

The Palm Valley Review

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NEW NEWS

On August 27th, 2013 the City of Primera approved rezoning a 10 acre tract of land on Stuart Place Rd just North of Wilson Rd from single family to multi-family housing. It has been reported that this 10 acre tract of land is possibly planned to be a section 8 housing development. Mr. Sunny Philip is the City Manager for La Feria in addition to being the Executive Director of the non-profit entities, South Texas Collaborative for Housing Development Inc & South Texas Emerging Markets Development Fund Inc. It has been reported that South Texas Collaborative is to be developing this property under the direction of SunQuest properties. Mr. Sunny Philip has agreed to attend the September City Council meeting to brief the Council on this proposed housing development.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Installation of security cameras is underway. As you may have noticed, the cameras with License Plate Readers have already been installed at the main entrance/exit on El Camino Real. AEP has slowly been working on providing power to the additional sites. You may have seen installation of poles and lines recently. Once this is finished, the additional camera installations will commence. AEP is also to be providing PV with estimates for additional street lighting within the community. The City Council took official action to authorize the installation of gates at all entrances to the City except the main entrance/exit of El Camino Real. These gates will be closed from **late night thru early morning hours**. All emergency vehicles use GPS which leads them thru the main entrance on El Camino Real. The police officer on duty will be responsible for opening and closing the gates at the designated times in addition to guiding emergency vehicles out of the city via the closest exit street. Hurricane Fence Company will be installing the industrial grade gates which will be 6' tall and made of black, aluminum, square tubing.



IT'S PALM VALLEY'S 3RD ANNUAL "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT"!

This is the 30th anniversary for this National event where communities join together to focus on building a "Safer America." Mark your calendars for October 1, 2013 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Over 200 people attended last year's event. Come out to enjoy food, drinks, bouncer, DJ, vintage cars, police/fire/state/federal and various vendors. If you are interesting in having a "vendor" table or participating in other ways, please contact the Chief or Officer Nunez.

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

There is a limited supply of bicycle/pedestrian lights available in the city office for use by residents. These are required by State law and sponsored by Bike Texas. Stop by the office and pick up a free light for your bike or for yourself.

[Bike with Traffic & Walk against Traffic](#)

Scoop the Poop!



As a reminder for those of you with pets, the City of Palm Valley Ordinances #97-7 and #2000-3 **requires that an owner of an animal that defecates ... shall properly remove such defecation to an acceptable receptacle.**

GARDENING The Opossum which feeds on our fruits & vegetables can prove to be a pesky animal! Try protecting your garden from these unwanted pests without poison. Dust your plants with baby power, blood meal or cayenne pepper. Most Opossums are repelled.

FOOTBALL

It's football season!

The 94th NFL season "kicks off" September 5th with the Super Bowl champions, Baltimore Ravens @ Denver Broncos. Go Broncos!

For our local football schedules, go to Harlingen CISD Athletics Facebook page and find the link OR go to www.rankonesport.com to find your local school team. Support the local teams!



PARKING

As a friendly reminder, the parking of trailers, rv's, boats, etc for more than 3 days OR parts of 3 days during a 30 consecutive day time period is a violation of Ordinance 2006-4.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

On Duty Officer Cell# 873-1500

We appreciate our hard working police force that is on-duty 24/7 and only a phone call away. If you see ANYTHING suspicious or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact the office on duty!

CHIEF GARCIA'S REPORT

The *Public Safety Project* (a title given by Chief Garcia) is a project that began three years ago which focuses on safety in Palm Valley. It began with the pedestrian/bicyclist signs and their enforcement. Then a push for closing off the City's open areas (ie. residential properties and City properties with no fencing) was initiated. A security camera system and license plate readers along with gating of side streets at night are additional steps in this project. Reduction in the speed limit is another benefit. As each step has been completed we (PVPD) have seen overall safety improved, increased pedestrian/cyclist traffic, a reduction in traffic accidents and overall crime decrease. In fact, there have been no crimes reported since the end of April.

