

## Mayor's Message

By Mayor Chris Riley

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*"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning."*  
Albert Einstein

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### **BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025**

I am writing this article a week after the horrific floods in the Hill Country on July 4th. Such tragedy and loss of life, especially young people and entire families who perished. What I observed is the importance of people coming together to help those in need. The outpouring of support, love and concern is truly overwhelming.

What type of emergency could we face in Leon Valley and what can we do as a community to build strong ties to one another? Participating in the annual National Night Out (NNO) program is one way!

NNO is set on the first Tuesday in October every year to encourage neighbors to meet (and sometimes eat) to strengthen relationships among neighbors and between the neighborhood and law enforcement. This is important not only for crime prevention, but also in this time of extreme weather events to help support each other

during a potential crisis. Several citizens have asked the city to have a registry of seniors who live alone and could be checked on in case of an emergency. City staff has said this is not possible for them to do. But being neighbors, we can check on each other. National Night Out is a way of meeting your neighbors and learning how you can support each other if there is a problem.

How do you get started? Decide if you can host this gathering or partner with someone on your block to co-host. It can be **very simple** – just meet on a driveway on your block and ask neighbors to bring their own chairs, food and drink. Register through a QR code on the City's website or call (210) 684-8897 for more information. Invite your neighbors through word of mouth or by dropping a notice of the block party at each neighbor's doors. If you host a party, the city will provide you a sign promoting NNO on your block. City Council members, police and fire department personnel and/or the city manager will stop by the various block parties. Last year we had 13 gatherings for NNO, up from 9 the year before. In



the years past, we had upwards of 30 gatherings. Let's make a HUGE effort this year to have more NNO parties to strengthen our community.

### **ANNUAL CITY COUNCIL RETREAT**

Your new city council, along with the city manager and finance director have been working diligently during their summer break (June 4 through July 14) to develop consensus on the Fiscal Year (FY) Budget 2026.

**City Council Retreat:** City Manager Caldera presented the **preliminary budget** on May 31st showing a \$1.4 million dollar deficit, if we keep the tax rate the same as FY 25 (\$0.48). Some factors for this deficit were the estimated \$46 million reduction of property values and a 5.1% increase in personnel costs to keep employees at market (the av-

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erage salary in the area) so we can retain dedicated employees. At the June 19th meeting, the city manager presented additional cuts from all departments totaling \$951,331, reducing the estimated deficit to over \$400,000. On July 1st, the city manager presented an update to the FY 2026 budget reflecting further cuts and a budget deficit of around \$200,000. The city manager reports this budget reflects a Zero Based approach which itemizes every revenue source and every expenditure by department to the penny.

Some of the proposed cuts were eliminating the 4th of July celebration on July 4, 2026, and Fiesta medals, saving the city \$150,000; eliminating \$250,000 for an updated Planning and Zoning Master Plan, and cutting court dates in half. Painting city buildings was also removed from the FY 26 budget, saving \$200,000. All special events were cut, with the exception of the annual Christmas Tree lighting and Earthwise Living Day. The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Employee Luncheon, as well as all employee and council uniforms (except Public Works) were removed. Council meals and employee awards were also cut.

What were some budget items which council has agreed to fund in the General Fund for FY 26?

- Funding 117 employee positions, including a 2.6% pay raise and payment of employee medical insurance, longevity pay and paid time off.
- The IT Director position was changed from a full time position to a part-time contract with

Tech Lead, saving approximately \$58,000.

- Funding the Forest Oaks swimming pool contract for FY26 (\$108,000), plus replastering the pool (\$75,000).
- Replacing the Merry-Go-Round in the Children's PlayScape at Rimkus Park, which will be ADA accessible, for \$20,000.
- Adding a Veteran's Park monument, place to be determined, cost ranges from \$14,000 - \$24,000.
- Rather than putting money into a Dog Park, Council decided to take the donation of \$20,000 and apply it to purchasing computers and materials for the Children's library, as well as supporting stray dogs in the City, approved by the donor.
- On the City's property on Poss where the swimming pool has been filled in, the Council decided to keep the property undeveloped for the time being (dog park, community garden, zen meditation area, pickle ball were ideas being considered).

This is just a *very brief* synopsis of the general fund budget currently being proposed and does not include supplies, repairs, contractual services, equipment, utilities, professional services, training, insurance, dues, and printing in each department. At the end of July, the Bexar Appraisal District will determine the no-new-revenue tax rate for our city. This rate is calculated to generate the same amount of tax revenue this year as last year. With property appraisals coming in lower, it is anticipated that the no-new-revenue tax rate for FY26 will be higher than \$.048. Please come to the August 19th city council meeting where the council is expected to finalize the FY 26 budget. We need to hear from you!

**Other Council Retreat Items** – some of the items discussed over two meetings (a total of 9 hours) included traffic/speed related issues; junk cars; short term rentals, removal of dead trees; the Memorandum of Understanding with the Historical Society, and the roles of council and manager, including



Woodpecker Photo by Mark Mayfield



open meetings act guidelines. We learned a lot and are developing as a team. Thanks to Dr. Caldera for researching and supplying the supporting materials for the retreat!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Former Mayor Marcus Semmelmann died on June 24th at the age of 90.** He served two terms each as Mayor and City Councilman from the 1970's to 2006. He was instrumental in establishing Raymond Rimkus Park and the Natural Area Park. Rest in Peace, Marcus.

**New Businesses in Leon Valley – Goin' Postal**, 6422 Bandera (rents UHAULs) and sells wooden religious items, among other postal services; **Shop My Closet**, 7205 Bandera Rd (2nd floor), sells vintage women's clothing, and **Quesadilla King**, 6811 Bandera Rd, Mexican Food restaurant. Please support these new businesses!

