

## LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY

12/10/2021

### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

On Monday night, December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Leon Valley City Council kicked off the holiday season at the Community and Conference Center areas by turning on the elaborate Christmas lighting. Special thanks to Leon Valley Elementary Choir, Pat Neff Middle School band, John Marshall High school quartet and the Beethoven Concert Band for their performances to get everyone in the holiday spirit. We greatly appreciate *I Love Churros*, one of our newest businesses and a sponsor of this event, for donating hot chocolate and churros. Last, but not least, we thank the Public Works department for all their efforts in putting up the lights and our dedicated staff for organizing this event. Well done! Please drive through the area if you missed the lighting ceremony and stop to take pictures.

### BANDERA ROAD (SH16) PLANNING TEAM MEETING

Last night at the Community Center, TXDOT hosted their first in-person meeting since COVID began in March, 2020. There was also a virtual option. Chad Gardiner of Halff and Associates presented a summary of the citizen feedback obtained from all the meetings held in 2020 -2021 and the analysis TXDOT has done. The two concepts which are being considered are the Boulevard and Parkway options. Intersection improvements, shared pathways, improving access management, removal of some lights along Bandera Road – a multitude of studies is on-going. Improving safety and mobility, while reducing congestion, are primary goals of this project. Please visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov), keyword “SH 16(Bandera Road)” and view last night’s meeting as well as submit any comments. I have invited Chad Gardiner to attend our annual Town Hall meeting on January 22, 2022 to provide an update on this project.

### DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Brief highlights of the City Council action from these meetings:

- Special thanks to State Senator Jose Menendez, our representative

in the State Senate, for giving an update on the 2021 Legislative session. He listed some of the priorities addressed: COVID recovery efforts, Winter Storm Uri and the need to winterize our grid, the State's Foster Care system which is in need of major reform, re-districting of the state's 2020 population, and addressing the fact that Texas leads the nation with the highest number of people without health insurance. Senator Menendez's contact information is: [Jose.Menendez@Senate.Texas.Gov](mailto:Jose.Menendez@Senate.Texas.Gov), phone number (210) 733-6604. His office is located in Wonderland of the Americas, Suite A-22 and he is here to serve you, his constituents.

- A presentation by Assistant Fire Chief Burnside was given on the flooding in Leon Valley. This year flooding has increased with intensive rain falling over a short period of time, exacerbated by upstream development. He recommended a meeting with the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, San Antonio River Authority, and local businesses to work collaboratively on addressing mitigation efforts and grant opportunities. A follow up with costs associated with each mitigation strategy will be forthcoming.
- John Marshall High School proposed traffic management plan was presented. Lobo and Robin Lane would be vacated and abandoned to increase the size of the student parking lot. John Marshall Blvd. will be extended across Eckhert road to the school side as a two way street taking advantage of the existing traffic light. Bluebird Lane would remain one way to Eckhert, but may add an additional lane. Residents from Monte Robles requested the city look at traffic using their neighborhood to exit onto Huebner Road and what can be done to improve the congestion.
- Held a Public Hearing on St. John's Baptist Church (located at 6800 Evers) request for a zone change from R-1 to B-2 on two acres to build a new church, and request for a specific use permit for a non-residential building on 9 acres of land next to residential zoning. A second reading of these agenda items and council vote will be held on December 21, 2021.
- Amended the ordinance regarding stray, abandoned and found animals, adding a definition of temporary owner and outlining the procedure to follow when finding a stray/abandoned animal.
- Held a First Reading on allowing additional fence height of up to

8 foot on side and back yard fences only. Council removed the requirement of getting neighbors agreement to the change in the fence height as well as the variance process. Obtaining a building permit is still required.

- Held a First Reading on the Leon Valley Community Center Lease Agreement for two years. This agreement allows the seniors to use the Community Center 5 days per week, plus two Saturdays a year for their Trash and Treasure semi-annual event and parking at city facilities for out of town trips for a charge of \$120 per month for cleaning. The in-kind donation from the City is valued at \$95,224.00. Council is requesting the Northwest Seniors to file an annual 990 EZ form for added transparency to our citizens.
- Agreed to hold the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Town Hall meeting on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at the Conference Center. Preliminary topics to be addressed are: Red Light Cameras and eligible safety improvements; Capital Facilities update; Home Rule Charter revisions; Bandera Road redevelopment status; City Events for 2022 and adding a Time Capsule for the City of Leon Valley's 70<sup>th</sup> year (March 30, 2022). These topics will be finalized at the December 21<sup>st</sup> council meeting to meet the deadline for notifying our residents by postcard.

For more information on these council meetings, go to [leonvalleytexas.gov/](http://leonvalleytexas.gov/) Mayor & Council meeting agendas and view the video.

## **COVID 19 UPDATE**

This week the positivity rate was 2%, which dropped significantly from 4.8% the week before. The positivity rate the week of Thanksgiving (Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>) was at 1.7%. Delta COVID is still lurking around and the new variant, Omicron, is appearing in Houston. The Center for Disease Control recommends individuals who have received the initial vaccinations to get a booster shot to help protect from the new variant (6 months after your last shot).

Thanks to everyone for doing your part in addressing the spread of the virus. Please get vaccinated and continue to follow the protocols, i.e., wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart from a non-family member, and stay home if you are sick to continue to bring this virus down.

Hope to see you at the last council meeting of the year on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm at City Hall. Just a reminder, city hall offices will be closed from December 24<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> for the holidays. The exception is police and fire, our first responders. Check the library for hours of operation. The first council meeting of the New Year is Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

Have a wonderful weekend! Please contact me or any of your council members if you have a question or concern.

Sincerely, Chris  
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