

Mayor's Message

By Mayor Chris Riley

"All I want is the same thing you want. To have a nation and a government that is as good and honest and decent and competent and compassionate and as filled with love as are the American people."

Jimmy Carter

ANNUAL EARTHWISE LIVING DAY - MARCH 1, 2025

9:00AM - 1:00 PM -
LEON VALLEY COMMUNITY
CENTER

Everyone is invited to come to this free, family educational event, celebrating 35 years of bringing our community together to expand our knowledge of preserving the environment. Earthwise Living Day is the oldest environmental fair in Bexar County, beginning in 1990, when Leon Valley led the way by establishing the first recycling program in Bexar County and South Texas.

Although we do not have a theme for our event this year (first time ever!), we will be giving away re-useable water bottles with the message: "Reduce, Reuse, Refill". The committee's goal is to encourage citizens to use permanent water bottles, which will reduce plastic water bottles in the landfill. Microplastics are now found throughout our environment, and there are unknown health consequences to being exposed to

plastic as it leeches into our food and water.

There will be educational booths addressing topics which include solar power, water conservation, recycling, transportation and waste reduction. There will be musical performances by our Leon Valley elementary school, food and plant sales, children's recycling art activities, and door prizes (including (5) \$100 HEB gift cards and tickets to Missions Baseball & the San Antonio Aquarium). Our major sponsors to date are the City of Leon Valley, Tiger Sanitation, VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority, H-E-B, Sunset Northwest Funeral Home and Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union. There will be a free tree give away to Leon Valley residents to help our city reach our goal of planting 10,000 trees by the end of the year (2025)! Bring your old medication to be disposed of and wine corks to be recycled. Hope to see you there - RAIN or SHINE!

Also at Earthwise.....

SA3 Community Recycling will be in the parking lot in front of the Library to **accept** Electron-



ics, Computers, Flat Screen TV's, DVD's & Video games, all appliances with a cord (working or not). Additionally, wearable clothing, shoes, purses, belts, blankets, pillows, curtains, area rugs, dishes, glassware, metal & wood kitchenware & utensils, metal/aluminum items, such as wiring, file cabinets, old tools, books, workout equipment, household goods (décor, picture frames). **Unacceptable items:** anything broken, soiled or unusable, any plastic bottles, cups, dishes or utensils, mattresses, no styrofoam products, wicker baskets, desks or partitions, binders, Tube TV's or coolers and water jugs. SO.... A great way to clean out your house and donate these items for a good cause.

UPDATE: 15th ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING

I am writing this one week prior to the Town Hall meeting on

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Continued from cover

January 25th . In the April-May Lions Roar, I will provide a more comprehensive report on the outcomes and direction from the citizens on the topics discussed at the meeting. One of the discussion items to be addressed: “*Discussion on Repealing the 20% Tax Exemption and the 65 year and Older Tax Freeze*”. A vote of the citizens would be needed in order to eliminate these tax benefits. While preparing for this agenda item, the city manager learned that the 20% tax exemption on all homes in Leon Valley (passed on May 16, 2023), cannot be placed on a ballot for repeal until after 2028, according to the Texas Legislature.

The 65 year and older tax freeze, which initially passed in 2005 (the City of San Antonio and many suburban cities do not have this freeze) if placed on a future ballot, *would only affect those turning 65 if it passes, since all seniors currently 65 years or older are grandfathered – meaning this tax benefit cannot be taken away.* I wanted to clarify this since the city manager and I received many phone calls and emails concerning this agenda item for the Town Hall meeting.

JUST WANTING TO LET YOU KNOW.....

• **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** – is providing a new option for NFIP policy holders to pay their annual flood insurance premiums. Policyholders will now have the choice to pay their annual flood insurance premiums monthly, rather than on an annual basis. This option will not go into effect until late 2025 or early 2026. More information forthcoming.

