

Mayor's Message

By Mayor Chris Riley

"On matters of style, swim with the current; on matters of principle, stand like a rock."

Thomas Jefferson

MEET YOUR LEON VALLEY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

On May 3rd, Leon Valley election for at-large Places 1, 3 and 5 resulted in two changes on city council. In Place 1, Danielle Bolton was elected with 374 votes (62.2%) to Councilor Benny Martinez' 227 votes (37.8%). In Place 3, incumbent Councilor Philip Campos was re-elected without opposition. In Place 5, Councilor Will Bradshaw chose not to run for a fourth term and newcomer Beth Mursch was elected without opposition. Returning to council to complete the second year of his third two-year term is Councilor Rey Orozco. Councilor Betty Heyl is completing her second year of her first term and I am completing my 11th term as Mayor. 671 citizens cast a vote in our municipal election out of 7,536 eligible registered voters for an 8.9% turnout.

New Councilor Danielle Bolton has lived in Leon Valley since 1976 and graduated from John Marshall High School. She has been married for 29 years and has two children. She earned a BS and MA from

UTSA and has been an assistant principal since 2015. Danielle has served on the Park Commission, the Board of Adjustment and the Economic/Community Development committee. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Leon Valley Historical Society and is a committee member of the San Antonio Stockshow Horse Committee for the last 20 years.

Councilor Philip Campos is a native San Antonian, graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School where he met his wife Anna. Interestingly, they have lived in three different homes in Leon Valley over their married life, and they have lived in Leon Valley for 46 years! They have 3 children and 9 grandchildren. He graduated from Texas A&M University and is a certified public accountant. After owning his own CPA firm for many years, Philip transitioned to working for the City of San Antonio for 4 years and then the San Antonio Water System for 16 years. He served as Senior Contracting Director at SAWS, managing over \$500 million in contracts, and retired at the end of 2024. He continues to work as a CPA.



New Councilor Beth Mursch has lived in Leon Valley since 1985, raising three children. If you knew Mursch Sporting Goods Store on Bandera Road, that was her husband's family business. Beth graduated with a BS in biology from St. Mary's University and an MBA in Healthcare Management from Our Lady of the Lake University. She worked as a Laboratory Manager and Director for 36 years, first at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa, then as a traveling Interim Laboratory Directory in hospitals/healthcare organizations outside of San Antonio. Councilor Mursch has been a member of the Earth-wise Living Committee since 2023, and was elected Chair in 2024. She has served as an Alternate of the Planning & Zoning Commission since 2024. She enjoys spending time with her nine grandchildren and walking/gardening.

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We thank Benny Martinez for 9 years, and Will Bradshaw for 6 years, of skilled and devoted service to our community as elected Councilors.

The city council and city manager annual council retreat was on Saturday, May 31st, with discussion of the FY26 Budget a top priority.

FOURTH OF JULY EVENTS

Hope to see everyone on July 4th to Celebrate Freedom at the Leon Valley Raymond Rimkus Park, starting at 6 pm. The Council decided to forego the annual parade due to the heat and dwindling parade participation, and to concentrate only on the July 4th celebration in the park. Food trucks and the small business-sponsored Fun Zone for kids will be held from 6 pm – 9 pm. Director Miranda is working on securing a jazz band who would open the festivities. Our cover band, Finding Friday, will perform from 7:30 – 10 pm with the fireworks display beginning at 9:30 pm. Finding Friday will continue to play after the fireworks until 10 pm. This is a free event and participants may bring in coolers, chairs and blankets to enjoy the music and festivities.

First on July 4th: Don't Forget the Pioneer Firecracker 5K Run/Walk, co-sponsored with the Leon Valley Historical Society, beginning at 7:30 am. For more information and details about registration for this fun family event, visit their website at www.leonvalley-historicalsociety.

Please note – Leon Valley citizens will not receive a postcard

with details of events planned nor of what streets will be closed, as in the past, so please check the city's website for updated information. Thanks to Crystal Miranda, the Community Relations Director, our entire city staff and volunteers for helping to make this another great event for our city. There will be additional security and shuttle service due to the anticipated crowds. For more information, please call (210) 812-3328.

WATER & SEWER RATES INCREASED

Since February 2024 City Council has been discussing the need to increase water and sewer rates, initially to cover the cost of repairing 6 water mains in Seneca West subdivision and the sewer mains in Forest Oaks. Councilors were shown photos of severe leakage in 50 year old pipes. Clean water is a health, safety and welfare issue which we as a city council must provide to protect our citizens.

At the Town Hall meeting the citizens supported a 2% increase in rates and council directed staff to apply the calculations. Unfortunately, the numbers did not generate enough money.

At the May 6th meeting, I as mayor broke a 2-2 tie to vote for the first year's increase for water and sewer rates of 4%, or \$3.24 more per month for 5,000 gallons per month usage, with an additional 5% in year two (a total of \$3.76 per month over current rates). The Council will reassess rates in two years, after reviewing revenue changes resulting from new homes slated to be built in Seneca West, Trilogy Grove and Senna I and II in Leon Valley. The Council's

goal is to charge equivalent rates to those paid by SAWS customers (about 1/3 of Leon Valley residents are on SAWS water, and Leon Valley sewer. They will pay the sewer fee increase).

DID YOU KNOW?

- City Council Summer Meeting Schedule – June 3rd was the last meeting held in June with both the June 17th and July 1st council meetings cancelled for a summer break. Council meetings will resume the 1st and 3rd of each month beginning July 15th . The quarterly Coffee with the Mayor and Council is set for Saturday, July 26th from 9 – 11 am at the Leon Valley Conference Center.
- The Importance of Nature – Time in nature improves mental health, enhances focus, lowers stress hormones, and makes you feel good. On May 10th we took our granddaughter Betty to the Natural Area Park. It is a .8 mile hike in a dense forest. She counted 15 deer sightings and we recorded 10 bird sounds on our free Merlin bird app. She thought the Joseph Huebner gravesite, made from limestone, was really cool, especially with the obelisk. By the way, it is always at least 5-10 degrees cooler in the Natural Area. The entry is around from the Community Garden in Rimkus Park, next to the entrance on Forest Meadow.
- The Forest Oaks Community Pool located at 6620 Evers is open from Memorial Day weekend May 24-September 1st and weekends only September 6-28th. Hours are 10 am – 8 pm, Sunday – Saturday, CLOSED on Wednesdays. Season passes are available online. Daily

gate fee is \$5. Party rentals are available. Unfortunately, there will not be a swim team this year (no coach).

Wishing everyone a fun, exciting and safe summer. Please call (210) 618-2092 (cell) if you have a question, concern or compliment! See you on July 4th!

Sincerely, Chris

mayor@leonvalleytexas.gov

Hummingbird Photo by Mark Mayfield



SAFE DIGGING STARTS WITH YOU.

ARE YOU PLANNING ANY
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OR DIGGING PROJECTS?



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

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Visit cpsenergy.com/811
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5 Steps to Safe Digging



Texas law requires you to contact 811 at least two business days before every dig. No matter how big or small. **811 is a free service.**

1 CONTACT 811

Always contact 811 at least 48 hours before you dig. Digging is defined as the movement of earth by any means.



White
Proposed
Excavation



Pink
Temporary
Survey Markings

2 WAIT 48 HOURS

Always wait at least 48 hours before starting your digging project.



Red
Electrical Power
Lines,
Cables, Conduit and
Lightning Cables



Yellow
Gas, Oil, Steam,
Petroleum, or
Gaseous
Materials

3 CONFIRM THE MARKS

Confirm that all utilities have been marked prior to starting your digging project.



Green
Sewer & Drain
Lines



Blue
Potable
Water

4 RESPECT THE MARKS

The paint or flags are the guide for your digging project. It may be necessary for a remark if the flags are removed or the paint fades.



