

Mayor's Message

By Mayor Chris Riley

"Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men." - John Adams

NEW BUSINESSES IN LEON VALLEY

On October 19th, the City Council welcomed Toro Tejano Meat Market, 7098 Bandera Road in the Hobby Lobby Shopping Center. I was surprised to find out that it is more like a small grocery store with a variety of food items to purchase. The owner has 7 meat markets in Mexico. This is the first one in the United States. Check it out. There are whole pigs and goats frozen to barbeque.

On October 22nd, the City Council welcomed *"The District"*, an intimate bistro, located at 6904 Bandera Road, Suite 5 (in the small shopping center behind TIA's Tacos). Their specialty is Tapas/Small Plates, Charcuterie and Wine. They are open Wednesday-Friday (11-2 pm; 4-8 pm); Saturday 11-2 pm; 4pm -10 pm (kitchen closes at 8 pm) and Sunday Brunch: 11 am - 4 pm.

BANDERA ROAD PARKWAY WITH R-CUTS - A REALITY!

At the October 24th Task Force meeting, the following informa-

tion was shared: Construction along the corridor will be split into two phases, Phase 1 (Loop 410 to Guilbeau) and Phase 2 (Guilbeau to Loop 1604). Construction is estimated to start in 2028. Meanwhile over the next two years, TXDOT will purchase right of way (ROW), move utilities, design drainage and work with 9 businesses along the corridor which will be displaced (none in Leon Valley). Phase One construction costs are estimated at \$132 million, with ROW costs of \$27 million. Environmental clearance is now 60% complete with 100% completion in the summer of 2025. The parkway concept will have a total of 4 lanes in both directions along the corridor, with 11 R-Cuts. With R-Cuts, a car can only turn right, drive a short distance to turn back towards the left in a dedicated lane. This concept has been proven to help with traffic flow. 10-foot pedestrian and bike protected paths will be built on both sides of Bandera Road. **The next public meeting scheduled by TXDOT will be sometime in late January, early February, 2025.** Check E-NEWS for the date. Things take time!



THE UNSHELTERED IN LEON VALLEY

Earlier this year the City of Leon Valley and Bexar County entered into a pilot street outreach program with Haven for Hope to address the homeless issue. Leon Valley is the first suburban city in the county to do so. We committed money towards hiring an outreach coordinator to begin to build relationships with the unsheltered in our city. In July, the first statistics were released: 24 individuals and 69 households were enrolled in a street outreach program. The County Commissioners have voted to expand this pilot program to other suburban cities in the Commissioner precincts: Somerset, Live Oak and Helotes. Haven for Hope CEO Kim Jeffries and Alberto Rodriguez, VP for Operations, will give a presentation to City Coun-

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cil at the December 3rd council meeting.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The City Council held two workshops this fall addressing how to repair the City's 50 year old water and sewer mains. This is a universal problem facing cities. A Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) by Ardurra Engineering ranked 7 water priority projects and 4 sewer priority projects. The City owns all mains and the City pays SAWS for sewer treatment. The estimated costs of the seven water main replacement priorities were \$4.6 million. The five wastewater system improvements cost totaled \$22.7 million. These costs did not include mobilization, insurance and bonding, ROW, traffic control, inflation, and engineering fees. An estimate of \$89.1 million more is needed to repair additional water and sewer pipes. Council discussed borrowing \$10 million to begin to address the top 7 water priorities and address the #1 sewer priority (cost is \$4.8 million). This debt would be paid primarily by increasing water and sewer rates by an average of 2% annually for five years. Before any final decision is made, Council requested this topic be discussed at the Town Hall meeting on January 25th to hear from the citizens.

15TH ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING

**Saturday, January 25th at the
Conference Center, 8:30 a.m.**

Our *tentative* agenda will begin with City Manager Dr. Crystal Caldera's summary of the progress made on goals and issues discussed from the January, 2024 Town Hall Meeting. *New topics*

for discussion and possible survey by our citizens at the 15th annual meeting will include: Water Infrastructure, Goals and Objectives for City's Mission and Vision Statement, Emergency Preparedness, and Discussion on Repealing the 20% tax exemption and the 65 year and older tax freeze. This is **YOUR** opportunity to let the Council know what your priorities for the city are. All citizens are invited to attend!

