

Volume 2, Issue 4

# The Strawberry Jam

August – October 2019

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

### **Elected Officials**

**Willie Leal Jr., Mayor**

**Nick Sanchez, Council Member**

**Jesse Leal, Council Member**

**Rick Castillon, Council Member**

**Denise Sanchez, Council Member**

**Rick Flores, Council Member**

## A letter from the Mayor



**First 180 days:** At the time of this publication, I have been in office for 180 days. I have learned a lot and still have A LOT MORE to learn. I am very fortunate to have a very knowledgeable and supportive staff to assist me.

I was involved in a lot of events. I have presided over several city ceremonies, attended several public functions, and represented the city at numerous local, county and state meetings. I have been interviewed by our local county radio station KSAQ twice and San Antonio TV station KSAT 12.

The Texas Municipal League constantly offers training seminars throughout the year to city officials and employees. I have already attended a couple of seminars. I will continue to take advantage of the training opportunities to augment my knowledge in city government in order to better serve our city. In addition, I will continue to work on developing/improving our city’s relationships with our local, county, state and federal officials/representatives. I have regular meeting/briefings with the different city department heads to maintain situational awareness of city business. I will continue to utilize my leadership skills, knowledge and experience to provide guidance to lead our city forward.

(Continued on next page)

## City Mayor (cont.)

My goal is to improve our city's infrastructure, economic development, and service to our community. Overall, improve our city and its image for our citizens to be prouder of their hometown. With that, I thank all our citizens who take pride and work hard to keep Poteet looking beautiful.

I met with some potential business investors interested in bringing business to our city. I met with the Atascosa Emergency Management Coordinator to schedule a Table Top Exercise involving our city. I attended the Methodist Health Fair in Jourdanton and met with representatives of the Headstart program. They informed me they aware of the need of the Headstart program in our city. We are now working on a plan to bring a Headstart program back to our community.

We had a dais and a sound system installed in the council chamber area.

I swore in a new reserve police officer for Poteet, Officer Alan Perez. I participated in a ceremony at the Atascosa County Courthouse to remember and honor the victims of the terrorist attack on 9/11/01. I met with the Poteet High School Art Club. We are working together on a project to help beautify our downtown area. I swore in another reserve police officer for Poteet, Officer Hunter.

My wife and I participated in Pleasanton Cowboy Homecoming Parade. We were proud to represent our city in the parade.

I met with the Poteet ISD Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Principal Robert Urbanowicz and possibility of a mentorship program for the DAEP students. .

I attended a meeting in Seguin with USDA Rural Development, Area Specialist Betty Soto to discuss the next step to move forward on a 4 (four) million project to replace desperately needed main fresh water lines in the city.

The Poteet City council adopted the city budget of 2019-2020 and passed a resolution to approve the city tax rate. The city's tax rate remained the same as last year's - no increase

I signed a Proclamation for Safer Path Family Violence Shelter.

I, along with a couple of council members and city department heads attended a Texas Municipal League annual conference in San Antonio. We participated in numerous training sessions available during the conference.

I had mentioned the City had created a new position, Community Events Coordinator. After interviewing several qualified candidates, Shawnene Heather was selected to fill the position. Shawnene brings a lot of experience, knowledge and contacts to the job. Shawnene will be reaching to other community organizations for participation in events in our city. There will be more fun events for our citizen to participate in.

There is a lot more interesting and exciting things to come for the our community.

Thank you,

City Mayor

## City Administrator's Corner

**Hello Poteet,**

**The City continues to provide the best service best to our business owners and residents. We are in the closing phases of the paperwork and approval process for a 4 million-dollar USDA loan that was started back in 2015 under Mayor Tuttle. This 4-million-dollar water project will be geared towards replacing old water lines. We will try to push out as much information as possible due to the amount of construction that will be taking place in the city.**

**We are proud to announce the hiring of Shawnene Heather as the Community Events Coordinator. Shawnene will have the responsibility of improving all current city sponsored events and to bring new events to our community.**

**The City's wastewater plant is upgrading its UV systems and Auger. This upgrade will help with the testing and monitoring of the plant. The current system has been in place for 15 years and we are pleased to be replacing it.**

**We are aware of all the potholes around our community and we are taking some steps to repair these potholes. I believe our residents will start seeing some improvements over the next month or two.**

