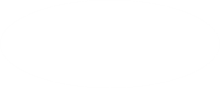
****

**THE PALM VALLEY**

**REVIEW**

**Message from the Mayor**

Citizens of Palm Valley,

This has been an unusual summer, an unexpected summer, and a summer we will be talking about for

many years to come! On June, 24th 2019 the City of Palm Valley received an epic amount of rainfall that

damaged over 500 homes and caused millions of dollars in damage. Our Police Department and Public

Works staff worked almost around the clock to assure our safety. In addition, there were immortal acts

of kindness. This dramatic event displayed our citizens’ hearts and can-do spirit in the toughest of times.

Some areas received more damage than others. Many of our citizens lost everything. Our thoughts and

prayers are with them as they recover from this devastating disaster.

But three (3) months after the rains, it’s more important to first take a look at where we are today and

where we are going as a community with a common future.

City staff started assessing damaged areas and began the cleanup effort almost immediately after the

storm. Tons of debris were picked up by contracted trash crews costing the City close to $50,000. In

addition, the City placed a moratorium on building permits, allowed RVs and storage containers on

driveways, and allowed vehicles to park on the street 24 hours while we rebuild.

City staff and I have been meeting with representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA), State and County Emergency Management staff to compile a damage assessment of all

damages and losses our city’s infrastructure has endured by the storm. Estimated costs to repair/replace

our damaged infrastructure is $33 Million, which will be used to request federal and state assistance.

While we do not expect FEMA to write us a check for $33 Million, any assistance we receive will provide

Palm Valley with the financial resources needed to start the recovery process.

In the meantime, Palm Valley is helping itself while waiting for financial assistance from FEMA. We

continue to assess damages and are developing a plan of action and prioritizing areas for

repair/replacement. We plan on improving the drainage system along Palm Valley Drive East as soon as

possible along with repairing/replacing a Lift Station. We believe most of these costs will be reimbursed

by FEMA. The recovery process is going to take many years to complete. I commit to you that the City

will do its best to restore our City as quickly as possible.

I greatly appreciate the outpouring of support from the majority of our residents. The City of Palm Valley

was knocked down by the storm but not defeated. Our collective outlook is bright. Our homes and

infrastructure is being restored and improved. We are setting a path to becoming a city that is stronger,

better prepared for disaster and more flood-proof. This spirit of our residents is a testament to the

wonderful community we all are part of.

Sincerely,

Mayor George Rivera

**From the Police Department:**

We continue to fully support the residents during this time of rebuilding and construction and will strive to do our best to ensure this City remains crime-free.

Due to the flooding event, the City is continuing to allow for a temporary moratorium on the City Ordinances restricting the parking of RVs and trailers in driveways and the parking of vehicles on city streets between 2a-6a. It is unknown when we will begin to once again enforce these ordinances and we may still allow for variances based on individual need. Also, please remember that vehicle still need to be properly parked when parked on city streets.

The City is urging residents to continue to maintain their properties as best they can, i.e. lawn services, brush pick-up, debris collection, etc. We are not sending out letters noting ordinance violations but have been and will continue to make face-to-face contact with residents as needed.

We urge all residents to remain alert for scammers and less than legitimate businesses and contractors that want your business. Ask for a written contract, ask for references, and if you are ever in doubt or believe you may have been a victim of fraud, contact the police department at 873-1500.

**Reminders from Water Department**

Annual testing of backflow prevention devices will continue during the month of September 2019. As in the past, residents will receive a letter from the Water Department to inform of an upcoming inspection.

