

Mayor's Message

By Mayor Chris Riley

"Luck Occurs When Preparation Meets Opportunity"

Vince Lombardi

TOWN HALL MEETING POLLING RESULTS

At a council meeting on March 7th, Dr. Caldera summarized the following polling results: **In person poll at the January 25th Town Hall Meeting (THM)** - 46 respondents; average age between 60-69. **Online Poll** (which was conducted over a two week period following the meeting): 74 respondents with average age between 30-39. The majority of respondents from **THM and online** own their home.

Question: What do you love about Leon Valley? **THM:** Parks, Community and Security. **Online:** Community and location. **What LV services can be improved?** **THM:** Animal Control, Code Enforcement, Police & City Council. **Online:** Skate Park, Parks & police. **Water Provider:** **THM** - 52 respondents, with the majority using LV water; **Online:** 56 respondents, with equal usage of LV and SAWS.

There was extensive polling on different ways to pay for the needed upgrade of Leon Valley's water and sewer pipes. Generally, respondents were in favor of a 2% per year increase over 5 years. There was less support for capital improvement

fees and bonds.

There was also extensive polling on prioritizing the city's projects under several different categories. Virtually all participants supported action on the water and sewer infrastructure. Other priorities were streets, sidewalks, a Public Works building, dealing with erosion in the Natural Area, the pools, and Hike and Bike Trail III. The on-line participants expressed strong support for a skate park. Other projects included were a dog park and pickleball court.

The polling question of whether to remove the 20% tax exemption and the 65 and over tax freeze for future residents overwhelmingly favored keeping these tax exemptions.

Goals & Objectives - Both THM and online participants supported each city department's goals/objectives presented, as well as keeping the community's eight previous goals. The City Manager offered to present an updated draft of the Goals and Objectives at a workshop. Council consensus was to have this as the main topic at the *April 26th Coffee with Mayor & Council (9 am in the Conference*



Center).

Thanks to the City Council members for developing the topics discussed, the staff for their efforts in researching and developing the presentations and all the citizens who participated in person and online. We greatly appreciate your interest and love for your city.

PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE UNSHELTERED IN LEON VALLEY

This program began in the summer of 2024 through a partnership with the County, Haven for Hope and the City of Leon Valley to address the unsheltered in our community. Our city put \$40,000 towards the effort with the County putting more than \$100,000 from American Rescue Planning funds, into hiring three outreach workers. I am pleased to report that between July 2024 and February 2025, fifty-eight (58) persons were tran-

Continued on next page

Continued from cover

sitioned from the streets to Haven for Hope. This averages about 10 persons per month, which is significant. Additionally, the County informed myself and the City Manager that Bexar County received an Emergency Solutions Grant from the federal government, which will extend the program for another year, at no cost to the City of Leon Valley! It is our goal to help find supportive housing through Haven for Hope for the unsheltered in our community as a way to reduce homelessness.

INCREASING WATER AND SEWER RATES

Council has had numerous workshops over the last year on the need to address our 50 year old water and sewer pipes, the cost to replace them, and how to pay for replacement.

Following input from the Town Hall meeting, Council has directed staff to bring back numbers on raising meter fee and usage charge by 2% annually for 5 years; matching our water company's usage tiers to SAWS; and passing on the increase in the EAA fee from \$.62 to \$.70/1,000 gal to the users. At the March 7th Council meeting, Director Moritz presented revenue charts showing a 2% increase over 5 years, but applying it to the SAWS tier structure (0-4,000/gal), which is different from the Leon Valley water company tier structure (0-3,000/gal). The result was a decrease in revenue for the first two years. The Council has requested Director Moritz to redo the calculation using the SAWS tiers and adjusting the rate so that the projected rate increases rather than reduces revenues. This modest rate increase will only apply to the citizens who re-

ceive their water from the Leon Valley water company. Council's goal is to increase revenue while making Leon Valley water bills comparable to the bills of Leon Valley residents who use SAWS water.

