

PALM VALLEY NEWSLETTER



Message from the Mayor

In September.....

The City Council approved, unanimously, a tax rate increase. The new tax rate increase is \$0.481118 / \$100 valuation. This increase will generate approximately \$42,000 revenue to the general fund.

Two public hearings were held: August 15, 2017 and August 29, 2017.

The City Council approved, unanimously, a budget for the new fiscal year beginning October 1. The new budget reflects proposed funding for capital items such as: exterior painting of City Hall; new signage for City Hall; a new police vehicle and bullet proof vests (50% paid by grant). For the Water Department, capital projects are: a new Gem-Jet (large trailer mounted water pressure machine used to clear culverts and sewer line clogs and watering of the trees along Stuart Place Road and other uses); the ongoing valve replacement program.

As required by law, a public hearing was held on August 29, 2017.

The City Council approved, unanimously, a rate increase to the sewer fee per drain. The new rate is \$2.50 per drain. Old rate was \$2.00. This increase will generate approximately \$ 55,750 in revenue to the Water operating budget. This will increase the average water bill by approximately \$6.50 per month or about \$78 per year. This increase takes effect October 1, 2017 and will reflect in your November billing.



HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS – OUR STORY



As many of you know, we joined forces with St. Paul Harlingen to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Many residents donated goods as well as money. St. Paul had already sent one team up to help and we planned to deliver supplies during Labor Day weekend. On September 2, 2017 at 7am, we started our day at



Sam's Club to purchase additional supplies with the donated money. While shopping, we met Arnold Gomez, a new Palm Valley resident and manager of Sam's. He gave us a donation on the spot. Once we made our purchases, we



loaded up the trailer and headed north. Originally, our group was headed to Refugio with supplies for the people living in the small towns. After a couple phone calls to the City of Refugio, we were advised to go to Church Unlimited in Corpus Christi, having just become the South Texas drop-off/distribution center for all these small towns affected by Harvey. (Check Facebook for a video provided by Hidalgo County Sheriff's department on September 1st showing the setup here) Church Unlimited had set up an efficient

system where they sort supplies, then distribute to the small towns based on each town's request. However, Church Unlimited was at capacity when we arrived. They diverted us and others who had brought supplies to drive to Church Unlimited in Rockport. Unbeknownst to us, Rockport and people living in the areas nearby were in dire need of supplies having run out of many necessary items. We arrived in Rockport around 11:30 am that Saturday. This area looked like *ground zero*. Imagine, water standing everywhere, debris littering the ground, wrecked boats haphazardly lying on their sides on land, power poles snapped in half or leaning over, power lines lying in water or dangling in the air, no electricity, no



street lights, areas with no running water, hundreds of cars on the road, DPS everywhere, military personnel monitoring authorized areas, fire department volunteers trying to control traffic, 30+ cars in line at various locations to get a hot, ready-to-eat meal.....One could describe this as organized chaos wherein martial law had been established. We could sense the tension in the air as many people (first responders, workers, volunteers, citizens) we spoke with were clearly



stressed, but working towards normalcy with an expression of gratitude and fatigue. Many first responders had been working 24 hours straight which was the case at the donation site we went to. Church Unlimited in Rockport is what you could call a base camp which was just set up two days earlier. If you are a resident, you fill out a form with your immediate needs. They turn it over to the first responders/workers. They also have a volunteer station. Once registered as a volunteer, you are assigned a specific job then directed to the person in charge. Castaways Thrift Shop in Rockport, TX is the location where donations are organized and distributed for Hurricane Harvey Relief. This was also just set up on August 31st. This was the perfect location as it was a large enough location to accept and distribute supplies. We helped sort donated items and place by designated tent stations. Hygiene products were at the top of the desperately needed list.



75% of the money donated by City of Palm Valley citizens during our first "drive" went towards purchasing hygiene products (tooth paste, tooth brushes, soap, deodorant, etc...). Sometimes just brushing your teeth can make you feel human again, stated one resident. The money donated by PV citizens from our most recent "drive" have gone towards supplies to help make homes habitable

and secure for residents. St. Paul has sent up two teams thus far and plan to send up more in the coming weeks. All of the donated items we have hauled up to Rockport have been shared with small towns and those living in rural areas nearby.

All donated items have been graciously received. Most responses from people reflected the deep gratitude held for fellow Texans and Non-Texans alike. Many people were amazed at the coming together to work towards a common goal, regardless of status, race, political beliefs, etc... what has been reflected here with Hurricane Harvey has been an amazing display of humanity at its best.



Thank you to all the citizens who donated items and money! We appreciate the amazing amount of support!

~ Julie C Martin, Councilwoman ~

Congratulations



CONSTITUTION WEEK

Mayor Rivera presented a proclamation, in observance of Constitution Week, to **Cindy Worley, Ann Roberts and Taffy Herridge**. Constitution Week is September 17-23, 2017.

September 17, 2017, marks the two hundred thirtieth anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention.

WELCOME

NEW BOARD MEMBER



– Rick Ledesma, 1317 Palm Valley East, was appointed by the City Council to serve a two year term on the Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Mr. Ledesma fills the spot vacated by Mr. Dick Faxon.

REMINDER TO ALL RESIDENTS!

Do not allow debris or clippings to go into the City's drains. Please remind your lawn maintenance crews of this as well. A lot of the times flooding in the streets is due to clogged up storm drains. The City appreciates your cooperation.

JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

Important Dates to Remember:

September 22, 2017 - 1st day of Fall
October 3, 2017 - National Night Out
October 9, 2017 - City Council Mtg @6:00p.m.
October 31, 2017 - Halloween

THE COUNCIL

Mayor: George Rivera
Mayor Pro-Term: John Widger
Councilmembers: Julie C. Martin, Cynthia Thompson,
Deborah Wright, and Paul Powers

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

City's Website: www.palmvalleytx.com

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM
CITY OF PALM VALLEY
WATER DEPARTMENT**

September 15, 2017

The City of Palm Valley has been advised of the following from Harlingen Waterworks:

...on October 2, 2017, Harlingen Waterworks will begin a 30-day improvement plan to recondition the distribution system that delivers water to our system. Currently, HWWS treats our water with chloramines. During the month of October we will revert to free chlorine to restore the efficiency of the normal disinfection process. You may notice mild discoloration or odor not usually present in your water. Be assured that this discoloration or odor is NOT HARMFUL, but precautions must be taken for equipment or processes that may be sensitive to this change. This temporary change in treatment is a common procedure used in many public water systems throughout the United States.

On November 1, 2017, HWWS will revert back to chloramines, our standard of treating our water. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this 30-day procedure, please refer to www.hwws.com or feel free to call HWWS at 430-6100. Customer service personnel will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

City of Palm Valley's water is treated through Harlingen Waterworks and, thus, we are notifying all of our residents of this improvement plan.

**City of Palm Valley
Rosendo Flores, Waterworks Supervisor
423-8384**