture was purchased with a grant from the Ladd & Katherine Hancher Library Foundation.



New patron computer workstations (computers not pictured) and chairs.

New seating area and tables. The tables include an outlet and 2 USB charging ports.

Meet your Leon Valley Economic Development Director



“Roque Salinas ”

Welcome Roque Salinas as the City of Leon Valley’s Economic Development Director, who joined us in December

2022. Roque comes from the Office of Management and Budget with the City of Waco. He served as a senior budget analyst, where his main duties were to oversee the budget for public works, water, waste water, Waco Metropolitan Area Regional Sewerage System, and all capital improvement projects. Prior to joining the City of Waco, Roque started his career with the State of Texas, working with the Texas State Securities Board. The mission of the State Securities Board is to protect Texas investors. Roque started as an administrative assistant and after 14 months was pro-

moted to a financial examiner. He led and assisted in over 300 audits of investment firms across Texas. While working with the state, Roque earned his professional designation of Certified Fraud Examiner in 2019. Roque earned his Master’s degree in Public Administration and his Bachelor’s degree in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration from Texas State University. As the new Economic Development Director, he plans to maintain good relations between the city and local businesses. He also plans to support the recruitment of new businesses to the city.



DID YOU KNOW? It’s Election time again.

On Saturday, May 06, 2023, the City of Leon Valley will hold a General Election for the purpose of electing members of Council for Place 1, Place 3, and Place 5.

The first day to file for a place on the ballot is Wednesday, January 18, 2023. The last day to file for a place on the ballot is Friday, February 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

* The last day to filing by a Write-In Candidate is Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

<https://www.leonvalleytexas.gov/secretary/page/election-informationinformacion-de-elecciones>

YOU MUST BE A REGISTERED VOTER OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION.

The last day for to Register to Vote is Thursday, April 06, 2023.

The first day of Early Voting is Monday, April 24, 2023; the last day of Early Voting is Tuesday, May 02, 2023.

The last day to Apply for a Ballot by Mail is Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

You are welcome to contact the City Secretary (210) 684-1391 extension 216 for assistance with voter registration or any other election related questions you may have.

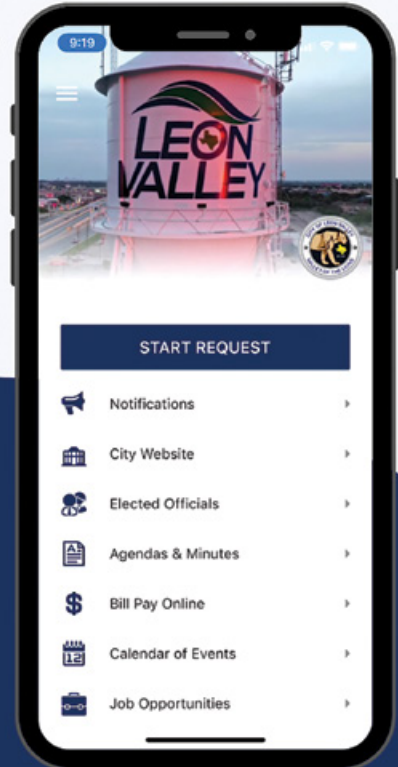


Download My Leon Valley

- Access Information
- Submit Service Requests
- Receive Notifications
- And more...



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Leon Valley Economic Development

The City Council of Leon Valley has established a program to provide assistance to households and residents in Leon Valley in an effort to mitigate the financial burden and continuing effects caused by Covid-19. The program will be administered by Ascension DePaul Services.



Grants administered under the Utility Assistance Program shall meet the following parameters:

- Utilities shall mean and be defined as; Electricity, Natural Gas, Water, Sewer, and Sanitation Services
Recipients of funds shall be residents of Leon Valley, Texas.
- Disbursements and assistance must be directly associated with and are necessary expenditures incurred as a result of partial or complete loss of income.
- Accounts MUST be 45 days overdue. Payments are made directly to the service company. No reimbursements are paid.



