



Volume 1, Issue 2

# The Strawberry Jam

February, 2018

Annexation is the word of the day. *See story on page 7.*

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We hope you are enjoying —  
**“The Strawberry Jam”** —  
 the City of Poteet’s official newsletter.  
 Your input is always welcome.

## A letter from the Mayor



Mayor Trevino

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank all the Citizens of “The City of Poteet” for keeping our City clean and a Great Place to live. During the past few months, we have taken big steps in improving our community and are seeing the results. I would also like to give a warm welcome to our new Librarian Mrs. Lisa Burbridge and to Mrs. Dora Gomez, our new Court Clerk.

All departments are working together to make “The City of Poteet Great Again”. I want to give our City Council a big shout out for the excellent work they are doing; all of us are working as a unit, so great things can be accomplished. Keep up the great work. I would like to thank our City Administrator Mr. Eric Jiminez and Chief of Police Mr. Bruce Hickman and Wife Jennifer Hickman for the Movie Night at the Park. Although, it was pretty cold we had a great turn out. “Great Job!” Again, thank you, and as always “My office doors are open” no appointment needed to talk to me.

Albert Estrada Trevino  
 Mayor, City of Poteet  
 “Strawberry Capital of Texas”



## City Administrator’s Corner

The City is moving forward, and the city staff is working hard on improving city services for our citizens. All departments are working together in order to find ways to be more efficient and transparent.

As a city, we are aware of the needed repairs to streets and the water system. The water issues have been present for many many years and the majority of the current city staff members have inherited these issues along with the street concerns. The water issue is a long-term process due to the city having to apply for grants in order to repair small portions of the city at a time. The street repairs are also long-term. Currently, the Public Works department only has the capability of filling pot holes by hand. As City Administrator, I am aware of many of your concerns and complaints. I ask you continue to be patient with my staff and allow us time to develop ways to financially repair these issues.

As always, the Best Interest of our citizens and community are our first priority.



Eric Jiminez

Eric A. Jiminez  
 City Administrator



**2018 City of Poteet General Election**

Election Day is May 5, 2018. The City of Poteet will have three Council Position places up this year. The term of office for these three positions is two year terms and run from May 2018 to May 2020. Early voting will be held at the Poteet ISD Administration office, and begins on April 23, 2018. Last day of early voting is May 1, 2018.

If you would like to run for a place on City Council, Candidate packets are available at City Hall and can be picked up Monday thru Friday 8 am to 5 pm. Packets can also be downloaded from the City’s website at <http://www.poteettx.org/2184/Election-Information>. Please note that the **deadline to submit a packet is Friday February 16, 2018 at 5 P.M.**

All candidates for office in the City of Poteet must meet all the qualifications to serve on the City Council as follows.

1. Must, at the time of filing for office, have attained the age of eighteen.
2. Be a qualified, registered voter.
3. Have been a resident of the City for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding filing for office.
4. Not be an obligor to the City on any obligation past due, provided, however, that a person may be elected and hold office if such obligation is being actively contested in the appropriate forum.

*Some details in the packet may take more than one day to complete.*

Abby Frautschi  
City Secretary

City Services

**New Phone System at City Hall**

—leave a message

*As many of you have now noticed, the City of Poteet has a new phone system.*



The new phone system was implemented to save money. The old system cost quite a bit for long distances calling and many phones calls not in our area are considered long distance. For example, if a City phone is used to call San Antonio the city was charged a long-distance rate. The new phone system is automated like most city governments. Our system allows city employees to work more efficiently by not having to answer the phone every time it rings when assisting other citizens.

The system is designed to allow citizens to leave a voice message regarding their Utility Bill or any other concerns they may have. The automated system guides citizens to the correct extension.

The majority of city phone calls are for billing, water, sewer and garbage questions. If the Utility Billing clerk is unavailable, citizens are encouraged to leave their name, number and account number if known, so the Utility Billing clerk can return the call and answer any questions you may have.