**The City is currently working with our Engineer company on a plan to pave or repave several roads within the city. This process is long term, but we are confident it can be accomplished by taking one step at a time.**

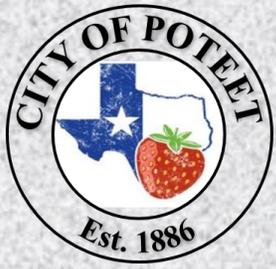
**As always, please be cautious about what you read on social media. There is a lot of incorrect information that gets disseminated by individuals. Please contact City Hall for the correct information or to get the FACTS.**

**Eric A. Jiminez  
City Administrator**



**Eric A. Jiminez**

# Public Works



# POTEET PUBLIC WORKS



**Ruben Quintana**  
Interim  
Public Works Director



Hello, for those of you who don't know me, my name is Ruben Quintana Jr. I am a Poteet native, and like most of you, I want to see our town prosper and be successful. These things don't happen overnight and in some cases can take years to achieve. But as long as we head in the right direction and continue to grow together, I see no reason why we won't be able to do so.

I am pleased to report that we are currently halfway through with Phase #2 of our sewer trunk line project. This project is replacing and upgrading our main trunk line, along with existing manholes that feed directly into the city's lift station. The long awaited replacement of the old water infrastructure is right around the corner. We are all excited about this upcoming project. It will be lengthy and demanding. I ask ahead of time for patience and understanding throughout this much needed project. More information will be provided as we get closer to the actual start date.

Public works employees remain to work diligently to complete the day to day demands of their city. Great things are coming to our town, and I for one can't wait to see what we can be when we strive to reach our full potential. As always, contact City Hall for any issues Monday through Friday 8am-5pm. After hours, call City Hall to reach the on-call person. 830-742-3574

**Ruben Quintana Jr.**

# Community Compliance



John Seda

Community Compliance Officer

## Hello Poteet!

**My name is Officer John Seda. I am the Community Compliance Officer that oversees code enforcement for the city. I've had an awesome experience over the last few months since taking this new role with the City.**

**First, I would like to take a moment and give a big Thank You to everyone that has taken the time to reach out and open dialogue with me regarding concerns in the City. These conversations serve two purposes: A) they educated me in what is prevalent in our community and what needs my attention. B) this also provides me an opportunity to serve you and educate you on what is the best course of action for being compliant with the local and state laws.**

**At the end of October, we had our semi-annual bulk item pickup. I appreciate everyone that got in contact with me to clarify the expectations and guidelines of this process. There were several properties that did not use the proper size/dimensions posted on the City website for reference. We have used this opportunity to educate the individual property owners and spread the word, so that future issues should be minimal. Again, I wanted to say thank you to everyone that has taken the time to reach out and discuss their experience with this service.**

**It has been a blessing to meet everyone I have over the last few months. You all have some very unique ideas and some genuinely positive goals for our community. Please make sure to participate in our Town Hall Meetings every first Monday of each month. It is an awesome source for information of what is going on with the different groups and departments with the City. City Council meetings on the first Tuesday of each month are also a prime source of important decisions being made for the City on your behalf.**

**If you have any questions or simply want clarification on any issues regarding City Ordinances or state statutes, please feel free to call (830) 742-8123.**

**Thanks,**

**Officer John Seda**

## Community Compliance (cont.)

### Helpful Tips:

**Make sure grass is cut regularly. This includes grass outside of the fence and in the alleys behind your homes. Tall grass invites nuisances such as rodents and bugs. The City Ordinance reads “anything higher than TWELVE INCHES” is considered a nuisance and a violation for tall grass. Remember to stay hydrated and drink plenty of water before, during, and after exerting yourself while working on the lawn.**

**Hold your neighbors accountable. If you are held to a standard and follow your local laws, so should your neighbors. If you are uncomfortable approaching your neighbor about their grass, junk vehicle, or even a potential hazardous living condition, feel free to report it to the city and allow me the opportunity to address it with them.**

