

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY

06/10/2022

The recent horrific tragedy in Uvalde, 80 miles from San Antonio, still weighs very heavily on the entire nation. Why does this continue to happen? What can be done to stop the killing? There are a multitude of suggestions to curb this violence: increasing mental health funding, raising the age to purchase a weapon to 21 from 18, background checks and red flag laws, a waiting period after purchasing a gun. The U.S. Senate requires 60 votes out of 100 to pass legislation and is paralyzed. So little or no legislation will pass, even though a large majority of citizens want improved gun safety laws. BUT... a concrete step you and I can take if you know or hear of someone who has threatened to commit violence, you can call the FBI Anonymous Hotline at 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324) or <https://www.fbi.gov/tips> and the FBI will follow up. This was suggested by an ex-FBI agent whose job it is to respond to mass killings. She said often people know of someone who is violent and mentally ill and who appears to need help, but do nothing about it.

A Blood Drive, organized by City Secretary Passailaigue, to honor the Uvalde shooting victims, will be held on Tuesday, July 12 from 1 – 8 p.m. at the Pilgrims parking lot on Bandera Road. No pre-registration is required. Our goal is to get 50 units of blood. Another way to help. Thank you!

JUNE 7TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Brief highlights of the City Council action from June 7th :

- The Honorable Judge Michael Mery of the 144th Judicial District Court swore in Council-Members, Josh Stevens, Place 2, Rey Orozco, Place 4 and Chris Riley, Mayor for two year terms. Congratulations to Rey Orozco, selected by the council to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem to serve for one year. The Mayor Pro Tem stands in when the Mayor is unable to attend a meeting or other city/county functions, but retains the ability to vote on agenda items.
- Crystal Miranda, Community Relations Director, presented an update on the **4th of July festivities in Leon Valley**. Post cards will be mailed out to all residents with the schedule of events and road

closures. From 6 – 9 am, while the Leon Valley Historical Society's 5K Pioneer Run is occurring, streets in the Grass Valley and Sun Valley subdivisions will be closed. Additional road closures will occur for the night parade, beginning at 4 pm, primarily in Grass Valley subdivision and Evers Road. If you know of any organization/group interested in participating in the Freedom Fireworks Parade, please call (210) 812-3328. The parade begins at the DPS Center at 7 pm, followed by everyone gathering at the park to be entertained by the Spazmatics at 8 pm and Fireworks at 9:45 pm. The Council voted to increase security for the event. There will be food trucks and booths to purchase food/beverages, and small ice chests are allowed.

- The **survey results from the Capital Facilities Oversight Committee** were presented. 6,534 forms were mailed to households. Surveys were also dropped off at apartments, available for pick up at City Hall/Library and accessible on the city's website. 634 forms were returned for a 9.7% return rate. 58.4% of the respondents have lived in Leon Valley over 21 years. Most chose to live in Leon Valley for its location. 86.5% of the respondents had no children under 18 living at home, 95.7% were registered to vote and over 60% of the respondents voted in the last three elections.

RESULTS: Public Works – build new facility: Yes: 75.4%; No: 24.6%
Replace Library Annex: Yes: 53.7%; No: 46.3%; Keep both
pools: Yes: 37.6%; No: 62.4%; Keep one pool/convert other to
recreational facility: Yes: 58.8%; No: 41.2%; Which pool to replace: Evers
(Forest Oaks) – 48.9%; Poss Road – 51.1%; Would support a tax increase
to cover cost of renovations: Yes: 58.8%; No: 41.2%.

There were many comments and questions asked. The Committee has requested the City send out a special Lions' Roar newsletter to answer these questions. Council decided to discuss the next steps at their council retreat on June 18th. Many thanks to former committee members Bill Johnson and his wife Robin, for the time and effort it took to compile the data received from the surveys.

- Considered approval of an Ordinance accepting grant funds(\$9,820) from the Texas State Library & Archives Commission Community Advancement Packages (CAP) for the Leon Valley Library to improve ADA accessibility and increase Teen & Young Adult participation.
- Approved a Resolution awarding a contract to Clark Construction of Texas for Year 5 of the Street Maintenance program in the amount of \$526,688 with a 15% contingency of \$79,003 (lowest bidder). **The following streets will be milled and overlaid: Forest Moss from**

Evers to Forest Wood, Forest Circle, Forest Rose, Forest Wood, Forest Mont, Forest Rim, Forest Ridge and Forest Brook.

- Approved a Resolution awarding a contract with Central Electric Enterprises & Co., to construct the Huebner Well Emergency Generator for \$173,230, with a 15% contingency of \$25,985 (the lowest bid received). Council allocated \$230,000 from the American Rescue Plan to cover this generator and has saved \$30,000 with acceptance of this contract.
- Considered approval of an Ordinance authorizing a budget adjustment of \$25,104. to JMI Contractors, LLC from the American Rescue Plan fund to the Stormwater fund for the purpose of cleaning up Zarzamora Creek Drainage Easement from Bandera Road to Timco.
- Considered approval of an Ordinance amending Exhibit C to allow for a smaller lot size at 7213 Huebner Road. The 10 acre development will now have 86 homes instead of the original plan of 90 homes.
- Considered amending the Boards, Commissions and Committees Ordinance to allow an individual the ability to serve on a maximum of two permanent committees, not including ad hoc committees.
- Considered a Request for a Continuous Use Permit for Temporary Retail Sales of Christmas Trees and related products at 7100 Bandera Road.

The next city council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 21st beginning at 5:30 p.m. A presentation of the preliminary Fiscal Year 2023, budget which council addressed at their June 4, 2022 workshop, will be presented. Hope to see you there to get your input on the wise spending of your tax dollars.

DID YOU KNOW.....

****AQUATIC FITNESS CLASSES HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED.**

Where: Forest Oaks Pool – 6620 Evers Road

When: Sunday – Wednesdays

Time: 9:15- 10:15 AM

Cost: \$5 per class

Led by Thomas Shipman

****CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS – Please consider giving back 1-2 hours per month of your time, talent and expertise to a city committee.** Please call City Secretary Passailaigue at (210) 812-3316 to ask her to send you an updated volunteer form. Deadline is as soon as possible. THANK YOU!

****UPDATE ON COVID –** On April 1st the positivity rate for COVID was at 1.2% and has risen every week since then. As of June 3rd, the positivity rate stands at 16.3%! Metro Health officials report this number could be much higher since the “at home” tests are not included in this number.

Please continue to do what you need to do in order to keep you and your family safe. It has been recommended to get a second booster for anyone who is immune compromised or who is over 65, for better protection after six months from the first booster. It appears COVID will not go away any time soon.

A Flag Day ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 14th at 6:30 pm at the Flag pole in Veteran’s Park to honor our veterans and dispose of old flags properly. Sponsored by the Audie L. Murphy American Legion Post in Leon Valley.

Please contact me or any of your council members if you have a question or concern. We are here to serve you.

Sincerely, Chris
(210) 618-2092
mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov