

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY

08/19/2022

EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT: STAGE 4 WATER RESTRICTIONS

The Edwards Aquifer level is at 633.67 feet, which triggered Stage 4 restrictions from the EAA (Edwards Aquifer Authority) due to the 10 day average streamflow at Comal Springs dipping below 100 cfs (cubic feet per second). All municipal, industrial and agricultural permits are reduced by 40% of their authorized amount.

What does this mean for customers of Leon Valley's water company (about 2/3 of Leon Valley residents)? LANDSCAPE watering is allowed only EVERY OTHER WEEK with an irrigation system sprinkler or soaker hose from 7-11 a.m. or 7-11 pm on your designated day, Monday through Friday only. Watering with a hand-held hose is allowed any time on any day.

Your designated day is determined by the last digit of your street address. 0 or 1 – Mondays; 2 or 3 – Tuesdays, 4 or 5 – Wednesday, 6 or 7 – Thursday and 8 or 9 – Friday.

However, if you are a residential customer of the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) living on the following streets: Adair, Althea, Cammie Way, Countess Adria, Evers RD. (6000-6118), **ALL** the Forest Streets and Forest Meadow (6901-7050), Hodges, Locker Lane, Mike Nesmith, Prosser, Rue Des Amis, Rue Francois, Rue Liliane, Rue Marielyn, Rue Sophie (6000-6114) and Trone Trail, the City of San Antonio allows for Stage 2 restrictions to remain in effect. This is because SAWS has a diversified water portfolio which is not solely dependent on the Edwards Aquifer. You can water ONCE A WEEK, Monday – Friday only on your designated day with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose.

I did receive a letter from a resident wondering why the trees at Raymond Rimkus Park were being watered more than once a week. These trees are being watered using recycled water. The use of recycled water for irrigation is allowed – without waste – any day during the restricted hours.

All area lakes and rivers are at or near their lowest levels in years. The Blue Hole and Jacob's Well near Wimberly are closed and the Frio River at Concan is almost dry. Let's all do our part to help conserve water, on which all life depends.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

We are steadily filling up our city committees with new and returning volunteers. Thanks to everyone who is serving or has served on a city committee. It is very fulfilling to give back your time, talent and experience by serving on a city committee. With the exception of the Board of Adjustment, which meets only when needed, most committee meet monthly or quarterly for 1-2 hours per meeting. We have openings on the Board of Adjustment, Park Commission, Economic and Community Development and Library Board of Trustees. If you are interested, please contact me or the city secretary at s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov, so we can send you a short form to fill out and return for council approval. Thank you for your consideration.

BANDERA ROAD CORRIDOR PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING

The City of San Antonio is hosting this meeting to get additional input from anyone who lives or works along Bandera Road about the preliminary draft plans for re-development of Bandera Road. The meeting is scheduled for next **Wednesday, August 24th from 5 – 8 p.m.at City Church, 9431 Bandera Road**. To learn more and take a survey, please visit: sanantonio.gov/Planning/Bandera-Road-Corridor-Plan. Hope to see you there!

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – AUGUST 16th

The following are brief highlights of council actions from the August 16th council meeting:

- **Vista Del Rey Apartments** – a press release is posted on the city's website informing the public of the lawsuit filed by the City of Leon Valley against these apartments on August 5th. A temporary restraining order was signed by District Judge Stryker on August 8th. As part of the ongoing process, The City of Leon Valley obtained an administrative search warrant to conduct additional inspections on 54 apartment buildings

and common areas. The City's goal is to bring the apartments into code compliance to ensure the safety of the residents and visitors.

- **Triangle Area at Evers and Seneca.** The rezoning request of the undeveloped land at Evers and Seneca, abutting Seneca, Sun Valley and the Natural Area, was discussed at length during the second read, as required by our Charter. The developer reported back to council he would withdraw the request to build apartments on the back of the property (for which it is zoned already) to pursue R-6 zoning (garden homes/base zoning), but with variances on reducing the overall size of R-6. He was also requesting 3 and 4 story building heights for these homes. The developer could not be granted the R-6 variances without following the Planned Development District (PDD) requirement that a Project Plan be submitted. The documents required to be included in a PDD are a land use plan, site plan, landscape plan, traffic impact analysis (TIA) and drainage analysis. Additional documents of the project plan which may be required are building elevations, parking, signage and phasing plans and site or building material specifications. Council received input that night from many residents in the community on this proposed development.

Since the developer did not have a complete project plan related to his proposed development, this zoning change request was tabled for at least 30 days to allow the developer to develop the specific project plan. The earliest date this agenda item would be placed on a council agenda is the September 20th council meeting.

- **John Marshall High School and Monte Robles Neighborhood Traffic Concerns** – Councilor Jed Hefner presented several options to improve the traffic problems in this area based on the AC Group, LLC engineering study. These included adding one way features with concrete island, adding automated gates and closing Thunderbird and Bluebird to through traffic. The neighborhood consensus was to not add speed humps. The traffic data collected for two weeks in July revealed 2,091 speed violations (43%) out of a total of 5,140 vehicles. This was when school was not in session! Lengthening the traffic light at Eckhert & Bluebird and requesting NISD to add a traffic officer to control the traffic light during peak hours were also discussed. The consensus of the council was to request staff to bring back a pilot program for establishing no thru traffic on Thunderbird and Bluebird, to collect data for 6 months and then reassess. This option is conditioned on the police and fire departments determining if this is a workable option for maintaining emergency services. One of the goals is to encourage Northside/John Marshall to work with the City of Leon Valley to solve this long-standing traffic problem.

- **Fiscal Year Budget 2023:** Total budget for FY 2023 is \$25 million. The proposed tax rate (no new revenue - NNR) is 48.5 cents per \$100 of valuation (down from 53.6 cents in FY 2022), which staff recommended to council. A majority of the council discussed raising the tax rate to \$.50 cents per \$100 valuation to generate more revenue (\$200,000) for the city. Because of this change to staff's recommendation, the city council will meet on Sunday, August 21st at 3 pm to finalize the tax rate with a formal vote. The average market value of a home in Leon Valley went up from \$217,912 in 2021 to \$259,591 in 2022. The average Leon Valley tax levy for 2021 was \$1,120 and if council adopts the no new revenue rate, your tax levy is reduced in 2022 to \$1,118. If council adopts the \$.50 property tax rate, annual property taxes will increase an additional \$35 to \$1,153 for 2022.

- Council tentatively approved an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute the **Interlocal Agreement between the City of Leon Valley and the San Antonio Water System for Sewer and Stormwater billing services.**

- Approved an **in-kind grant application to the American Legion No. 336** to waive all fees for their September 11th Remembrance of 9/11 at the Conference Center. The public is invited to attend.

- Presented a **Certificate of Appreciation to Marcos Villarreal** who volunteered to serve as DJ at the 4th of July festivities! Other volunteers will be recognized at the September 6th council meeting.

Our next regular city council meeting is **Tuesday, September 6th beginning at 6:30 pm.** There is an executive session planned and it will start at 6:00 p.m. I will miss this meeting and have requested Mayor Pro Tem Orozco to chair this meeting.

Enjoy your weekend. Have a safe Labor Day and stay cool.

Any questions/concerns? Call or email me or any of your council members. We are volunteers who love our jobs serving you!

Sincerely, Chris
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