• **Tree Limbs** - It is the property owner/ homeowner’s responsibility to be sure your tree limbs are not lower than 13.5 feet over the street or lower than 8 feet over the sidewalk in our city. This is a code violation (usually a door hanger is left noting violation) and if not corrected could result in a citation. These low hanging limbs pose a hazard to emergency vehicles, and cause delays in response times. Low hanging branches along sidewalks obscure a driver’s ability to see around corners, and to see traffic lights, signs, and on-coming traffic for pedestrians and drivers. Thank you for valuing safety and the protection of our emergency vehicles in Leon Valley!

• **Preparing for Emergencies/ Disasters** – in the last Lions Roar I addressed the need to have a kit and plan ready to go if needed. The California wildfires caught over 100,000 people off guard. Many lost everything. I did read about one family grabbing their emergency kit – at least it had their medicine, important papers, cash, cell phones, etc. One of my new year’s resolutions is to finally put together this emergency kit.

• **City Manager Caldera’s Annual Evaluation** was conducted on January 13, 2025. The manager requested no salary or benefit increases, but was granted an extension of her contract for 2 more years, ending in January, 2028. Dr. Caldera started as an intern with the city in 2005 and is completing her third year as city manager, having served as interim city manager, assistant city manager and human resources director while being employed with the City. Dr. Caldera has an open-door policy and is a dedicated public servant, who is responsive to the needs of the city on a daily basis.

• **Being Neighborly** - Please keep your sidewalks swept as they can contribute to your neighbor possibly falling on acorns. Also, consider bringing up your neighbor’s garbage can!

Thank you for the privilege of serving you as your Mayor. My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to contact me. Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092 (cell)

mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

If you are new to the City of Leon Valley.....Welcome!

Whether you have moved from a neighboring city or from another state, you must be a registered voter in the City of Leon Valley (Precinct Numbers 2061, 2112, 2143, 3002 and 3003) in order to vote in the City of Leon Valley’s May 03, 2025 General Election.

The deadline to register is Thursday, April 03, 2025.

It is very easy to register.

All you need to do is go to the Bexar County Elections Department’s website at <http://www.bexar.org/1702/Register-to-Vote> or stop by the city secretary’s office (210-684-1391 ext. 216) and we will be happy to assist you.



LV SPRING CLEANUP

*Place items at curb:
Feb. 17 - 21, 2025*



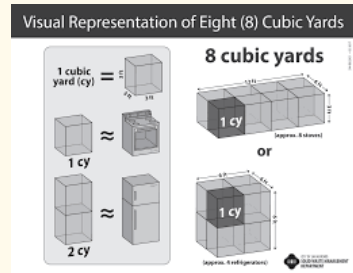
Bulky Items

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



Tag by Technician

Have Freon properly removed and disposed from refrigerators and air conditioners and properly tagged by a qualified Freon disposal technician.



8 Cubic Yards

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.



Hazardous Materials

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.



Location

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.



Get Started

Do not wait 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.



The Benefits of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a distant, sci-fi concept—it's part of our everyday lives and can bring numerous benefits to our small city. Let's explore some of the ways AI can improve our community:

Enhancing Healthcare

AI can help doctors and nurses by quickly analyzing medical data, which means more accurate diagnoses and personalized treatment plans. This could lead to better health outcomes and quicker recovery times for patients in our local clinics and hospitals.

Boosting Education

AI-powered educational tools can provide personalized learning experiences for students, helping them understand subjects at their own pace. This can be especially beneficial for kids in our local schools, ensuring they get the support they need to succeed.

Supporting Local Businesses

AI can assist local business owners by analyzing market trends and customer preferences. This can help them make better decisions, improve their services, and attract more customers, boosting our local economy.

Enhancing City Services

AI can optimize various city services, like waste management and traffic control. For example, AI can predict the best times for garbage collection to avoid traffic congestion, or help manage traffic lights to reduce wait times at intersections.