- Please make sure every brush pile is limited to 5 feet wide by 5 feet long by 5 feet high. In order for brush to be picked up, YOU MUST CONFIRM YOUR NAME IS ON THE LIST TO BE PICKED UP. This means you have to call and speak with someone at City Hall and request this service. Not following this simple rule can (and most likely will) result in a citation for Illegal Dumping.**
- Dispose of trash and brush properly. Concerns have been expressed that people are dumping their trash and brush on another’s property. If proof is provided via cell phone camera, video surveillance, or witness sworn statement; the violator will be issued a citation. If the items dumped exceed a certain weight limit, the violator can be arrested per Texas Health & Safety Code § 365.012. Report any illegal dumping directly to the Atascosa County Sheriff’s Office at 830-769-3434.**
- Report concerns through the appropriate means and channels. Make sure you document any and all concerns with as much detail as possible. To ensure something is done properly, utilize the city’s online form or call the Sheriff’s Office directly using the contact information provided below. Resorting to social media (i.e. Facebook) or texting a friend/neighbor to complain about a problem is exactly the opposite of what we are trying to achieve with the systems we’ve put into place here in the city. Make sure to leave contact information if you want to be updated on the result of the follow up. Leave an email if you wish to provide photographs that way instructions on how to submit them can be forwarded to you.**

**Thanks for taking time to read through this. Again, I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the future.**

**Sincerely,**

**Officer John Seda**

**Please use the following contacts to reach out and to report any concerns:**

**Atascosa County Sheriff’s Office      830-769-3434**

**Community Compliance Officer      830-742-8123 ext. 207**

**Report a Concern      <http://poteettx.org/formcenter>**

# Library

## Poteet Public Library

The library participated in National Night Out. We handed out coloring bags, pencils, and bookmarks. We had a great turn out - thanks to the Poteet Community.

The library is collaborating with Census 2020. Please get your Census information turned in.

You are welcome to use the library computers if you want to send your information on-line.

Holiday Raffle is \$5.00 per ticket. (\$30.00 value). Drawing will be held November 7, 2019. Get your tickets at the library. Need not be present to win.

Lil Aggies every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Bring your little Aggies for a story and fun activities.

Upcoming November activities include:

Read for the Record - "Thank you, Omu! on the 7th.,

Brown Hearing on the 15th - call to make an appointment.

Please check our Facebook page for more upcoming events.

Happy Reading!



Medals \$10.00 each



Lisa Burbridge  
Library Director



Andrea Faz  
Library Clerk



# Police Department



**Chief**

**Bruce Hickman**

Greetings Citizens of the Strawberry Capital of Texas,

Happy Autumn. We hope you all had a great summer. We would like to thank all of you that attended and participated in this year's Fun in The Park that was held on August 17. We enjoyed hanging out, splashing around and playing in the refreshing cool water. The water slides and the dunking booth were a lot of fun. We would like to thank Mayor Leal for not just attending, but for taking a turn in the dunk booth. Lots of raffle prizes were given out. After the fun we enjoyed a family friendly movie and popcorn. If you missed out, we hope that you will be attending the fun next year.

National Night Out on October 1<sup>st</sup> was a big hit. We had a great turn out with lots of participants. The snacks and goodies were plentiful. We extend a heart filled thank you to everyone that showed up to hang out with us. We look forward to this event continuing and growing. As well as getting to interact with our community.

During National Night Out we passed out flyers advertising our Volunteer Program and upcoming Citizens Watch Academy. For more information or to print an application, please visit <https://www.poteettx.org/2194/Volunteers-In-Policing>.

The following was copied (and edited for space) from <https://www.cdc.gov/features/winterweather/index.html> for the full unedited version please visit the CDC's Website.

Winter comes as no surprise, many of us are not ready for its arrival. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall.

- Winterize your home.
  - Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows.
  - Insulate water lines that are exposed or run along exterior walls.
  - Check your heating systems.
  - Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
  - Install a smoke detectors and CO Detectors. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.
    - Learn symptoms of CO poisoning:
      - headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.
  - Don't Forget to Prepare Your Car
  - Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level; check tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires.
  - Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.
  - Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded.
- 
- Take These Precautions Outdoors
  - Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: wear a tightly woven, preferably wind-resistant coat or jacket; inner layers of light, warm clothing; mittens; hats; scarves; and waterproof boots.
  - Sprinkle cat litter or sand on icy patches.
  - Work slowly when doing outside chores.
  - Take a buddy and an emergency kit when you are participating in outdoor recreation.
  - Carry a cell phone.



Be ready to check on family and neighbors who are at risk from cold weather hazards: young children, older adults, and the chronically ill. If you have pets, bring them inside. If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate, warm shelter and unfrozen water to drink.

Please visit [www.poteettx.org/2170/Ordinances](http://www.poteettx.org/2170/Ordinances) to review ordinances that you have questions or concerns with. If you cannot find an answer and visiting with us during regular business hours is not convenient, please print and bring a copy of the ordinance with you, so that we can assist you during a meeting.

Remember, we have added contact forms to the city web page under the "Report a Concern" tab. Here you will find: Brush Pickup forms, Traffic Enforcement request forms, Citizens Request for services, Code Enforcement, Potholes Complaint and Vacation Watch Forms.

Until next time, be safe and enjoy our South Texas winter season.

Chief Hickman



## Building Official



Building Official

Bill Lay



In the last newsletter O'Reilly's was just about complete and going to open soon. Well O'Reilly's has opened and had the grand opening October 19<sup>th</sup>. According to the O'Reilly's, they are doing well at this time and reaching their sale numbers. In the September City Council meeting, the new fee schedule was adopted. Also in the September meeting, an ordinance was adopted to establish health inspections for businesses that handle any items that are for public consumption. This would include any restaurants; convince stores, or any type of business that handles food and drinks. Currently, there are city employees that are completing training and working toward certification to be a health inspector. If any businesses have questions about the health inspections please call our office and speak with us.

The Building Department is still working with several developers that are bringing new businesses to Potet. We will hopefully see some new construction activity just after the New Year if all goes as planned.

Bill Lay

# Animal Control

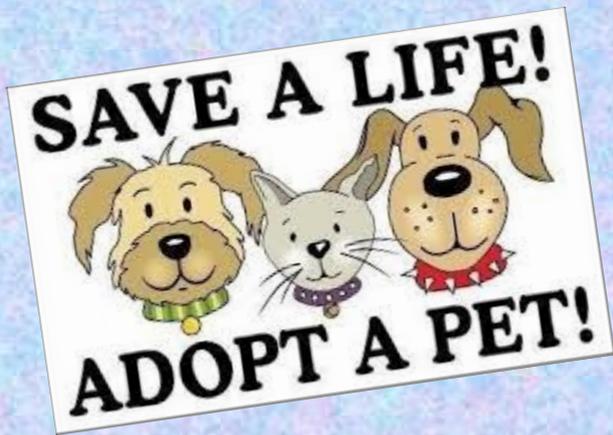


## Winter Safety Tips

Top Winter Hazards

- Check their skin, coat and paws often for cracks or drying. Stay off of salted roads
- Keep access to fresh unfrozen water, winter temps cause excessive dryness
- Watch their weight, pets are less active in the winter
- Indoor/outdoor cat (yours or the neighbors) check your car engine and tires before starting, these are warm places to nap. Also watch for antifreeze leaks
- Keep them inside! Temps can drop, and most pets are not equipped to handle the extreme cold
- Consider booties and/or jackets for short-haired breeds

provided by ProPetHero.com



**We are coming into some cold months, so make sure we are taking care of our pets.**

**Remember, per city ordinance all pets are required to be registered yearly and be current on their rabies vaccination.**

**In October, we had two animals bite two different individuals. The quarantine and associated fees could have been avoided if the animal was properly secured on the owner's property. City Ordinance requires owners to keep their animal secured on their property and not running loose on the city streets.**



Grand Opening  
Of O'Reillys



### San Antonio Food Bank Distribution



# 2019 Trunk or Treat



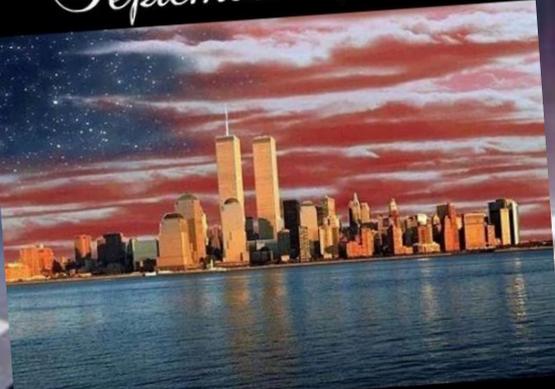


# 2019 National Night Out



# 9/11 Memorial

September 11, 2001



We Will Never Forget.





*Welcome Shawnene Heather!*  
*Community Events Coordinator*