**Got a Complaint about your water or sewer bill?**

—file this form



**CUSTOMER DISPUTE FORM**

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT ALL SECTIONS OF THIS FORM)

1. Account Number (as it appears on your water bill) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Customer Name \_\_\_\_\_
3. (If known) Block \_\_\_\_\_ Lot \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_
5. Home Tel ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Tel ( ) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_
7. Contact information of authorized representative of the owner, if representative is filing the application or will represent the owner at a review meeting:
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_
  - Home Tel ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Tel ( ) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Email \_\_\_\_\_
8. Service address (location of property), if different than the owner's mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Type of property (check one):
  - Residential
  - Commercial
  - Industrial
  - Vacant Land
  - Mixed Use
  - Other (List Type) \_\_\_\_\_

*This form allows customers to make an official complaint about their water or sewer bill.*

[www.poteettx.org](http://www.poteettx.org) >  
Departments >  
Public Utilities >  
Billing

Link to online form. Control/click here.

# CITY OF POTEET BULKY AND BRUSH ITEM DROP OFF EVENT

## WHEN IS THE EVENT:

1 & 1/2 DAY EVENT

Friday, February 09, 2018 -  
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Saturday, February 10,  
2018 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

## WHAT YOU NEED:

Please bring your "ACTIVE AND CURRENT WATER BILL" to confirm you reside in the City or proof that you receive City Services.

## WHERE:

All Bulky and Brush item drop offs will be at 1304 S. 9th Street (Poteet Sewer Plant).

## WHAT'S ALLOWED:

Citizens are encouraged to take full advantage of this opportunity to get rid of unwanted furniture, appliances, televisions, computers, mattresses, and other large items.



## WHAT'S NOT ALLOWED:

Household chemicals such as cleaning products, antifreeze, oil, pesticides, paints and fertilizers are not allowed.

Also, not allowed is roofing or shingle materials, masonry style brick, rock, tile, tires, or car batteries.



## New City Employees

**Lisa Burbridge**  
Library Director  
Public Library



I have five years of experience as a Librarian, and I am excited to be the new Library Director for the Poteet Public Library.

I have always enjoyed reading and it thrills me to be a part of the library system.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in our new library scheduled to open mid- February.

When not at work, I enjoy spending time with our horses, dogs, hunting and spending time with my family.

*Ms. Burbridge may look familiar to many. She was our former deputy court clerk...so technically not a new employee, just a new job.*

**Dora Gomez**  
Deputy Court Clerk  
Municipal Court



I am from Poteet— born and raised.

I am excited to be a part of the City of Poteet.

I have been a court clerk since April 1999 for both a Justice of the Peace of Atascosa County and another local Municipal Court.

## Is it almost a library?

The current schedule for construction to be complete is early March.



## Department Reports



**Bobby Buentello, Director**



Public Works is pleased to report that the cold snap we experienced, had little to no impact on our streets and utilities. We work and continue working closely with TX-dot to ensure that our main and side streets remain open and safe during any weather related emergencies.

We ask our customers to call city hall for any after-hours emergencies, such as home water leaks, low water pressure, sewer backups, or any other issues that would pertain to utilities. Dial 830-742-3574, and wait for the recording to direct you to our on-call personnel.

I am pleased to say that our city crew is working hard to keep up with street repairs and potholes, we ask our citizens to remain patient in our efforts to better our town.



**Bruce Hickman, Chief of Police**

Hello Poteet,

We would like to thank all of you who attended our first Movie in the Park event. We (City Employees and our families) had a great time hanging out with our citizens in a positive atmosphere. The weather was perfect for cozying up to watch a great movie (Facing the Giants). Several community resources attended with information booths and we want to thank them for participating.

We would like to thank the Poteet Ministerial Alliance, St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church and all the other organizations that worked together with the city to make this happen. We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Shawnene Heather, the Outreach & Community Education Coordinator for the Atascosa Family Crisis Center, for all her help. Shawnene's husband, Dean Heather, for the use of his sound equipment during this event.

This was a great opportunity to provide some much needed positive exposure and to meet with The Mayor, City Manager and City Department Heads to ask questions and discuss current events or topics.

We look forward to an encore presentation in the future and hope for better weather and greater attendance.

We at the Poteet Police Department wish you a safe and Happy Valentine's Day.

# Planning & Zoning

Many thanks to all of the community members who attended our P&Z meeting on January 18th, 2018. WOW!!!

It was the first wave of disgruntled citizens who came to protest annexation...and that was before the much protested map was posted on the day of the "Special Session" of the City Council on the 23rd of January, 2018, where a larger and more vociferous wave of not-so-happy citizens came to make their feelings known.



Your concerns are valid and well-taken.

I now ask the community for a modicum of civility. On the 18th, the P&Z Commission was not meeting to annex properties. We were meeting to work on the re-zoning of the current city proper. Attacking commission members was uncalled for; especially in the face of the approach we are taking to "Grow Poteet" by adopting Smart Growth Principals. We are making every effort possible to be the best stewards of the land. "The Buzz" on page 6 explains the concept of Smart Growth. You might also like to read the open letter on page 7 which shows that you were heard.

Going forward, I would like to suggest that we speak to one another in a more reasonable fashion. I am not your enemy. The commission is open to civil dialogue and to working together to create a self-sufficient, thriving community. We have no choice but to grow in order to establish solvency and sustainability; and to provide much needed services to community members. Let's do this together.

On the 18th, I broke protocol, again, and allowed the floor to speak even though citizen comments was not on the agenda. I think it is important to hear everyone who takes the time to come in to express their concerns—unfounded or not. Citizen comments will be on all of our agendas from now on. Lets agree to be civil and work together.

## Change Order

The city has now asked the P&Z Commission to bring annexation to the forefront of the Master Plan agenda. The master plan we are currently working on is projecting a plan for the next 18 years. We hope to get the preliminary annexation map ready in the next two meetings. This map will be presented to the community in a public hearing before the P&Z hands it over to the city council for consideration. City council will then consider our recommendations and go through a process before deciding on whether they want to consider adopting the map and opening it up to a public hearing.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding annexation and/or planning and zoning, please submit them via e-mail at: [newsletter@poteettexas.gov](mailto:newsletter@poteettexas.gov) . Mark it attention Marie Levy , P&Z Commission. Be sure to include your name.

*Thank you in advance for your insights, ideas and cooperation in helping us Grow Poteet—together.*

# Officials, Staff & Commissions

## City of Poteet

### MAYOR

Albert Trevino

### CITY COUNCIL

Reynaldo Anzaldúa

Susanna Perez

Estella Rocha

Nicholas Sanchez

Richard Tuttle

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Eric A. Jiminez

### CITY SECRETARY

Abigayle Fraitschi

### FINANCE DIRECTOR

Richard Middleton

### DEPARTMENTS

#### UTILITIES

Robert "Bobby" Buentello  
Director of Public Works

#### POLICE

Bruce Hickman  
Chief of Police

Code Enforcement  
Officer Christina Flores

Animal Control  
Officer C.J. Carter

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Curtis Adams  
Fire Chief

### LIBRARY SERVICES

Lisa Burbridge  
Director of Library Services

### MUNICIPAL COURT

Dora Gomez  
Deputy Court Clerk

### COMMISSIONS

### PLANNING & ZONING

Marie Levy, Chair  
Sonny Estrada, Vice Chair

Dennis Bald

Clifford Latting

Melinda Orta

**P&Z Meetings**

3rd Thursday of each month\*  
City Hall  
6:30 pm  
Open to public

- To speak at meeting (3 minute limit)  
Sign up before start of meeting
  - Submit agenda items, for consideration, by noon of 2nd Thursday of each month

\* special meeting notices will be posted on the city website and front door of city hall.



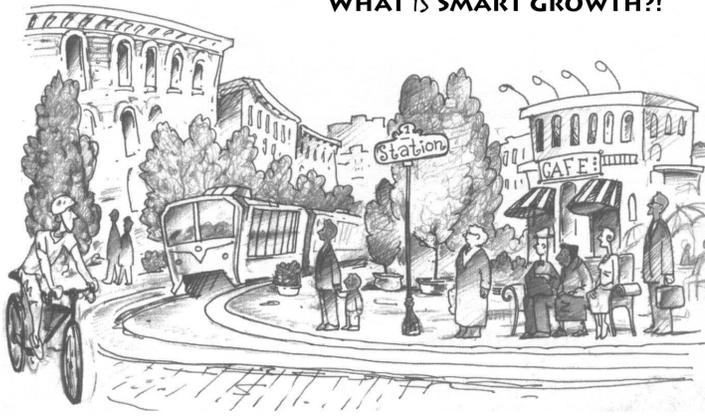
## The Buzz

Have a question, or just wondering what is going on? Let us know. Here are responses and insights into some of the latest buzz.

Q.

A. "Smart growth" covers a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse.

### WHAT IS SMART GROWTH?!



10 basic principles to guide smart growth strategies:

1. Mix land uses.
2. Take advantage of compact building design.
3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
4. Create walkable neighborhoods.
5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
7. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities.
8. Provide a variety of transportation choices.
9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective.
10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.

Read more: <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/about-smart-growth>

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency

Q. Do citizens of Texas have any say on whether or not they are annexed?

A. In Texas, annexation procedures are determined by the population size of a city, town or county. Laws are continuously changing. If you are in disagreement, contacting your local, county or state legislators might be in order.

Below is a link to an article entitled "Forced annexation is un-Texan" that ran July of 2017; following that is a link to Ch. 43 of the Local Government Code entitled: Municipal Annexation.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/Forced-annexation-is-un-Texan-11303497.php>

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/LG/htm/LG.43.htm>



## Design our Logo Contest

The Planning & Zoning Commission is setting an ambitious goal to reinvent the city in 18 years. The target date, 2036, will also mark the city's 150th anniversary; and we are planning a huge Sesquicentennial Celebration to mark the event. This initiative has been named "Grow Poteet" and we need your help in designing a logo that will represent the 18 years of steady growth we are planning.

### THE CONCEPT

The focus of the master plan will be to build on our strengths—our farmers and strawberry crop—and grow the city proper and Hwy. 16 corridor (north and south) into a progressive, high tech entity with business and employment opportunities that will help boost the population and economy to ensure sustainability for all new ventures.

*Clarification: P&Z plans for land use and zoning. Economic Development brings in business and employment entities.*

### LOGO DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

The logo is to feature a strawberry moving fast forward to illustrate the motion of going from present to the target year of 2036.

The year: 2036 must be on the logo.

The initiative's title: "Grow Poteet" must be on the logo.

The logo must have the feel of the concept listed above. A little bit country and a little bit high tech. The final figure of the strawberry must remain a real live organically grown berry, not a stylized berry. The berry color should remain red.

The logo should be clear, easy to read, understandable and be a representation of our concept.

Must be legible in small scale.

### LOGO USE

This will be the masterplan's "Grow Poteet" official logo. It will appear on all of our letterhead and promotional materials.

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

The contest is open to everyone.

Do not have to be a resident of Poteet.

No age limit.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

Submit the logo in full color.

One business card size.

One a minimum of 5" x 8."

No identification on logo, please.

—Suggest you e-mail a copy of logo to yourself for proof of ownership.

Place in 8" x 10" sealed envelope and hand-deliver to front desk at city hall. You will be given a receipt of entry, with date and time entered and an ID number.

DEADLINE: Noon, March 31, 2018

Selection date to be announced.



## Special Feature: An Open Letter—Annexation & Strawberries

*Lots of changes in Poteet mean there are lots of questions as to what we are doing, what we intend, and why. Completely understandable and Ms. Levy has graciously allowed me to put information out so that we quell rumors and more importantly: YOU have the correct information. Before going any further, the ideas set forth below are proposals I am trying to push forward, but do not formally represent ANY policy as set forth by the City of Poteet. What follows are my personal thoughts and goals only.*

### ANNEXATION



The big topic on some folks minds is the annexation of properties next to Poteet. I understand this is a hot button topic and folks may see this as a bad thing without all the facts and reasoning behind the efforts. The first thing to put out there is why. Why does Poteet need to expand? The short answer is tax base. For those folks still reading and not flying off the handle: I don't mean property tax base. I am specifically focusing on sales and use taxes. Poteet will never tax itself to prosperity via property taxes. Never.

As some very astute and observant folks pointed out during a recent meeting, Poteet has issues with infrastructure such as streets and utilities. Our current tax base is too small to keep up with all that is required. Previous administrations have tried in good faith to fix this and through hard work, grants, and luck Poteet has managed, but just barely. This must and will change. Our Citizens (all of them) deserve our best efforts getting Poteet back on its feet.

