

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY**  
**03/04/2022**

**Earthwise Living Day 32nd ANNUAL EVENT**  
***My Earth, My Responsibility***  
**Saturday, March 5, 2022 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**  
**Free Admission**

Hope to see everyone at the annual Earthwise Living Day on Saturday. In addition to educational and vendor booths, here's what you can expect:

- Student musical performances and art contest, native tree give-away, shredding truck drive-thru (one box per Leon Valley family), children's activities, educational materials. Gen-Café will sell food.
- Drop off stations to RECYCLE corks and expired medications

Special *thanks* to our sponsors, the City of Leon Valley, Tiger Sanitation, CPS Energy, Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, San Antonio River Authority and Dignity Memorial for their generous support of this event. The Earthwise Living Committee members and staff liaison are to be commended for bringing this event together in spite of the pandemic. Many of the activities will be outside and/or spread out in the Community and Conference centers for added safety.

**MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Brief highlights of the City Council action from March 1<sup>st</sup> :

- Council interviewed in open session attorneys from two law firms, to replace our current city attorney law firm, Denton, Navarro, et al. The city manager will make a recommendation to hire one of the firms at the next council meeting. The current law firm will continue to handle the weekly municipal court attorney duties.
- An update on the annual Town Hall meeting, scheduled for Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> , was given to add a time slot for the Bandera Road redevelopment project and to assign a councilman to facilitate each

of the 8 topics listed for discussion. More information will be forthcoming, including how to log into the town hall meeting so a citizen can fully participate from home.

- Police Chief Gonzalez will bring back an amended Graffiti Ordinance sometime in April.
- A presentation on the Homestead Exemption for persons age 65 and older was given. Currently the city offers a \$30,000 additional residence homestead exemption for persons over 65. Additionally, in 2005, citizens voted to freeze taxes on individuals over 65 years of age, which means the value of their home and the amount of property taxes they are paying to the City are frozen when they turn 65. Preliminary data was presented showing the amount of revenue loss from the Over 65 Exemption and Freeze Ceiling. Councilman Orozco will meet with the Finance Director and follow up with a recommendation to city council on whether to increase the exemption or keep it like it is.
- Recognized Regina Reed, Theresa Brader and Sherry Watson and the Leon Valley Library for receiving the 2021 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award for exceptional service. Only 59 out of the 565 public library systems in Texas received this award. Congratulations!!
- Held a public hearing to consider approval of an Ordinance granting a specific use permit (SUP) for the construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit in the back yard of a home in the Linkwood subdivision. There were no issues and final approval will be at the March 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting.
- Approved an Ordinance accepting \$10,000 in federal grant funds from the American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries to improve and increase access to the library's archives.
- Public Works Director Moritz presented an Ordinance to consider revising the Stormwater Utility rate structure to provide for equality in charges and to increase income for funding needed stormwater projects. Council requested that recommended rates reflect consistency with the City of San Antonio's rates, and requested an estimate of how much additional revenue will be added as a result of adopting revised rates.

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

Council meeting is Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at City Hall, 6:00 p.m. and on-line at [www.leonvalleytexas.gov](http://www.leonvalleytexas.gov)

## **COVID CONTINUES TO GO DOWN, BUT WILL IT EVER GO AWAY?**

Since January 21<sup>st</sup> when the positivity rate was at an all time high of 39.4 %, every week since then has seen a decline in the rate. Two weeks ago, the positivity rate for the coronavirus was at 17%; as of Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, the rate was 4.9%. We are continuing to adapt to the reality that the pandemic will become endemic, which means this virus will not go away. Not sure where the virus is headed, but it is still recommended by health officials to get vaccinated for protection. For more information on COVID, visit [www.covid19.sanantonio.gov](http://www.covid19.sanantonio.gov). Thanks to everyone for continuing to do your part in addressing the spread of the virus.

**Happy Spring Break** to all area students. Please stay safe and have a fun, relaxing time! Remember *daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> (lose an hour – spring forward)*.

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

Sincerely, Chris  
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