

# The Palm Valley Review



Fellow Citizens,

Fall has finally arrived, bringing much appreciated cooler weather. And can you believe, Christmas is less than 60 days away! Where did the year go?

I would like to take a brief moment to update you on the financial status of our City. We finished our fiscal year with a cash surplus of \$298,091----- \$144,356 from our City General Fund and \$155,735 from our Water Department. We are starting to see the effects of our property tax and sales tax increase we implemented in 2017 along with the Water rate increase implemented in 2016. Our total on hand "Cash" balance from both the City and Water account(s) is \$1,194,202 with "0" debt. Of this amount, the City Council has designated \$900,000 to our Water Capital Replacement fund created in 2017 to improve, repair/replace our water drainage system. We will start working on some of these projects early 2019. More information will follow.

In addition to our "Cash" balance, we also have a Street Capital fund with a balance of \$100,400. And two additional accounts that hold our emergency reserves with balances of \$198,000 for the City and \$100,000 for the Water Department.

Financially, our City is in a position that it has never been in before. The small property tax and water rate increases that we have implemented have helped. Every nickel and dime adds up!

If you would like to see additional detailed financial information, contact City Hall.

Have a great and safe Halloween. Please watch out for the MANY Trick or Treaters that will be invading our city!!!

In closing, Sylvia and I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving Day.

Sincerely,

Mayor George Rivera

'LATE BREAKING NEWS'

I have just been informed that there will be a Christmas Tour of Homes here in Palm Valley on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Please call the Harlingen Country Club for additional information.

## City Hall News

Many of you have seen the construction work that has been going on in front of City Hall. The old 'tower' sign was demolished and a new sign is pending the lettering indicating the location of Palm Valley City Hall. This is a capital project that was budgeted in the last fiscal year's budget.

## Property Cleanup

The City continues to strictly enforce the property cleanup ordinance in the City. The process consists of identifying properties that have overgrown grass, whether in the front or in the alley or facing Dilworth; overhanging tree limbs onto the street that can cause a traffic hazard, and debris/rubbish/brush laying around on the property. Pictures are taken and a letter is sent advising of the violation and allowing 10 days to remedy the violation. The ten days is statutory. If on the 11<sup>th</sup> day the property has not been remedied, city staff goes in and takes care of the problem. An invoice is generated for staff time/debris hauling/administrative charges, etc. On the 11<sup>th</sup> day, the Police Department then issues a citation for appearance in Municipal Court. Non-payment of the invoice will result in a lien being imposed on the property. The City of Palm Valley strongly encourages all property owners/residents or occupants to take pride in the appearance of the entire community by complying with the provisions of the ordinance. The ordinance can be viewed on the City's website at [www.palmvalleytx.com](http://www.palmvalleytx.com).

## From the Water Department

There appears to be a misunderstanding that water services can be **transferred** from one customer to another. That is not the case. Every customer who applies for new water service becomes a brand new customer and is required to pay a \$200 deposit and \$50 activation fee, even if the water service is still on. The disconnect from the current customer and the 'new' connect from the new customer must be coordinated accordingly between the two customers. New service cannot be turned on (or activated) until the current customer contacts the office and notifies staff to disconnect. Deposits are refundable after three years of good payment history OR within 90 days after disconnect if less than three years at the residence. Bills are due on the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month regardless of whether the bill is received or not. Until such time that the post office advises us of a 'non-deliverable' or 'not at this address' or 'return to sender', we consider the bill to have been received. Feel free to call the office at any time that you do not receive your bill. We strongly encourage that you consider applying for an automatic draft to be debited from your bank account. This allows you not to have to worry about your bill. Applications are available at City Hall.



The Police Department will be out in full-force on Halloween night. We ask residents to keep the area well-lit and to watch out for pedestrians and children. We also offer the following safety tips:

### Going trick-or-treating?



**S** Swords, knives, and other costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.

**A** Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.

**F** Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.

**E** Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.

Follow these tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for everyone:

- Provide healthier treats for trick-or-treaters such as low-calorie treats and drinks. For guests, offer a variety of fruits and vegetables.
- Use party games and trick-or-treat time as an opportunity for kids to get their daily dose of 60 minutes of physical activity.
- Be sure walking areas and stairs are well-lit and free of obstacles that could cause someone to fall.
- Keep candle-lit jack-o-lanterns and luminaries away from doorsteps, walkways, landings, and curtains. Place them on sturdy tables, keep them out of the reach of pets and small children, and never leave them unattended.
- Remind drivers to watch out for trick-or-treaters and to drive safely.

### Parks & Recreation Announcement

The City Council unanimously reappointed members to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The members are: John Topp, Michael Galvan, Julie Herrington, Jimmie Traylor, and Sylvia Rivera. Members serve three-year terms. Thank you to all who serve voluntarily in Palm Valley!

The holidays are rapidly approaching us and the competition for the best Christmas décor will continue again this year. Members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be making their selection for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes with special recognition in the City's newsletter. The P&R Board will be meeting soon and will establish the deadline for the competition. The deadline will be published in the next newsletter and via the NextDoor blog.



## Reminders

- The City of Palm Valley does not pick up any kind of garbage or debris. For trash and/or debris removal, please contact a service provider of your choice or request your yard person that it be hauled away.
- After trimming trees and/or palm trees, please dispose of remaining debris. City will not pick up or remove debris or palm fronds from private property. Do not throw onto street as it then becomes a traffic obstruction.
- Try to prevent debris clogging up our city drains.

## Calendar

October 31, 2018 – Halloween

November 4, 2018 – Daylight Savings Ends

November 11, 2018 – Veterans Day

November 12, 2018 – City Hall closed in observance of Veterans Day

November 22, 2018 – Thanksgiving

November 22-23, 2018 – City Hall closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day



The next regular City Council meeting is  
scheduled for

November 20, 2018

6:00 p.m.

We invite you to attend.



### THE COUNCIL

Mayor: George Rivera

Mayor Pro-Term: Cynthia Thompson

Councilmembers: Julie C. Martin, Lisa Taylor,  
Michael Galvan, 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](http://www.palmvalleytx.com)