Connecting the Community

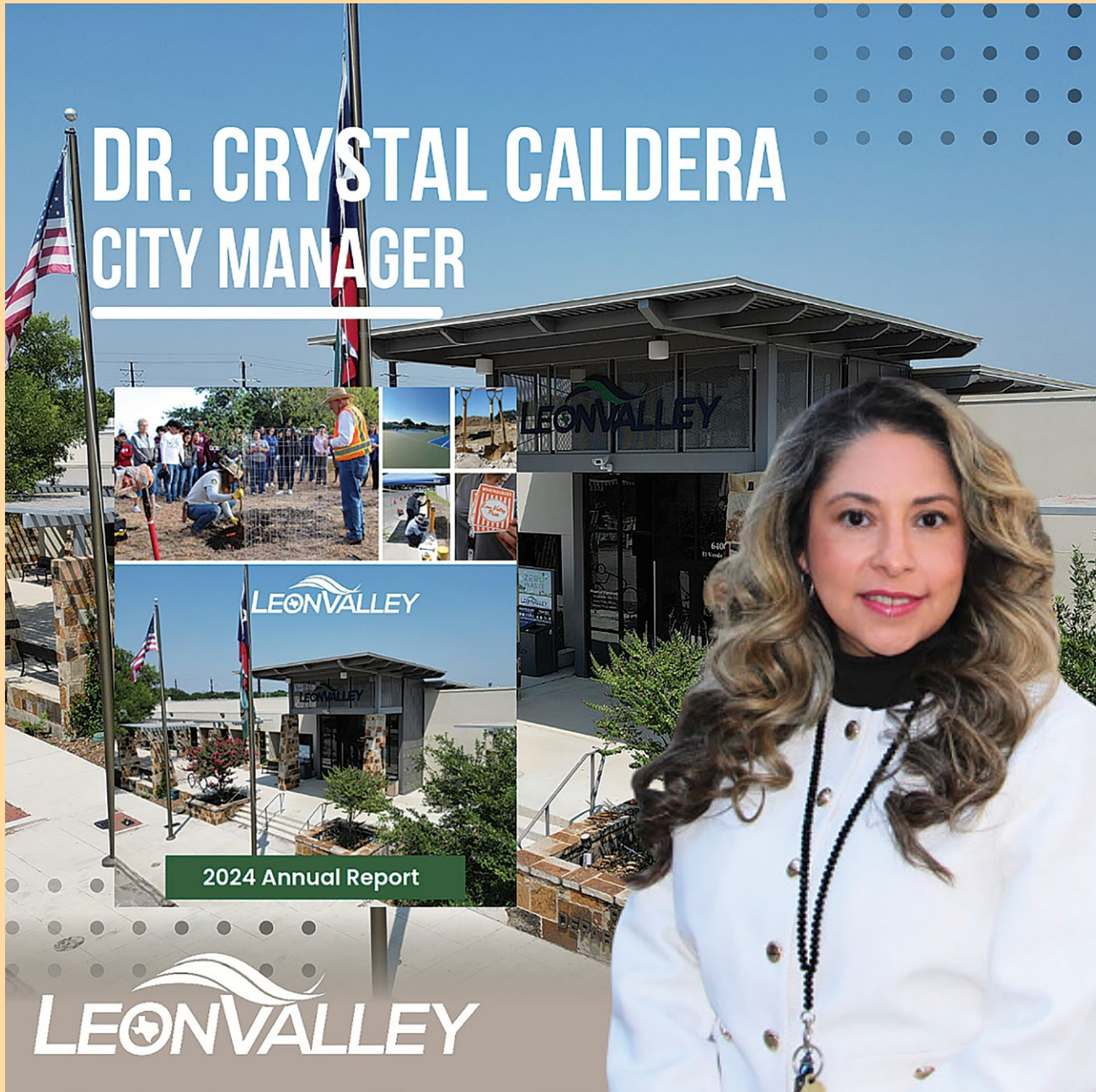
AI can help create platforms for residents to stay connected and informed about community events and news. This can foster a stronger sense of community and help people stay engaged and involved.

In summary, AI has the potential to make our small city a better place to live by improving healthcare, education, local businesses, city services, and community connection. Embracing AI can lead to a brighter, more efficient, and safer future for all of us.