* **Disconnections** – There are **NO TRANSFERS**. Must disconnect by advising Water Department via telephone or in person.
* **For New Water Services** – Come in before 4pm to activate water service. An application will need to be filled out. There is a $200 deposit and $50 activation fee to be filled out on two (2) separate checks, money orders or cashier’s checks.
* **Methods of Payments – Checks, money orders, or cashier’s check only. No online payments, credit or debit cards, or cash accepted.**

**Water Bills** – Every 10th of the month water bills are due. If you do not receive your bill, please call the office to (956) 423-8384 to get your amount due

**BUILDING PERMITS**

There is a temporary moratorium on the issuance of building permits. However, if you are doing any type of structural changes to your residence, you will have to submit a plan and pull a permit plus the necessary inspections will be required. If there is any change to any electrical or plumbing, this also requires that a permit be pulled followed with an inspection. Fees for all inspections are $60.00. Permit fees varies on the type of construction. If you are in doubt of whether a permit is required or not, please contact City Hall at 423-8384. City Hall accepts only personal checks/cashier’s checks or money orders payable to the City of Palm Valley. **NO CASH IS ACCEPTED. NO CREDIT CARDS/DEBIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED.**

Citizens of Palm Valley,

City Council approved a proposed City’s budget for fiscal year 2019-20.

Key highlights:

* **NO** Property Tax Rate Increase is proposed in this year’s Budget.
* City’s General Fund income projected at: $833,200.00
* City’s General Expenses projected at: $733.925.00
* New Police Vehicle: $40,000.00
* City’s General Fund Estimated Surplus: $99,275.00
* Water Operations Income projected at: $739,050.00
* Water Operations Expenses projected at: $670.650.00
* Water Operations Estimated Surplus: $68,400.00

The detailed proposed budget is available at City Hall and our City’s web site for you to review. Any questions or concerns, contact a City Council member.

City Council is scheduled to vote on the budget during the next City Council meeting on September, 9, 2019.

Sincerely,

Mayor George Rivera

**Palm Valley Events and Important Dates to Remember**

DON’T MISS **The Harlingen Country Club Men’s $25,000 Pro Circuit Tennis Tournament** being held September 24-29. This will be our 17th year hosting **The UTSA Pro Circuit Tournament**. Players from all over the globe with world rankings as high as 150 will be competing right here in Palm Valley!

This is your chance to see up close world class tennis! All days are free admission except the finals on the 28 & 29 where tickets are only $5. The 24-27 we will also offer complimentary lunch for every spectator! Bring the whole family as there will be kids events as well. A portion of the proceeds benefit The Sunny Glen Children’s Home of San Benito!

**2020 Census Information Update**

Toni Lindsay, Palm Valley Representative for Cameron County

Our city of Palm Valley needs YOUR help so that Palm Valley can continue to serve you.

The 2020 Federal Census dates are set for March 12, 2020, to July 31, 2020. This census is vitally important for two reasons: 1. The count determines representation in Congress 2. The federal allotment per person is almost $1600, and PV can use the money to fund infrastructures and services. Our last census showed Palm Valley’s mail-in nonresponse rate was about 24%. Discounting empty houses, we still had quite a few people who did not participate; therefore, Palm Valley could not receive its share of the money. From August 18, 2019, to October 1, 2019, the federal government is canvassing those areas of nonresponse to verify addresses. These officials will wear badges, and their authenticity can be verified online. Please assist if you are visited. They will NOT be questioning you about census information.

The official 2020 Census starts in January, 2020 (Alaska first); then the other states’ citizens will start receiving invitations to respond online, by phone, or by mail in March, 2020. Please, please respond to the census questionnaire. A preliminary copy of the federal census questionnaire will be posted at City Hall. **City’s Budget 2019-2020.**



**City of Palm Valley Fall Festival**

**\*Presented by City of Palm Valley & Harlingen Country Club\***

**Saturday October 12, 2019**

**Harlingen Country Club Parking Lot**

**6-10pm**

**Featuring:**

**National Night Out-City of Palm Valley Police Department**

**Music by Rewind**

**HCC food & drink menu, pumpkin carving, games and more!**



Labor Day – Monday, September 2, 2019 (City Hall Closed)

First day of Fall - Monday, September 23, 2019

**THE COUNCIL**

Mayor: George Rivera

Mayor Pro-Tem: Cynthia Thompson

Councilmembers: Lisa Taylor, Michael Galvan, Jerry Wade, and Eric Hoff.

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)

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for

September 9, 2019 at 6:00p.m.

We invite you to attend.