NEVER TOO EARLY TO PREPARE FOR DISASTERS

I attended the City of San Antonio's 13th Annual Community Preparedness Workshop in late September with Leon Valley Fire Marshall Jeremie Ross and Leon Valley Police Officer John Fernandez. The following is a summary of important points to share with our community regarding emergency preparedness:

1. Flood is the #1 hazard in our community. Another major risk is a power outage from storms like Winter Storm Uri;
2. Everyone needs a plan to evacuate and set up a meeting point with family/friends.
3. Prepare a kit – think about the BASICS – Water (1 gallon per person per day), Food (3 day supply). Your kit should include a first aid kit, weather radio with extra batteries, flashlight with extra batteries, medication, supplies for infants and children, important family documents and cell phone (depends on electricity);
4. Get to know your neighbors to support each other in times of a crisis;
5. Workshop recommended downloading a NOAA or FEMA weather app on your phone, since these sites give the most accurate information.

6. Additionally, download the Ready South Texas App. Visit readysouthtexasapp.com for more detailed information.

I'd like to thank the hosts of the 13 Leon Valley Night Out neighborhood gatherings on October 1st. This was an improvement from 2023 when only 6 gatherings were held. These gatherings are key to getting to know your neighbors who will help support each other in our next emergency. Let's work on growing the number of gatherings in 2025!

FOLLOWING UP

1. In observance of the Christmas holidays, **city hall offices will be closed on December 24th and reopen on January 2, 2025.** Police and Fire will continue providing 24/7 service. Please check the Leon Valley Library for their hours of operation, since they will vary during this time. The January 7th council meeting has been cancelled.

2. **Communication** is KEY to keeping everyone informed. ENEWS is a weekly on-line summary of what's happening in Leon Valley from meetings to events. Please sign up with your email address at www.leonvalleytexas.gov; your privacy is protected. **FYI** – after every Council meeting, I write a Letter to Leon Valley Citizens summarizing what happened; it is published in E-NEWS the following Friday and on the City's website.

On behalf of your city council and staff, we wish everyone a joyful holiday season – be safe! Happy New Year!

Sincerely, Chris

Cell: (210) 618-2092

mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov

LEON VALLEY
FIRE DEPARTMENT

SANTA RUN

DECEMBER 16, 17, 18, 19, & 20
6 PM - 8 PM



Santa is Coming To Leon Valley!
The Leon Valley Fire Department and Santa will be coming down your street to help share holiday cheer! Keep an eye out, listen for the music and wave to Santa! Santa will be making his rounds beginning December 16th through December 20th.

12/16/2024

- El Verde
- Seneca II
- The Ridge
- Brisa Estates
- Calypso Apartments
- Hidden Meadows Apartments
- Vista Del Rey Apartments

12/17/2024

- Castle Estates
- Sierra Royal
- Seneca I
- Forest Meadows
- Grass Valley
- Leon Trace Apartments



12/18/2024

- Forest Oaks
- Forest Oaks Apartments

12/20/2024

- Canterfield
- Monte Robles
- Pavona Ridge
- Linkwood



12/19/2024

- Bandera Pass
- Timber Hill
- Barcelona Lofts Apartments
- The Finley Apartments
- Shadow Mis Apartments
- Timber Hill Apartments



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

In November, the Leon Valley City Council adopted the following ordinances:

Ordinance No. 2024-41 - An ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX, City Council amending the City of Leon Valley's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1, General Provisions, Article 1.08 Emergency Management, Division 3. Hazard Mitigation Plan, Section 1.08.061; providing for repealer, severability and saving clauses; and providing for an effective date. - Adopted 11-05-2024

Ordinance No. 2024-42 - An ordinance amending Ordinance 2024-12 Specific Use Permit #PZ-2023-30 for the construction and operation of a "Carwash (automatic)" on an approximately 2.32-acre tract of vacant land, located in the 5400 block of Grissom Road, being lots 4 and 5, block 102, CB 4433, Timberhill Apartments Subdivision.; Providing For Repealer, Severability And Savings Clauses; And Providing For An Effective Date. - Adopted 11-05-2024

Ordinance No. 2024-43 - An ordinance amending Ordinance 2021-03 a Specific Use Permit #PZ-2023-24 approval of a Specific Use Permit for outside storage on an approximately 4.89-Acre Tract of land located at 5426 Grissom Road, Leon Valley, Texas 78238, CB 4433 Blk 101 Lot 1035.; providing for repealer, severability and savings clauses; and providing for an effective date. - Adopted 11-19-2024

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

City Council to Discuss Leon Valley Water and Sewer System Rates

January 2025 Town Hall Meeting

The Leon Valley water and sewer system has not experienced a need for a rate increase since 2018. The increase at that time was to pay a \$2 million debt service used to fund the construction of new water wells. Since then, the staff and City Engineer have completed a comprehensive Capital Improvements Plan, which includes a prioritized list of water & sewer main breaks, valve leaks, and video of the sewer mains, and the information that was compiled indicates that numerous water and sewer mains need to be replaced. Most of these older mains have been in place since the 1970's and 80's and are in poor condition. Many of these mains are made of asbestos concrete and of clay, which tend to become weakened over time and break. Main breaks are the leading cause of water loss, which adds to the reduction in the amount of water the city is allowed to use during times of critical period drought. Breaks also cause the city to lose revenue, as the water is not metered.

