

Lighting of the Palms

On Friday November 25th, the City of Palm Valley, along with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, held its annual Lighting of the Palms. Despite the drizzly cool weather, a great many families and friends turned out to enjoy the Christmas music, presented by the amazing Harlingen High School South Pop Choir, which was directed by Sylvia Flores. The very talented choir entertained the crowd with group and solo performances. The enthusiastic students performed dances and the spirit of Christmas inspired some of the attendees to join in the dancing.

Our Master of Ceremony was the event chairperson, Julie Herrington. Julie gave the opening prayer and recognized the past service and contributions made by the City of Palm Valley with the initial sponsorships of Hino & Imelda Hinojosa as well as the Werley Family with Wells Fargo Financial Group of Wells Fargo Advisors.

Everyone anxiously waited for the switch to turn on the lights, as they enjoyed the brisk cool air of the evening. City Councilman Gilberto Lucio gave the official welcome, thanked those who made the event possible, and introduced our retiring City Secretary Sylvia Trevino and our new City Secretary Kathy Cherry. After a short countdown and a "Merry Christmas" welcome, Sylvia flipped the switch to turn on the beautifully decorated Lighting of the Palms. A new addition this year was Tim and Bettina Elliott providing us with wonderful Santa and Mrs. Claus. Many families and friends stayed and took photos with our special guests.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Lighting of the Palms Continued

This year the event was presented by generous contributions from Matt & Patty Gorges, Boggus Automotive Group, First Community Bank, Hino Gas, Kay Conly, Elliott's Golf, and the Palm Valley City Council.

The Harlingen Country Club provided staff, freshly oven-baked cookies and hot cocoa, and a tent to protect the refreshments from the weather.

The Lighting of the Palms represents the most encouraging part of the year watching our community grow and unify. Thank you to the hard work and continued dedication from our city staff, who decorated our entrance to the City with such skill. Thank you to everyone who endured the weather and glad to see you in such happy spirits. Let's make this a great Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2023.



South Drainage Project Re-submitted

Ferris, Flinn & Medina, LLC re-submitted the South Drain (Golf Course) ditch construction improvement plans to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in late November. Once the TWDB gives the final approval, the city can advertise for bids.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Waste Connections Garbage Service begins January 1

The new garbage service is slated to begin on January 1st, 2023, with the first pickup date being Wednesday, January 4th, 2023. This service will cost \$20.70 monthly for the initial 96-gallon container and \$11.50 for every additional container. It will be a once-a-week pickup service with the pickup date being on Wednesdays. Dumpsters of various sizes will also be available for commercial and multi-family accounts with varying pricing and pickup frequency. The garbage service fee will be added to the monthly water bill. Waste Connections will be delivering the 96-gallon containers to the residences and businesses of Palm Valley the week of December 26th. The containers will be dropped off in the recommended spot for pickup for each residence. If assistance is needed to move the containers during the weekly pickup, please contact City Hall at (956) 423-8384. Certain criteria must be met for this assistance placard, such as for the disabled or elderly residents.

Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan in Progress

Ferris, Flinn & Medina, LLC submitted their proposal to develop the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan to the city the first week of December. The City Council approved the proposal at their December 20th council meeting. Ferris, Flinn, & Medina, LLC have begun developing water and wastewater system maps. The projects listed are being implemented to improve Palm Valley's aging infrastructure. The following projects were determined to be of the greatest importance to our city by the Council:

1 – Drainage

- South Golf Course Ditch construction (Funded by TWDB thru DD#5/Waiting Final Approval)
- Lakes 4-7 Storm Sewer By-Pass project (Pending funding from TWDB loan or County ARPA Grant)
- Papaya Circle to South Golf Course Ditch
- Lake Dredging

2 – Wastewater

- Collection
- Manhole Rehabilitation (Approved and Started)
- GIS Mapping to Identify major problem areas with our sewer pipe infrastructure
- Replace or slip line deteriorated sewer pipelines
- Treatment – Replace splitter box (Approved)

3 – Water Distribution System

- Install SMART meters in phases (In process of gathering Proposals)
- Water line replacement by pipe bursting in phases
- 150,000-gallon EST/Booster (Water Tower)
- Fire Hydrant replacement
- Gate water valves replacement in phases

4 – Streets

- 2 Year cycle of crack sealing & seal coat

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

City Hall

City Hall is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Our staff is available to issue permits, take water or citation payments, and to answer any questions or concerns. The 24-hour drop box is available in front of City Hall and mail or email is still an option.

City Council meetings are open to the public with limited seating capacity. Additionally, meetings are being broadcasted on Zoom for those that wish to attend or participate from a remote location. If you wish to be added to the email mailing list for the Zoom meeting invite links, contact City Hall to make that request.

Municipal Court

Municipal Court hearings are being held through Zoom until further notice. Court hearing dates are normally on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

Website and Facebook

Website improvements are forthcoming. Furthermore, a possible Facebook page for the City of Palm Valley is being considered to improve public announcements and information delivery.

Winter Weather

With the upcoming freezing weather, please ensure you are prepared to handle the cold adequately. Additionally, if you have elderly neighbors or know of someone that lives alone, please check on them to ensure their safety. If a power outage were to occur, contact AEP at 1-866-223-8508 or Magic Valley at 1-866-225-5683 to report the outage. If additional help is needed in warming up, the nearest warming center/shelter is in the Harlingen Community Center on 201 East Madison St. The staff of Palm Valley will also be available for emergencies should you need somewhere to get warm or charge your phones if your power is out.

Winterize your backflow preventer

Winter is upon us, and freezing weather could occur in the next few months. Please consider covering your backflow preventers to prevent interior damage to your assemblies as well as your water faucets. Consider leaving a small drip running from your kitchen faucet and any outdoor faucet as well. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at (956) 423-8384.

Important Contact Information

AEP Texas Customer Service

1-877-373-4858

<https://www.aep.com/contact/>

Magic Valley

1-866-225-5683

<https://magicvalley.coop>

Upcoming Holidays and Events

Christmas – Sunday, December 25, 2022 (City Hall will be closed on Friday, December 23 and on Monday, December 26, 2022)

New Years – Sunday, January 1, 2023 (City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2023)

City Council Meeting- January 17, 2022



THE COUNCIL

Mayor Pro-Tem: Eric Hoff

Councilmembers:

Annete Baker, Gilberto Lucio, Lisa Taylor, Jerry Wade.

City Hall: 423-8384

Municipal Court: 423-8384

Police DEPT: 873-1500

Water Services: 423-4040

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