Annual Report Now Available
Online!

Go to the Leon Valley website and in the search menu type in 2024 Annual Report.



"This report serves as a compilation of numerous accomplishments across various departments, made possible through the unwavering commitment, collaboration, and leadership exhibited by our exceptional teams". - City Manager, Dr. Crystal Caldera

“Lock It or Lose It: Keep Your Valuables and Vehicles Safe!”

-Lt. Kasey Tucker

Hello, Leon Valley! Crime Prevention starts with you! This message is intended to provide you with tips and steps to help you stay ahead of one of the most preventable crimes we see—burglary of motor vehicles (BMVs).

Opportunity is the leading cause of BMVs. That’s right! A thief will pass by dozens of cars but will target those with unlocked doors or valuables in plain sight. The good news? You can lower your chances of being a target with just a few simple steps.

Top Tips to Prevent BMVs in Leon Valley:

1. Lock Your Doors

It seems simple, but you’d be surprised how often vehicles are left unlocked. Locking your car is the easiest and most effective way to stop thieves in their tracks.



2. Take Your Valuables Inside

Purses, wallets, laptops, phones, or anything of substantial value—don’t make your car a shopping window for criminals. If you must leave items behind, hide them in the trunk or glove box before arriving at your destination.

3. Park Smart

Park in well-lit, populated areas. Thieves don’t want to be seen, so lighting and activity (high-pedestrian traffic areas) are your best deterrents.

4. Remove Keys & Fobs

Never leave your keys or fob in the car, even if you’re just running inside for a minute. It takes a thief mere seconds to drive away with your vehicle.

5. Stay Alert

Keep an eye out in your neighborhood. Report suspicious activity immediately to the Leon Valley Police Department—we’d rather check things out than miss stopping a crime.

Fun Fact: The #9PMRoutine

Join the nationwide trend to prevent BMVs by adopting the #9PMRoutine! Every night at 9 PM, make it a habit to:

- Remove valuables from your car.
- Lock all car doors and windows.
- Turn on exterior lights around your home.

This simple nightly ritual has proven to reduce crime in neighborhoods across the country, and it can help here in Leon Valley too!

Be Part of the Leon Valley Crime Reduction Solution

Crime prevention isn’t just about what the police can do—it’s about what we (Citizens and Police teaming up to effect change) can do **together**. If you’d like more tips or want to organize a neighborhood watch group, contact us at the Leon Valley Police Department for guidance. We’re here to help **you** protect what matters most.

Remember, when it comes to vehicle crime, the power is in your hands: **Lock it, hide it, or lose it!** Let’s work together to make Leon Valley an even safer place to live, work, and play.



Shield Yourself from Identity Theft: Stay One Step Ahead!

Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the U.S., and Leon Valley residents aren't exempt. Criminals are constantly finding sneaky ways to steal personal information like Social Security numbers, credit card details, and bank account info, leaving victims with drained accounts and a mountain of stress. But don't worry—there are steps you can take to protect yourself and your peace of mind!

Start by guarding your personal information like it's gold. Don't share sensitive details over the phone, email, or text unless

you're absolutely sure who's on the other end. Shred old bills, bank statements, and anything with personal info before tossing them in the trash—identity thieves love dumpster diving.

Next, don't forget about your mailbox! Remove mail promptly and avoid letting it sit overnight, as criminals often target unattended mailboxes for bank statements, checks, or personal information. For added protection, sign up for USPS Informed Delivery, a free service that emails you images of incoming mail so you can monitor what's on the way.

Go digital with caution. Use strong, unique passwords (not "password123," please!) and enable two-factor authentication to add an extra layer of security. Avoid public Wi-Fi for banking or shopping, and make sure your devices are protected with antivirus software and the latest updates.

Finally, stay on top of your accounts. Review bank statements regularly, check your credit report for anything suspicious, and act fast if something doesn't look right. If you suspect identity theft, report it immediately to the FTC at [identitytheft.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identitytheft) and file a police report.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Police Department at 210-684-6557 or email your neighborhood officer for guidance. Leon Valley Residents, let's work together to keep our community safe and secure! Stay vigilant, stay informed, and stay one step ahead of identity thieves.