The city is considering borrowing money, either through a revenue bond or certificate of obligation, or from the Texas Water Development Board or the Environmental Protection Agency, in the amount of \$10 million to fund the replacement of these prioritized mains.

To repay these low interest loans, the water and sewer rates are being reviewed for a potential increase. The public is invited to the Annual Town Hall meeting, to be held at the Leon Valley Conference Center at 6421 Evers Road, on Saturday, January 25th at 9:00 a.m. to review the information in the Capital Improvements Plan and to garner public input. We hope to see you there!



SPECIAL DELIVERY!

Letters to Santa!

Mail by 17 December 2024

No postage necessary

Mail your letter to Santa at your Leon Valley City Hall. Santa will send a response and special certificate to all the kids on the NICE List!

Ho ho ho!

THE MERRY FAMILY
1234 JINGLE BELL LANE
ELF TOWN, USA



TO: *Santa*
THE NORTH POLE



New Year, New You: A Multifaceted Approach to Personal Safety and Crime Prevention in 2025

By Lt. Kasey Tucker, Leon Valley Police Department

As we enter 2025, many of us reflect on how we can improve our lives in the year ahead. One area that should always be at the top of the list is personal safety. Whether at home, running errands, or simply enjoying the community, taking proactive steps toward crime prevention can make a significant difference.

At the Leon Valley Police Department, we believe in a **multifaceted approach** to safety, including securing your home, being aware of your surroundings, and engaging with your neighbors to build a stronger, safer community.

Here's how you can make safety a priority in 2025.

1. Home Security: Lock It, Light It, Watch It

Your home is your sanctuary, and keeping it secure is one of the best ways to prevent crime.

- **Lock it.** Always lock doors and windows when you're home and away. Many burglaries happen simply because homes are left unsecured. Consider installing additional locks, such as deadbolts or sliding door security bars, to enhance your home's protection.



- **Light it.** Lighting is one of the simplest ways to deter criminals. Install motion-sensor lights around your front and back entrances. Even leaving a porch light on can make a big difference in keeping your home visible and safe at night.

• **Watch it.** Surveillance cameras are now more affordable than ever. Installing a smart doorbell or a home security system can help you keep an eye on your property. Many systems send alerts to your smartphone, allowing you to monitor activity in real time, even when you're not at home.



2. Vehicle Safety: Lock It, Park It, Secure It

Your vehicle is another valuable target for criminals. Simple actions can significantly reduce your chances of becoming a victim.





- **Lock it.** Always lock your car, even if you only run into the store for a few minutes. Thieves often target unlocked vehicles, so make it a habit to check that all doors are secure.
- **Park it.** Park in well-lit areas whenever possible, especially if you're out after dark. Avoid parking in isolated spots that are harder for others to see.
- **Secure it.** Avoid leaving valuables in plain view in your car. Small items like purses, electronics, or bags are prime targets. If you must leave valuables behind, ensure they're locked in the trunk or hidden out of sight.

3. Personal Safety: Stay Aware and Be Prepared

Whether walking around your neighborhood or running errands, staying alert and prepared for unexpected situations is critical to staying safe.

- **Stay aware.** Always stay alert when you're out and about. Avoid distractions like texting or talking on the phone, especially when walking in unfamiliar areas. Keep your head up and be aware of your surroundings to help prevent potential dangers.
- **Trust your instincts.** If something doesn't feel right, trust your gut. Whether at home, walking to your car, or running errands, if you sense a situation is unsafe, move away and call for help if necessary.
- **Self-defense training.** Many local community centers offer self-defense classes that teach you how to protect yourself in threatening situations. Learning a few basic techniques can boost your confidence and help you react quickly if needed.



4. Community Engagement: Strength in Numbers

Safety is a team effort, and working together with your neighbors can significantly impact crime prevention.