PERMANENT CLOSING OF THE COMMUNITY POOL ON STRAWFLOWER

This pool has been losing water and was closed last season due to needed repairs. Estimate to repair the pool was \$205,000, not including a new concession stand. Council had already decided to only keep one pool, Forest Oaks, due to the cost of maintaining two pools, which are several blocks away from each other. The Council voted to authorize the expenditure of \$34,000 for Public Works to fill in the pool.

Director Moritz presented cost estimates to repurpose this area for a Pickleball Court - \$96,625; or a Dog Park, \$49,125, minus a donation towards the dog park of \$20,000, for a net cost of \$29,125. A second Community Garden was also suggested for this area. Council decided to get more information on these options before making a final decision. If you have an opinion on what you'd like to see in this area, please let us know.

DID YOU KNOW?

• **May 3rd City Council Elections:** Congratulations to Mayor Pro Tem Philip Campos, Place 3 and Beth Mursch, Place 5. Both will be elected without opposition in the May 3rd city election. Philip will be serving his second two-year term. Beth is the Chair of Earthwise Living Committee and alternate member of the Planning & Zoning Commission. In Place 1, incumbent Benny Martinez, who is

finishing up his 9th year on council, will face Danielle Bolton, currently serving on the Park Commission and Board of Directors for the Leon Valley Historical Society. The last day to register to vote is April 3rd and last day to request a mail-in ballot is April 22, 2025. Due to a shortage of volunteers, the League of Women Voters will not be able to hold a Candidates Forum this year due to the COSA mayoral and councilmembers place 1-10 elections, which are taking priority over the suburban city elections. There is another ballot initiative to be voted on: the Alamo Community College District \$900 million bond election. A Voters' Guide will be available at our library which summarizes the pros and cons of this bond election.

• **Lights Out for Bird Safety**
Proclamation was presented to Sara Beesely, Mitchell Lake Audubon Society, on behalf of the Earthwise Living Committee. This is a state-wide initiative to raise awareness about the dangers light pollution poses to birds and to encourage business and residents to turn off, point down, and/or hood non-essential lights at night during bird migration from March 1-June 15 and August 15- November 30th from 11 pm to 6 pm. More than 1 billion birds die annually in the U.S. due to collisions with buildings with lights that attract and disorient them during migration. Some councilmembers expressed concern with this proclamation, stating it could lead to increased crime. Police Chief Gonzalez suggested motion sensors on lights as a compromise, and/or to direct your security lights down, not up, and/or hood them.

If you often wonder what birds we have in our neighborhoods,

download the free Merlin App, from Cornell University, Lab of Ornithology. My neighbor shared we had six different bird sounds on Forest Way this week.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter (April 20th) and Happy Fiesta (April 24 – May 4th)! My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to contact me on any issue or concern or if you'd like to volunteer!

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092 (cell)

mayorrriley@leonvalleytexas.gov

Yellow-throated Warbler Photo by Mark Mayfield



COLOR OUR WORLD™



SUMMER READING 2025

Date	Program	Time
June 6th	Summer Reading Kickoff: Carnival	9am – 12pm
June 11th	Science Heroes Interactive Storytelling	10:30 am
June 18th	A Day in Africa	10:30 am
June 25th	Silly Sparkles	10:30 am
July 10th	Wild Thing Zoofari	10:30 am
July 17th	BK Bones	3:00 pm
July 23rd	Bobby Cordell Magic	10:30 am
August 7th & 8th	Mini Golf at the Library Friends Fundraiser	TBD

Stage III Drought Restrictions – COLV Water Utility Customers



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

Just a reminder that the city is still in Stage III drought restriction measures. Stage III water use reduction measures are declared to be in effect when the aquifer level at the J-17 well drops to six hundred forty (640) feet above mean sea level (msl), based on a 10-day rolling average calculated and determined by the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Wasting water is prohibited under the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, which states:

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation within the corporate limits of the city to waste water.
- (b) For the purposes of this section, "waste" shall be defined as causing, suffering or permitting a flow of water, from any source whatsoever, to run into any river, creek or other natural watercourse or drain, superficial or underground channel, or bayou, or into any sanitary or storm sewer or any street, road or highway, or upon the lands of another person, firm or corporation, or upon public lands, without first having obtained the maximum degree of beneficial use.
- (c) For the purposes of this section, the term "maximum degree of beneficial use" shall be defined and shall be construed to mean the use of water under means and by methods of conservation as hereinafter in this division set out so that only that amount of water actually and necessarily required for a specific purpose is to be used by the consumer or inhabitant.

