



**CITY OF LEON VALLEY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 13, 2015
TO: Mayor Chris Riley and City Council Members
FROM: Manuel Longoria Jr., City Manager
SUBJECT: Weekly Update

Smoke in the Air: We have received phone calls regarding the smoke in and around Leon Valley starting on Thursday. The smoke is the result of a controlled burn at Guadalupe State Park and is expected to continue for the next several days. The amount of smoke will vary depending on wind conditions. Individuals sensitive to air quality should take extra care when outside, and remain indoors whenever possible.

Holiday Closings: Reminder City offices will be closed 2/16/2014 in honor of president's day.

Elections Information: No one has filed for a place on the ballot. Last day to file is February 27, 2015

Appointments to Key Positions: As you know, we have been in the process of recruiting a Planning Manager and a Communications Director.

- **Communications Director Appointment:** After an extensive hiring process we have selected Mr. Darrick Green as the Communications Director. Mr. Green will be responsible for all communication activity including dispatch and information technology communications. His first day will be February 23, 2015. Please see his biography below:

Prior to joining the City of Leon Valley, Darrick Green spent nearly a decade working in Local Government Administration overseeing various operational departments. As an Assistant City Manager he successfully redesigned operational units to address audit citations and in effective policies and procedures. Darrick's ability to analyze functions and implement change management techniques has repeatedly resulted in rapid transformation of poor performing units to Best Practice Models, preventing the recapture of nearly \$1.5 million of Federal Grant Funds, which was recognized by State Officials in New Jersey and Florida.

In his spare time Darrick has volunteered as a Wrestling Coach accounting for several Individual All-Americans, State Champions and Team Titles.

Darrick is a Master in Public Administration & Bachelor of Science Degree holder from Central Michigan University, as well as a 2006 Hall of Fame Inductee from Portage Northern HS in Portage, MI.

- **Planning Manager Appointment:** Also, after an extensive hiring process we have selected Ms. Elizabeth Carol as the new Planning Manager over the Community Development Office. Ms. Carol replaces Kristie Flores and her first day will be March 2, 2015. Following is her biography:

Elizabeth Carol is very excited to be joining the City of Leon Valley as your Planning Manager. She has over 22 years of experience in urban planning and development. She began her career in the City of San Antonio, and as a Principle Planner she has extensive experience in working with Long Range Master Plans, both large and small projects and urban renewal developments. In addition, she has worked with the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Alamo Area Council of Government. Ms. Carol also has over ten years of teaching experience at Northwest Vista College. In 2010 she became a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. She is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master in Geography – Environmental Management.

In her free time, Ms. Carol is training for a half marathon, reading and spending time with family. Ms. Carol looks forward to continuing her commitment of public service for the citizens of Leon Valley.

VIA Metro Transit Grant for Concrete Street Bus-Pads: Staff has been in discussions with staff from VIA concerning the use of grants funds for the installation of concrete street bus-pads along Evers Road, Huebner Road & Poss. The installation of concrete bus-pads along roadways is a good way to extend and improve overall quality of the streets. City staff and VIA staff is in the process of identifying high priority locations in Leon Valley. There is a good possibility that they will fund the installation of the bus-pads on Evers Road as a part of the rehabilitation project scheduled for completion this year. They have also provided detail construction plans for the pads that can be incorporated in our bid package for Evers Road.

Upcoming Events:

- **Whataburger Boots and Badges,** Thursday, February 19, 2015 from 5p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Leon Valley Whataburger located on Bandera Road.
- **26th Annual Earthwise Living Day,** “Sustainability 101”, will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2015, from 9 am to 1 pm, rain or shine!
- **Spring Clean-up.** Place items at the curb: March 9-13, 2015. Waste Management will pick up all your bulky items such as old furniture, water heaters, appliances and brush. Collection begins on March 16, 2015 at 7:00 a.m.
- **Fire Station Open House** scheduled for March 14th from 9AM-3PM. The open house has been scheduled to show citizens our new fire station.