Orange
Communications,
Alarm or Signal
Lines, Cables and
Conduit



Purple
Irrigation &
Slurry Lines,
Reclaimed
Water

5 DIG CAREFULLY

Be mindful of tolerance zones and dig with caution around the utility markers.

dpcoftexas.org



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



CELEBRATE



FREEDOM

FRIDAY, JULY 4

RAYMOND RIMKUS PARK

6 PM - 10 PM



NOW ACCEPTING: VENDORS, SPONSORS, & VOLUNTEERS

For questions please contact the Community Relations Director, Crystal Miranda at
(210) 684-1391 ext. 228 or 210-454-7698 c.miranda@leonvalleytexas.gov



4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION



5K
FOOD TRUCKS
VENDORS
SMALL BUSINESS FUN ZONE
LIVE MUSIC
FIREWORKS

Friday, July 4, 2025
Raymond Rimkus Park

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

The Leon Valley City Council recently adopted the following ordinances:

Ordinance No. 2025-7 - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council authorizing a budget adjustment to the FY 2024-2025 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$35,000 for the purpose of increasing the Public Works Department to provide funding for the demolition of the Leon Valley Community Swimming Pool. – Adopted 04-01-2025

Ordinance No. 2025-8 - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council granting a zone change on an approximately 6.8 acre tract of land from R-1 Single-Family Dwelling District to Planned Development District (PDD), with R-3 Multiple-Family Dwelling Base Zoning District being the Northwest 330' of Lots 10, 11, 12, 13, and the Northeast 20' triangle of Lot 10, and the Southwest 400' of Lot 3, CB 5874, Leon Valley, Texas. - Adopted 04-15-2025

Ordinance No. 2025-9 - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council amending Ordinance 2021-54 to change the zoning from PD Planned Development District, with B-3 Commercial District and no SO, Sustainability Zoning to PD Planned Development District with R-3 Multiple-Family Dwelling Base Zoning District on approximately 2.85 acres at 6758 Poss Road; and more specifically described as CB 5784, Block 4, Lot 64, Quality Subdivision, Leon Valley, Texas. - Adopted 04-15-2025

Ordinance No. 2025-10 - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Appendix A, Fee Schedule, Article A11.000 Water and Sewer Fees, Section A11.001 (a), (c), (g), and (q); providing an effective date of the first day of the Water Billing Cycle for October 2025, an effective date for the Sewer Billing Cycle for October 2025. - adopted 05-06-2025

Ordinance No. 2025-11 - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX., City Council authorizing a budget adjustment to the FY 2024-2025 Police Forfeiture Fund in the amount of \$8,500.00 from the General Fund for the capital acquisitions of a vehicle. - adopted 05-06-2025

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



DID YOU KNOW.....?

You don't have to attend a City Council meeting in person to share your thoughts!

Leon Valley residents are welcome to submit *Citizens to be Heard* comments by email, mail, or fax—making it easier than ever to participate in local government.

Under Ordinance No. 2023-43, Section 1.104.001(d), citizen participation is encouraged at the following times:

- During the "Citizens to be Heard" segment
- Before the Council votes on any posted agenda item
- At any officially posted public meeting

Ways to Participate:

- In Person – Attend and speak during the meeting.
- In Writing – Submit your comments for the record.

Written comments may be:

- Emailed to: citizenstobeheard@leonvalleytexas.gov
(City Council members and the Mayor may forward emails on your behalf.)
- Mailed to:
Leon Valley Public Comments
6400 El Verde Road
Leon Valley, TX 78238
- Faxed to: (210) 684-4476

Please note: To ensure your comments are included in the meeting, they must be received *before* the meeting begins. While comments related to agenda items may be read aloud upon request by the Mayor or a Council Member, comments submitted for the "Citizens to be Heard" portion will be included in the official record but not read aloud during the meeting.



Protecting Leon Valley from White Collar Crime

At the recent Citizens Police Advisory Committee meeting, we explored how White-Collar crimes are impacting the Leon Valley community. These crimes—often non-violent—are committed for financial gain and can affect anyone. The topics discussed included credit and debit card fraud, identity theft, financial abuse of the elderly, and mail theft.