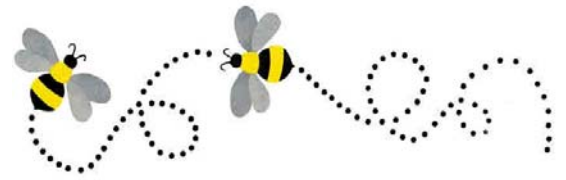
The benefits of having a 25 mph speed limit as opposed to a 30 mph limit are many:

- Vehicles traveling at safer, slower speeds
- More time for drivers to react to pedestrians/bicyclists/golf carts in roadway
- A much shorter stopping distance for vehicles
 - 25 mph - stopping distance is 85 ft
 - 30 mph - stopping distance is 109 ft
 - 35 mph - stopping distance is 136 ft
- A reduction in traffic accidents involving a vehicle and a bicyclist
 - Since 2009, there have been 4 traffic accidents involving a vehicle and a bicycle
 - In every case, the bike was damaged and the rider was injured
- There are 7 exits available to residents so the slower speed should not be a factor to get to one
- A much safer, pedestrian/bicyclist/golf cart friendly community

The following is in response to a flyer distributed last week by PV Citizens for Safe-Reasonable-Friendly Traffic Enforcement:

- We have NEVER cited anyone for court who was traveling 26, 27, or 28 mph
- There have been THREE documented accidents involving vehicles and bicyclists and ONE undocumented. Minor injuries in all four
- Most vehicles DO have a 25 mph line of the speedometer
- I DO hope the number of citations decreases through the rest of the year. That is the goal of all traffic enforcement
- Posted speed limit signs that are white with black lettering are NOT suggested speeds, but rather Texas STATUTORY regulations
- Several residential streets in Primera have constant 15 mph speed limits (none are in school zones)
- 99% of police departments in Texas record traffic stops. It is the law under "Racial Profiling" policies. It boils down to officer safety and the necessity to avoid racial profiling.
- I do not see the correlation between citations issued and property values. I do see a correlation between high crime rates and property values.
- The gates, once installed, would only be closed during limited times at night. The letter appears to suggest they are always going to be closed.
- I do not know where or when that recorded traffic stop conversation occurred. I am the only person with access to the tapes and no freedom of information act has been submitted.
- Once again, no one has ever has to pay a fine or cited for traveling 26, 27, or 28 mph.

THE BUZZ... This section is dedicated to citizen comments on a “topic of interest” which is planned to be included on an occasional basis. As the speed limit seems to be “a-buzz” with PV, this is what some citizens had to say...



I assume the Council did their due diligence in assessing the reasons for lowering the speed limit from 30 to 25. It doesn't bother me – it's just getting into the habit of slowing down to that speed automatically. I have not lived up to my responsibility as a citizen in attending City meetings and voicing my opinions at the point in time they are needed so I have to rely on the Council doing their homework before having made this decision and spending the funds for new signs. Having said this, I also do not believe our police department should be sitting, waiting for speeders and having Palm Valley become known as a speed trap – wanting to increase our revenue by issuing speeding tickets. I would much rather have the police patrolling at all times to ensure the safety of our residents. - Georgiana Matz

I 100% support the speed limit change to 25. It encourages drivers to be more cautious in our neighborhood and it also promotes safety. Thank you city council for looking out for our neighborhood, which includes our families, neighbors and pets! The law is the law, obey it. - Edith Trevino

The decrease of speed limit to 25 mph is a real nuisance for Palm Valley residents, with little or no benefit. The over-zealous enforcement of that limit is further burden on our community. Return to 30 mph, please. - Carol Fugit

Looking at the list of citizens for safe-----traffic enforcement, I have never seen most of these people ever walking, running or biking. I walk my dog many mornings and never feel safe with most of the cars. I obey the walking directions but several times I have had to jump the curb to the grass because of speeding cars, trucks etc. 30 mph is too fast!! I favor the lower speed limit. All it takes is someone getting hit and injured for a wake- up call. We don't have sidewalks except for small area around the condos, we share the streets with the traffic. I never had an unfriendly PV police officer stop me. All have been polite and doing their jobs to enforce our speed limits etc. I now drive 20-25 mph because I know what it feels like when cars, trucks etc. are going 30+mph as you are walking on the street. What is the Hurry? I hope this stays at 25 mph. We also are have more families with children. - Sue Little

I completely support the speed limit change to 25 mph. Are we waiting for a serious injury to occur before we do something about instituting safer driving? - John Holingsworth

I pay my taxes to Palm Valley so that the police can protect me, not so they can police me. - Larry Fugit

I don't think that the speed limit is the real issue here - the issue is enforcement, and if there is indeed a zero-tolerance policy, that should be changed. Police and citizens should not be enemies, but rather united in the common good. I have seen officers lying in wait for violators, and I object to that - their time could be better spent. At the same time, there seems to be an erroneous assumption that most traffic in Palm Valley comes from residents. A large number of drivers in Palm Valley are NOT residents, and the safety of our community is probably not their first priority (as it should be for residents) - and that is why we need a reasonable speed limit that is reasonably enforced. - Lynne M. Lerberg