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 is allowed once per week with an irrigation system, sprinkler, or soaker hose from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 9:00 p.m. to midnight on your designated watering day, as determined by your address. Watering with drip irrigation is allowed every Monday and Friday, but only from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 9:00 p.m. to midnight.
- (iii) Hotels, motels and other lodgings 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.
- (v) 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 III is still in effect at the beginning of the next billing month.



CELEBRATE



FREEDOM

4TH OF JULY
IN LEON VALLEY



NOW ACCEPTING: VENDORS, SPONSORS, & VOLUNTEERS

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.

- ! All wounding of Oaks (including pruning) should be avoided from February through June
- ! 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/>



MAY 24TH

8:00 am to 6:00 pm

(RAIN DAY: MAY 31ST)

Get on the List of Participating
Addresses by emailing
s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov or
call 210-684-1391 ext. 216



COMMUNITY PRIDE

Small Actions, Big Impact!

Leon Valley is a wonderful place to call home, and each of us plays a role in keeping our community clean, safe, and welcoming. Being a good neighbor means taking small but meaningful steps to show community pride every day.

Here are some simple ways to make a big difference:

- **Keep Your Yard Tidy** – Prevent leaves and grass clippings from blowing onto your neighbor's property or into the street. If you hire a lawn service, remind them to remove the debris instead of blowing it into the road.
- **Maintain Your Property** – If you own a vacant home, remember that you're responsible for its upkeep, including mowing the lawn and keeping it free of debris. A well-maintained property keeps the entire neighborhood looking great!
- **Be a Responsible Pet Owner** – Always clean up after your pets and ensure they are on a leash when out in the community. This keeps public spaces clean and enjoyable for everyone.
- **Keep Streets and Curbs Clean** – Grass clippings and yard waste in the streets can clog storm drains and create hazards. Let's work together to keep our roads clear and our neighborhoods beautiful!

By taking these small, everyday actions, we show respect for our neighbors and pride in our city. Together, we can make Leon Valley a cleaner, safer, and more beautiful place for all!



Water Conservation Measures - What You Can Do!

Using a dishwasher can save you up to 24 gallons per load as long as you run your dishwasher every night. Using a dishwasher nightly instead of ten minutes of handwashing can save more than 100 gallons of water weekly. That totals more than 5,000 gallons of water annually. Modern, energy-efficient dishwashers save the most water (and energy), but even older models can be more efficient than handwashing. A modern dishwasher uses about four gallons of water compared to 27 gallons when washing the same dishes by hand. Older dishwasher models may use as much as fifteen gallons of water—still less than handwashing. If it is time to replace the appliance, check for water-conserving versions.

Water your lawn on the right day and at the right times. Most Texas cities restrict outdoor water use to one or two days a week during times of drought; and to certain times year-round. Save water and avoid fines by learning and following the city's schedule.

Catch the condensation from your AC unit and use it in your yard. Depending on how your air conditioner is programmed, it can produce gallons of water per day. Catch that water in a bucket and use it in your garden and on shrubs and trees. Install rain barrels at downspouts from gutters. Use this free water to water your garden!

Turn the water off when you brush your teeth. This simple step can save up to 8 gallons of water per day.

Fix leaky faucets. Leaky faucets can waste up to 7 gallons of water per day. To check for leaks at home, read your water meter and avoid using water for 2 hours. Read the meter again after this period. If the amount is different, you have a leak.

Fix running toilets, which waste a lot of water. Check your toilets frequently, as low flow toilet leaks are very quiet. Fix these leaks as soon as you find them. Check with the manufacturer of your toilet for the proper replacement "flapper" to ensure maximum efficiency.