Credit & Debit Card Abuse

Definition: Unauthorized use of a credit or debit card to obtain money, services, or goods fraudulently.

Recent Trends:

- Skimming devices at ATMs and gas pumps
- Online fraud using stolen card data

Prevention Tips:

- Use chip or tap-to-pay cards rather than swiping
- Set up text or email transaction alerts
- Regularly review your bank statements for suspicious activity

Real-Life Story:

I use the Starbucks app and have my account set to reload automatically. While reviewing recent transactions, I noticed unauthorized purchases in Austin, despite never leaving Leon Valley. I contacted Starbucks immediately and was able to resolve the issue. No one is immune to these incidents.



Contactless Payments: A Safer Option

Contactless payments use Near Field Communication (NFC) technology to generate a one-time, unique code for each transaction. Your actual card number is never transmitted to the merchant.

Why It's Safe:

- Reduces risk of skimming or cloning
- No need to hand over your card
- Fast, secure, and convenient



Financial Abuse of the Elderly

Definition: Exploitation of an elderly person's finances through deception, coercion, or manipulation.

Recent Trends:

- Romance and impersonation scams
- Caregivers misusing financial access

Prevention Tips:

- Assign a trusted financial power of attorney
- Regularly review financial statements with loved ones
- Educate elderly family members on common scams

Real-Life Story:

A scammer called an elderly resident claiming a loved one has been detained at the border and needed to send money via Apple gift cards or wire transfer. The criminal was able to obtain a substantial amount of money from the resident. It was discovered this was a fraud tactic.



Fraudulent Use of Card Information

Definition: Using or possessing another person's card data without consent.

Recent Trends:

- Data breaches
- Card information sold on the dark web

Prevention Tips:

- Use strong, unique passwords on every website
- Avoid using personally identifiable info (birthdays, pet names, etc.) in passwords
- Never share sensitive information via email or unsolicited calls

Real Life Story:

A local resident used the same password across several online shopping sites. After a major breach, multiple fraudulent purchases occurred. Changing passwords often and using password managers can greatly reduce this risk.



Identity Theft & Synthetic Identity Fraud

Definition: Using real or fake personal information (e.g., Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers) to commit fraud.

Recent Trends:

- Creating fake identities by combining real SSNs with made-up names and birthdates (commonly using children's or elderly individuals' information)
- Phishing texts or emails posing as banks or government agencies

Prevention Tips:

- Shred all personal and financial documents before discarding
- Enable two-factor authentication on your accounts
- Monitor your credit using services like Credit Karma, Credit Sesame, or your bank's free tools

Mail Theft & Check Washing

Definition: Stealing physical mail to obtain personal or financial information, checks, or packages.

Recent Trends:

- "Washing" stolen checks to alter payees and amounts
- Package theft, often called "porch piracy"



Prevention Tips:

- Use locking or USPS-approved mailboxes
- Sign up for **Informed Delivery** from USPS to preview your incoming mail
- Pick up your mail and packages promptly
- Use Amazon locker pickup—there's one conveniently located in front of City Hall

Real Life Story:

An Amazon delivery vehicle was followed through neighborhoods and the package thieves retrieved delivered items after they were dropped off on front porches.

Summary: Protecting Our Community Together

White collar crimes can happen to anyone—young or old. While many of these offenses occur behind the scenes, the financial impact can be devastating. Education and prevention are key.

Leon Valley residents: stay alert, stay informed, and take steps to safeguard your personal information. If something seems suspicious, report it. Together, we can prevent crime and protect one another.

— **Lt. Kasey Tucker**

Leon Valley Police Department



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

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CITY COUNCIL

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Place 4 Rey Orozco
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Place 5 Beth Mursch
beth.mursch@leonvalleytexas.gov

LION'S ROAR

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Michael Naughton, Fire Chief
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David Gonzalez, Police Chief
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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.