I am pleased at the active stance the new council is taking toward improving the safety and wellbeing of our community. It was not long ago that our residents were demanding aggressive action in that direction, and the recent decrease in criminal activity is a welcome result. The issue of speed limit changes has sparked a lot of discussion, some of it based in fact, and some plucked directly from the local grapevine. I personally don't have a problem with the lower limit. The part of our community where we live has many curves in the roads and a considerable population of children along with walkers and bike riders. If my taking 60 seconds longer to reach my destination increases their safety, I think it's a fair trade. In all the years since I started driving, there have been times or reasons for me to adjust my speed...weather, traffic, construction, or designated caution zones. I hope...at this point in life...NOT to be in such a hurry. - Cheryl Faxon

Personally I am not a fan of lowering the speed limits. They were low enough to start.. I am 67 yr old and believe safe and cautious driving is good enough. - Don - 5125 Grande cir

As a driver, I prefer the 30 mph speed limit! I believe that bikers, walkers, runners, etc should be more careful and more regulations should be put on the people exercising on the road. The road is for cars. I personally walk and ride a bike, but I wear lights on my body and have lights on the front and back of my bicycle. I am also always on the lookout for cars and move out of the way! I would like to see an ordinance where people exercising are required to use lights, and light colored clothing. There are many places in and around the community to exercise but if people exercising are using the road, they need to be more cautious and stay out of the way of cars! - Glenda Garza- Ledesma

I think the speed limit should stay at 25 miles per hour. Most people drive too fast thru the area. Thanks for asking for input. - Sally Gallagher

I disagree with the 25 MPH speed limit imposed on the citizens of Palm Valley. I believe it was a solution to a problem that did not exist. A review of the accident history of Palm Valley does not provide any information or statistics that would warrant a reduction of the speed limit to 25 MPH. It is hard for me to believe that the City Council would impose a restriction on the citizen that is arbitrary and not supported by facts or input from the community. In addition, I am told that the police are writing tickets for 26 MPH which seems to be excessive to say the least. - Joe E. Neely

I strongly support the 25 mph speed limit in Palm Valley. There are too many children, walkers, and bike riders in Palm Valley to have a speed limit any higher. Several years ago when I was on city council, there was significant interest in reducing the speed limit, but we were told that we couldn't because of state law -- I am happy we have a new interpretation of the law. - Dick Faxon

Thank you for lowering the speed limit to 25mph. My husband & I like to drive the golf cart around Palm Valley in the evenings to get out of the house. It's comforting to know that you're not going to get hit by a vehicle. The speed limit reduction is especially good for kids playing, bicyclists, walkers and people walking their dogs. - Edna Butler

My concern with the new speed limit is that it is not observed and enforced uniformly. I usually walk at 5 To 5:30 am and I see the newspaper delivery cars exceeding the speed limit Also I cannot pass a golf cart without exceeding the speed limit. What was the impetuous for the new speed limit? - Ann Blankenship

As a parent I am completely behind the speed limit change. Just the other day, I saw a lady round the corner near (my) house at 40+mph. Had children been playing in the street they would have been in serious danger. As a driver, I am slowly becoming more conscientious of the change. I believe one warning would be a good policy. Having said that, I am fed up with the mentality that being a resident here equates to impunity. I hear a good deal of this given the location of my office and it disappoints me. - Tommy Brownell

THE COUNCIL

Mayor: John Cutney

Mayor Pro-Tem: John Widger

Councilmembers: Joe Jones, Julie C Martin, Bill Werley, Sr, and Debe Wright

OUR CITIZENS

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Debe Wright, our current Councilwoman.

Anne Blankenship recently participated in the Ms Texas Senior America Pageant in Dallas, TX. She's a beautiful woman!

The new school year has begun! Best of luck to all our students for a great school year!

Thank you to Mr. Dial Dunkin for hosting a BBQ for our city employees.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to our councilmembers Mayor Cutney, John Widger and Bill Werley, Sr. who all have September birthdays!

Quote of the month:

"For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other."

Millard Fuller
American Humanitarian

City Hall	423-8384
Municipal Court	423-8384
Police DPT	873-1500
Water Services	423-4040

Visit our city's website: www.palmvalleytx.com