Have your irrigation system inspected by a certified irrigator to make sure it is operating correctly, identify any problems, and help you set it to run more efficiently.

When watering your lawn, apply one to one and a half inches of water each time. Light watering leaves too much water at or near the surface of the soil and does not reach all of the roots where it is needed. Deep watering allows moisture to reach the deepest roots. Allowing the soil to dry between watering will encourage the roots to go deeper to reach the needed moisture and nutrients. Mulch all garden or flower beds.

Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads. These water saving devices are cheap and easy to install.

Install a high efficiency toilet. Toilets account for about 25% of water used in the home. Depending on the age of your toilet, you can save up to 5 gallons per flush by replacing older models.

Make water conservation a whole-family activity. Challenge your family members to think of new ways to save water and to be part of the solution!

Did you know you can cast your vote without leaving your car?



Yes, you can! It's called **Curbside Voting**.

This service is available to any voter who has difficulty walking or standing for long periods.

How to use Curbside Voting:

Step 1: About 15 minutes before you plan to vote, please call **210-335-0362** and leave a voicemail with the following information:

- Your name
- The make, model, and color of your vehicle
- The polling location where you plan to vote
- The date and time you expect to arrive at the polling site
- A phone number where election staff can reach you if needed

Step 2: When you arrive at the polling site:

- Park in the designated curbside voting space (marked with a sign) and turn on your hazard lights.
- If someone is with you, ask them to go inside and notify the election staff that you've arrived.
- If you are alone, call **210-335-0362** again to let them know you're outside.

For more assistance, contact your City Secretary at **210-684-1391, ext. 216**, or Bexar County Elections at **210-335-VOTE**.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

In February and March of this year, the Leon Valley City Council adopted the following ordinances:

Ordinance No. 2025-2 - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council authorizing the execution of a lease agreement with the Northwest Senior Citizen Club Organization for the lease of the City of Leon Valley Irene Baldrige Community Center located at 6427 Evers Road, Leon Valley Texas. – Adopted 02-04-2025

Ordinance No. 2025-3 - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council authorizing a budget adjustment for FY 2025 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$20,000 for the purpose of increasing the Library Department. - Adopted 02-04-2025

Ordinance No. 2025-4 - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6 Health and Safety, Article 6.05 Smoking Regulations to incorporate electronic smoking devices (ESDs). - Adopted 03-04-2025

Ordinance No. 2025-5 - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12 Traffic and Vehicles, Article 12.03 Parking, Stopping and Standing, Section 12.03.006 Parking Restrictions on specific streets, to prohibit parking along Thistle Drive. - Adopted 03-18-2025

Ordinance No. 2025-6 - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council authorizing budget adjustment for FY 2025 Red-Light Camera Fund Budget in the amount of \$27,847 for the purpose of increasing the Traffic and Safety Department Budget to provide funding for the purchase and installation of an Intersection Conflicting Warning System (ICWS) at the intersection of Evers Rd. and Adair Dr. - Adopted 03-18-2025

To view these ordinances in their entirety, as well as other City documents, please visit MuniDocs at https://library.municode.com/tx/leon_valley/munidocs/munidocs . You may also contact City Secretary Passailaigue at 210-684-1391 ext. 216 or by email at s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov



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

PRSRD 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 Betty Heyl
betty.hey1@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, PhD.
210-684-1391 x 219
City Secretary
Saundra Passailaigue
210-684-1391 x 216
Finance Department
Carol Goering, Director
210-684-1391 x 223
Planning & Zoning Department
Susana Huerta, Director
210-684-1391 x 234
Economic Development Department
Roque Salinas, Director
210-684-1391 x 232
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
210-684-1391, x 255
Public Works
Melinda Moritz, Director
210-681-1232, x 203
Human Resources
Lisa Hernandez, Director
210-684-1391, x 212

Community Relations

Crystal Miranda, Director
210-684-1391, 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 - 6:30 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 210-684-8897

Fire 210-684-3219

Police 210-684-3215

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.