- **Neighborhood Watch Programs.** Joining or starting a neighborhood watch program in your area helps you stay vigilant and watch out for suspicious activity. When neighbors communicate and report their concerns, everyone has a stronger sense of security.
- **Stay informed.** Follow police alerts and social media updates or attend neighborhood meetings to stay up to date on local crime trends. Knowledge is power and being informed about what's happening in your community helps you



5. Stay Engaged with Law Enforcement

A partnership with your local police department can enhance everyone's safety.

- **Report suspicious activity.** If you see something that seems wrong, report it to the police. Your vigilance helps law enforcement respond quickly to emerging threats.
- **Community programs.** The Leon Valley Police Department offers various programs on crime prevention and safety. Stay connected by attending workshops or signing up for local crime alerts to learn valuable safety tips.



Conclusion: A Safer 2025 Starts with You

By taking small steps like securing your home, staying alert in public, and getting involved in your community, you can make 2025 a safer year for yourself and your neighbors. A multifaceted approach to safety helps prevent crime before it happens and ensures a more robust, safer community for everyone.

From all of us at the Leon Valley Police Department, we wish you a happy, healthy, and secure 2025. Let's work together to make our community safer this year and beyond!



35TH ANNUAL EARTHWISE LIVING DAY

March 1, 2025





Did You Know?

How the USPS Is Helping You Protect Your Mail from Theft

By Lt. Tucker, Leon Valley Police Department



As a law enforcement officer, mail theft is one of the most common concerns I hear. Whether it's personal checks, credit card statements, or packages left on porches, thieves are always looking for ways to steal your mail. Fortunately, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has implemented several tools to help protect your mail. Here's how you can use them to keep your deliveries safe.

1. Informed Delivery®: Preview Your Mail Before It Arrives

A great tool to help you stay ahead of mail theft is **Informed Delivery®**. This free USPS service lets you preview the mail expected to arrive at your address. Once you sign up, you'll get daily email notifications with images of letter-sized mail pieces. This helps you spot any missing items right away. If something seems off, you can report it to USPS or your local police department immediately.



2. USPS Tracking®: Stay Updated on Your Packages

For packages, **USPS Tracking®** provides real-time updates on your deliveries. You'll receive notifications when your package is out for delivery and when it's been successfully delivered. This reduces the chance of your package being stolen if you're not home. If you're concerned about "porch piracy," consider requesting your package be held at the post office for pickup or delivered to a secure location.



3. Text and Email Alerts: Instant Notifications on the Go

You can also sign up for text and email alerts from USPS. These alerts will inform you about delays, delivery attempts, or when your package has been delivered. Knowing exactly when to expect your mail helps you take action quickly if anything is wrong.

4. Secure Mailboxes and Parcel Lockers

A simple yet effective way to reduce mail theft is to use a secure mailbox or consider a **USPS Parcel Locker**. These secure boxes keep your mail safe from thieves, especially if you live in an area where theft is more common. If you're not home to receive a package, you can also request USPS hold it at the local post office for pickup.



5. Report Suspicious Activity



What can I do to avoid being a victim?

- Consider transferring money via other methods
- Drop mail containing checks directly at the Post Office or hand it directly to your mail carrier
- If you use a mailbox, deposit the mail as close to the scheduled pick-up time as possible
- When writing a check use a pen with pigmented ink that cannot be erased
- If you see any suspicious activity around mailboxes, call the Police

For more crime prevention and safety tips go to: yonkersny.gov/YPDtips

If you notice anything unusual—such as someone lurking around your mailbox or missing deliveries—report it immediately. The USPS Postal Inspection Service investigates mail thefts, and your report can help them catch criminals. Additionally, reporting suspicious activity to your local police helps keep our community safe.

6. Prevent Porch Piracy

"Porch piracy" is when thieves steal packages left on doorsteps. To protect your deliveries, consider having

packages delivered when you're home. Alternatively, please send them to a secure location like a Parcel Locker or a neighbor's house. If you're expecting a large or valuable package, arrange for a signature confirmation or use a locked drop box.



Conclusion

Protecting your mail doesn't have to be complicated. By using USPS tools like Informed Delivery and USPS Tracking, securing your mailbox, and staying alert, you can help prevent mail theft. If you suspect something isn't right, don't hesitate to contact the Leon Valley Police Department. Working together, we can help keep our community safe from mail theft.



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

PRSRTD STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TX
PERMIT NO. 1001



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LION'S ROAR

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210-681-1232, x 203
- HR Director**
Lisa Hernandez
210-684-1391, x 212

Community Relations Director

Crystal Miranda
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.