What I intend to do is create the environment where businesses can take root and flourish. We need infrastructure to make this happen. We need additional sales tax to make that happen. Poteet has potential but is in fact going backwards in terms of sales tax receipts. Make no mistake, we must do something to turn our economic future around. The naysayers that sneer at our efforts to bring in businesses are shortsighted at best.

### STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

How do we make this happen? One of the key players is the Strawberry Festival. To be PERFECTLY CLEAR: this is not an attempt by the City of Poteet to take revenue and/or control from the Festival in any way, shape, or form. My idea is to collect ONLY sales tax from vendors ALREADY collecting sales tax on Festival grounds. These are three things that I will not waver on and support in this effort:

1. No collection of property taxes (land or building) for the Festival grounds
2. No City permit fees on vendors within Festival grounds
3. No control of Festival grounds operations by the City

The Festival loses NOTHING and gains on water utility cost reductions, police protection, and (possibly) insurance rate reductions due to being within an incorporated City. I am looking for a win/win for both parties. I am open to other options and suggestions that achieve a win/win.

There are other key players in making this happen and I will address those ideas in subsequent letters.

### ONE LAST ITEM OF NOTE

One last item of note for folks along Rutledge Road and Horton Lane. As I have stated before, we are not after property taxes. With that in mind, I fully support eliminating that area from annexation unless the property owner wishes to be annexed.

There are public meetings currently in the scheduling process and would respectfully request folks attend. We will publicize the meeting day and times as soon as we have the information. I urge folks to be respectful and civil. This is a community effort and we all want what is best for the City to thrive.

Dr. Anzaldua



# Photo Collage / Community Activities

## Friday, January 12, 2017 . Community Movie Night . Poteet Canyon Park

The winds subsided and the temperature was a very comfortable 58 degrees at movie time as approximately 50 persons, including city officials, workers, and other organizers gathered to enjoy hot chocolate, hot dogs and popcorn and watch "Facing the Giants" on a large inflatable movie screen under the pavilion.



Above, City Administrator Eric Jimenez and Public Works Director Bobby Buentello grill hot dogs for the crowd.

At right organizers and volunteers help serve the refreshments.

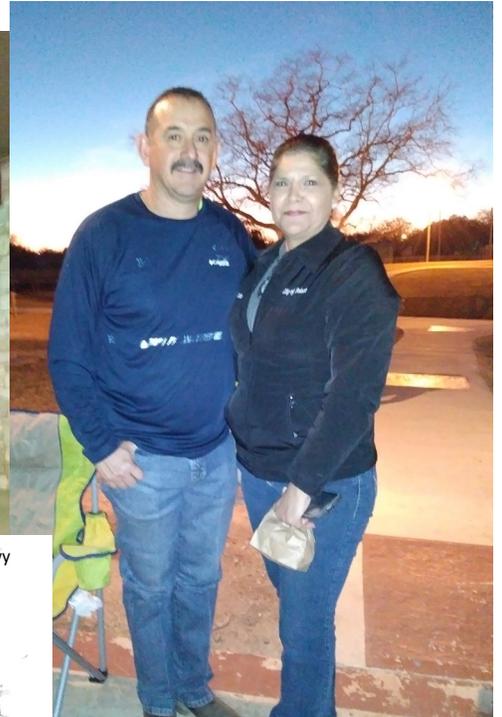
Below, menu items included hot dogs and hot chocolate.



Photos by Marie Levy



Public Works Department was represented by Director Bobby Buentello and wife Terri (above) and department employees, (below l-r ) Bernie Moreno, Anthony Soto, and Jimmy Solis.



We are on the Web!!! [www.poteettx.org](http://www.poteettx.org)

The much awaited City of Poteet website is up and running. Sign up to get electronic notices on city meetings and activities.

- Agenda and meeting minutes
- Pay your water bill & citations online
- Listing of departments & numbers
- Voting information
- Employment Listings
- On line forms for:
  - Permits
  - Agenda items
  - Complaints
  - Suggestions
- Park locations
- Facility rentals
- And much more. Take time to browse through the site and let us know how we can make it better.