**November 4, 2025 – 17 Constitutional Amendment election.** Propositions from the state legislature to be voted on by the people of Texas include property tax

exemptions, clarifying only U.S. citizens may vote in Texas elections, and bail bond reform. Last day to register to vote is October 4, 2025. Look for the League of Women Voters guide and similar guides to explain the issues.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!  
Happy Labor Day!

Sincerely, Chris  
Cell: (210) 618-2092  
mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov

## **FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY**

**The Leon Valley City Council recently adopted the following ordinances:**

**Ordinance No. 2025-12** - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15 Zoning, Division 2 – Rules of Construction and Definitions, Sec. 15.02.052 – Definitions and Chapter 15 Zoning, Division 7 Permitted Use Table, Section 15.02.381 to allow the use “Bail Bond Facility” in certain zoning districts with and without a Specific Use Permit. – Adopted 05-20-2025

**Ordinance No. 2025-13** - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1 General Provisions, Article 1.09 Parks and Recreation, Section 1.09.034 Additional Prohibited Uses and Activities and Appendix A Fee Schedule, Section A2.003 Park Municipal Administrative Fees – Adopted 05-20-2025

**Ordinance No. 2025-14** - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances Appendix A – Fee Schedule, Article A4.00- Animal Control Fees, to add Article A4.006- Dog Microchipping - Adopted 07-15-2025

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



# **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON LEON VALLEY'S BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES.**



Applications are available at City Hall or on the City's website or through the Office of the City Secretary.

We have openings on the following:

- Bandera Road Site – Community Advisory Group (CAG)
  - Board of Adjustment (BOA)
- Citizens Police Advisory Committee (CPAC)
  - Earthwise Living Day Committee (EWL)
- Economic and Community Development Advisory Committee (ECDAC)
  - Library Advisory Board (LAB)
  - Park Commission (PARK)
- Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z)



210-684-1391 ext. 216

[www.leonvalleytexas.gov](http://www.leonvalleytexas.gov)



On September 3, 2024, the City Council adopted an ordinance requiring property owners to remove or address dead trees located on their property. Following the adoption of this ordinance, postcards were mailed to all residents requesting voluntary compliance. While many residents have taken action, some properties remain out of compliance.

The City Council has now directed staff to begin enforcement. In certain cases where a dead tree encroaches on public property, the City may remove the tree and place a lien on the property to recover associated costs.

Beginning **September 1, 2025**, Code Enforcement staff will actively patrol neighborhoods and issue citations for dead trees on private property. Property owners are strongly encouraged to address these issues before that date to avoid enforcement actions.

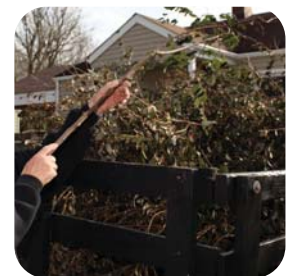
We also remind all residents that heavy rain can cause tree limbs to sag over the roadway. Low-hanging limbs can obstruct the right-of-way, delaying or even preventing emergency vehicles from responding to calls.

According to Section 403.2.1 of the Fire Code:

- Fire apparatus access roads must maintain an unobstructed width of at least 20 feet (26 feet when a fire hydrant is present).
- A minimum unobstructed vertical clearance of 14 feet must be maintained at all times.
- Any security gates must meet these width requirements.

While patrolling for dead trees, Code Enforcement will also be addressing low-hanging limbs that encroach into required clearances.

**Reminder:** The next scheduled brush pickup will take place during the **second week of September**. Residents are encouraged to plan accordingly.



# Spring Clean-up Week

Place items at the curb September 8 - September 14, 2025



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

**Collection Begins on September 15, 2025 at 7:00a.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.

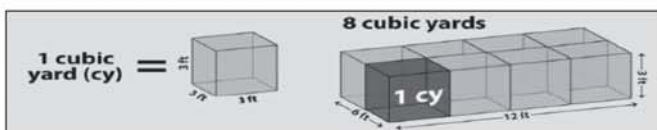
**DO** place discarded items and brush at your normal pick-up location(s).

**DO** Stack brush with the butt ends pointing in the same direction and separate brush from bulky items. Remember to promptly paint all tree wounds.

**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 14th 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.







## LOW COST PET VACCINES

**12PM-4PM AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**6400 EL VERDE RD LEON VALLEY, TX 78238**

**(Located behind the police station  
@ the cul-de-sac)**



**Convenient  
Mobile Location**



**Dog & Cat Vaccines**



**Heartworm Test &  
prevention**



**Flea / Tick  
medication**



**Nail Trims**



**Microchipping**

**VISIT US**

**SAVE TIME BOOK ONLINE**

**@pennypaws.com**

**1-817-993-1234**





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](mailto:mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov)  
**Place 1** Danielle Bolton  
[danielle.bolton@leonvalleytexas.gov](mailto:danielle.bolton@leonvalleytexas.gov)  
**Place 2** Betty Heyl  
[betty.hey1@leonvalleytexas.gov](mailto:betty.hey1@leonvalleytexas.gov)  
**Place 3** Philip Campos  
[philip.campos@leonvalleytexas.gov](mailto:philip.campos@leonvalleytexas.gov)  
**Place 4** Rey Orozco  
[rey.orozco@leonvalleytexas.gov](mailto:rey.orozco@leonvalleytexas.gov)  
**Place 5** Beth Mursch  
[beth.mursch@leonvalleytexas.gov](mailto:beth.mursch@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, 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 Thursday - 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](http://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** 210-684-1391  
**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.