BETWEEN THE PAGES BOOK CLUB LIST

Every 3rd Saturday from 12pm - 1pm
Bi-Monthly Theme
Read a book that fits the monthly theme

January

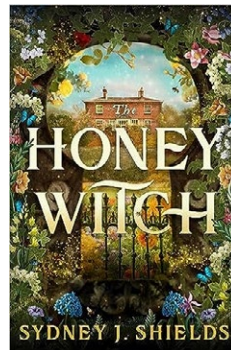


February



Dystopian
Theme

March



April



Morally Grey
Character
Theme

May



June



Cottagecore
Theme

July



August



Family Secrets
Theme

September



October



Dark Academia
Theme

November



December



Deal with the
Devil Theme



SH 16 (BANDERA ROAD) FROM I-410 TO LOOP 1604

YOU'RE INVITED!

Virtual Public Meeting with In-Person Open House SH 16 (BANDERA ROAD) FROM I-410 TO LOOP 1604

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE:

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025 from 5 to 7 p.m.
Leon Valley Community and Conference Center
6427 Evers Road
San Antonio, Texas 78238

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING:

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025 at 5 p.m.
*Available for public review and comment until
Friday, Feb. 21, 2025.*

*The same information will be available at the virtual public meeting and in-person open house.
Deadline to submit comments is Friday, Feb. 21, 2025.*

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Learn about the process that TxDOT follows
- View a pre-recorded video presentation
- Ask questions and submit comments



Scan for more info

TxDOT.gov | Keywords: "SH 16 (Bandera Road)"

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- (210) 349-3273
- BanderaRoad@pozcam.com
- Poznecki-Camarillo, LLC
c/o SH 16 (Bandera Road) Project Team
4801 Northwest Loop 410, Ste. 108
San Antonio, TX 78229



The virtual public meeting and in-person open house will be conducted in English, with Spanish materials available online and in-person. If you have special communication or accommodation needs, please contact Lianna Ybarra, project consultant, at (210) 349-3273 no later than 4 p.m. CT, on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.



Basura Bash River & Waterway Cleanup

February 22, 2025

Basura Bash is a one day, all volunteer event to clean the San Antonio watershed. Since 1995, volunteers have helped clean the local waterways. We are excited to have you join us for the 28th Annual Basura Bash Waterways Cleanup, as this event is 100% powered by volunteers and sponsors.

The Zarzamora Creek in Leon Valley has been participating for over 13 years. There are a total of 25 tributaries participating this year. Last year's event was a big success, with a total of 23 tons of trash, 2 tons of metals, and 7 tons of tires removed from San Antonio's watershed. A total of 1,573 volunteers participated city-wide.

Basura Bash 2025 is **February 22, 2025!**

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Registration and Refreshments

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Zarzamora Creek Cleanup

To Volunteer please go to: www.basurabash.org/become-a-volunteer

Choose the **Zarzamora Creek – HEB – Leon Valley**, then sign up as a team or individual.

Volunteers will meet in the [HEB parking lot \(5601 Bandera Rd.\)](#) for Sign In and Refreshments

If you have any questions, please contact

David Dimaline, Public Works Assistant Director at 210-681-1232 x201

LEON VALLEY

Movie in the Park

Friday Night Cinema

FREE



**Shows:
March
&
May**

Family Night

|6421 Evers Rd., Leon Valley |
@ Dusk

Dates TBA Follow us on Facebook for event details



Free In-Person Tax Preparation Service

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation to anyone of any age – especially if you are 50 or older or can't afford paid tax preparation.



In Your Area



6427 Evers Road, Leon Valley, TX 78238

Tuesday and Thursday, 10 AM - 2 PM

February 4 - April 15 2025

Make appointments: [AARPfoundation.org/taxaide](https://www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide)



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

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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

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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 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.