LIVING WITH WILDLIFE IN LEON VALLEY

There are many different species of wild animals that reside in and around Leon Valley. On a typical day residents may encounter deer, coyotes, armadillos, porcupines, opossums, raccoons, skunks, snakes, rats, mice, feral cats, or dogs. Often, these animals may seem quiet, reserved, and docile, while other times they are aggressive and agitated. Please refrain from touching or getting near these animals, because not only are they wild, but some may be carriers of rabies and may attack



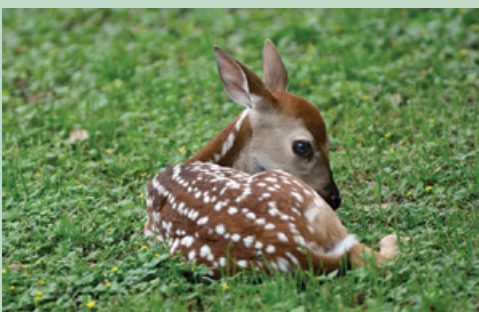
without warning. Fawns are often left by does on the ground for hours and should not be picked up or removed. This is normal wildlife behavior. Do not interfere.

Protect yourself, your family, and our resident wildlife in the following ways:

1. Do not feed wild animals. This includes ensuring that any food or water set out for your domestic pets is removed promptly. Deer corn, bread, and tortillas are not a good treat for deer and should not be made available to them at any time.
2. Never discard edible food onto your premises.
3. Secure all outside garbage containers with tight fitting lids.



4. Do not allow junk, debris, old tires, high weeds, and brush piles to accumulate on your property at any time.
5. Keep pet doors securely closed at night.
6. Block any openings in fences or buildings with wire, wire mesh, concrete, or wood.
7. The Texas Wildlife Commission recommends placing moth balls around your fence line or in various parts of your yard, or soaking rags and old socks in ammonia and placing them around your fence line and/or yard, especially at night, to keep snakes, skunks, armadillos, opossums, rats, and mice at bay. The Texas Wildlife Commission urges animal control officials not to trap or relocate wildlife out of their natural environment; therefore, officers will not respond to wildlife calls, unless it is a dangerous situation requiring immediate action. Residents must call a private company or contractor that is trained,

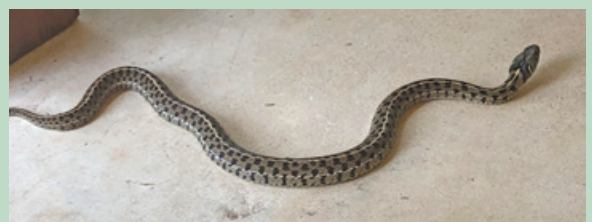


certified, and licensed in the trapping and relocation of wild animals should such an animal be trapped or otherwise found in your yard. Instead, citizens should contact Wildlife Rescue at (830) 336-2725, Texas Parks and Wildlife at (210) 688-9055, or a local certified wildlife professional contractor.

If you are injured by wildlife, please call 911 and get medical attention immediately, and then report the incident to Leon Valley Animal Control. For questions or to report an incident, please call the Leon Valley Animal Control Office at 210-684-1391 ext. 229 or ext. 230.

Residents

are responsible for picking up dead animals on their properties, except deer. Dead animals should be placed in a trash bag and placed at the curb, and Tiger Sanitation contacted for pick-up at (210) 333-4287. Dead deer or animals on the roadway will be handled by Animal Control/Public Works after notification.



LEON VALLEY JAZZ FEST

25
MARCH

3:30
PM



- FREE ADMISSION -

- LIVE PERFORMANCES -

.....
BILLY RAY SHEPPARD
EUROPA
SLIM MAN

RAYMOND RIMKUS PARK,
LEON VALLEY
TX 78238

.....
 - VENDORS - - FOOD TRUCKS -
 - BEER & WINE -



FILM NEGATIVE



FILM NEGATIVE

WWW.LEONVALLEYTEXAS.GOV

Please visit the City website's Special Events section for more information on participating and supporting these events.



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** Jed Hefner
jed.hefner@leonvalleytexas.gov
- Place 4** Rey Orozco
rey.orozco@leonvalleytexas.gov
- Place 5** Will Bradshaw
will.bradshaw@leonvalleytexas.gov

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. 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

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
- Tree Advisory Board**
2nd Monday - 6:00 p.m.
Public Works
- 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
- CAT** 210- 684-ONIT (6648)
- Human Resources** 210-684-1391
- 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.

