



Volume 3, Issue 1



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A letter from the Mayor



Greeting from the Mayor’s office. I want to provide a recap of some of the events for last year’s quarter. Starting in October 2019, the City council held a special open hearing meeting on the city budget and adopted the city budget of 2019-2020. The council also held a special meeting to pass a resolution to approve the city tax rate. The city’s tax rate remained the same as last year’s – no increase.

I attended a presentation in Pleasanton where U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar present a \$450,000.00 grant to Safer Path Family Violence Shelter to assist their clients to transition from the center to their own living quarters.

I signed a Proclamation for Safer Path Family Violence Shelter. As Mayor of Poteet, I offered the city’s support to Safer Path’s mission and to its clients. The City of Poteet has zero tolerance on family/domestic violence.

The City of Poteet along with the Poteet Police Association (PPA) organized the National Night Out event in our city. There was a large attendance of both adults and children.

(cont. on page 2)

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

City Mayor (cont.)

The city hired Shawnene Heather to fill the position of Community Event Coordinator. Shawnene brings a lot of experience and contacts to the her position. Shawnene will be reaching to other community organizations for participation in events that are being held within our city.

Myself and other council members participated in O'reilly's auto parts store official grand opening.

I was a guest speaker at Veterans Day ceremony at the Poteet Jr High School (PJHS). The PJHS student body, honor guard and choir did a great job honoring the Veterans present at the school and recognizing all Veterans everywhere.

I facilitated and participated in the first ever Table Top Exercise (TTEX) involving the Poteet city staff, Poteet Police Dept., Poteet Fire Dept., Poteet Independent School District and other agencies. The training scenario simulated a school bus loaded with students in an accident with a tanker truck which produced a hazardous waste chemical at the intersection of School Drive and FM 1470.

Myself and several city staff attended the grand opening at the Atascosa County Jail expansion. The jail is a great state of the art facility. County Judge Hurley and all the County Commissioners did a great job having the forethought in approving the expansion to the county jail.

I attended a grand opening ceremony in Poteet for a new business VR Outfitters located on 8645 N. HWY 16, Poteet. It provides game processing and taxidermy service.

The City had a Christmas tree lighting event. City employees and the members of the Friends of the Library worked extremely hard setting up the decorations. Special thanks to the Flying J for donating the Christmas tree and Marathon Oil company for their monetary donation. Also, extra special thanks to the Poteet Elementary School Art classes for their beautiful ornaments they created for the tree. The Poteet High School (PHS) Jazz Band, PHS Silver Dancer, Poteet Jr. High School (PJHS) Band, and the PJHS Choir performed and entertained the audience. Santa Claus made a special appearance to meet with the children.

The Poteet Police Association (PPA) had their Blue Santa parade and gift giving event. My wife and I participated in the parade. It was great to see so many residents outside their home waving as we drove throughout the city's neighborhoods. Blue Santa handed out a little over 200 hundred gifts to the children.

I attend the grand opening of Little Sprouts Childcare Center in Poteet.

These are just a few of the events I attended in the last quarter of 2019.

2020 is going to be busy with many more community events and city business.

City Administrator's Corner

Hello Poteet,

Well, we made it through another year together. 2019 was a successful and interesting year for all of us here in the City of Poteet. We had some bumps and bruises along the way, and at times, did not see eye to eye, however; much change and progress was made for the betterment of our community. We continue to have a wonderful Mayor and City Council. By the way, elections are around the corner and we encourage each of you to get out there and vote or run for office.



Eric A. Jiminez

The Mayor, my staff and I have been working diligently with USDA and Rackowitz Engineer company on a 2015 water improvement project for the City. I am happy to say that after four long years there is light at the end of the tunnel. If all goes well, this long sought-after project shall begin to develop over the next few months.

I am happy to announce we have attracted a few more new businesses to our town and those businesses are doing well and generating needed sales tax for the City. All of you and our out of town visitors are doing your part by shopping local and helping the economy in our community. We are hopeful to see a few more businesses pop up over the next few months.

I want to give a shoutout to our new Community Events Coordinator Shawnene Heather for hitting the ground running. Shawnene has coordinated or assisted with many events since day one of her employment. Additionally, I want to give a shoutout to our Poteet Police Department and association for coordinating all of their activities throughout the year. Another shoutout goes to Public Works and other city staff members for doing their part during these events. It's because of the coordination and work ethic from every employee that allows these community events to be successful. In the past 2 ½ years, we have seen this community come together and it's a great feeling to show up to an event and notice all the familiar faces.

I foresee 2020 being a big year for the City with many changes. Remember, even a bunch of small changes make a big difference. We are a small community, with a small city staff, but we are committed to being servants and providing the best service possible for everyone.

Again, I will ask that before you resort to social media to express yourself over city services, please contact City Hall, so we can look into the matter. Most often, those who speak the loudest are most often not heard. Give us a chance to determine if the issues is a city problem or private property owners. I continue to ask that you please be patient and always greet a city employee with a pleasant smile and warm heart.

“A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong. While traditional leadership generally involves the accumulation and exercise of power by one at the “top of the pyramid,” servant leadership is different. The servant-leader shares power, puts the needs of others first and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible.” (Greenleaf, Robert, 2019)

Eric A. Jiminez

City Administrator

Public Works



POTEET PUBLIC WORKS

Ruben Quintana
Interim Public Works Director



Hello again everyone,

We have reached our last quarter in 2019. We are still moving right along with our upcoming waterline project. Again, this project will be replacing approximately 80%-85% of the existing water infrastructure. This will be a long extensive project, but also a much needed one. Patience and understanding is asked of our citizens and visitors alike. This is a huge step in the right direction for our town, so we here in public works are excited for work to officially kick off.

We also understand your frustration with potholes on our streets. That's why we have launched "Operation Pothole", where my crew comes in at appointed times to work only on potholes. We have been able to repair intersections and long-awaited potholes around the town.

We will be continuing this work around town until further notice, so if we haven't been able to get the one that has been tormenting you, we will soon.

And as always, please call in any issues or concerns to city hall at 830-742-3574.

Community Compliance



John Seda

Community Compliance Officer



Hello again Poteet!

My name is Officer John Seda. I am the Community Compliance Officer that oversees code enforcement for the city.

I hope everyone had a great holiday break. I got to meet many new faces at our Blue Santa event last month.

I've seen so many improvements in and around the city. It is with great pride that I can genuinely share that almost everyone I have encountered over the last few months has been pleasant and helpful with me accomplishing my mission in making and keeping this City beautiful.

With the recent amendment to the Junk Vehicle Ordinance, the City has slightly changed the approach in addressing these violations. I'd like to thank all the citizens that are addressing any issues with their vehicles promptly and properly. We have sent out dozens of letters stemming from citizen complaints, officer observed violations, and discoveries made during inspections. Out of all these properties and the numerous notice letters sent out, we have only had to abate three vehicles.

Spring is just around the corner and with the changing of seasons comes the return of the routine upkeep of our yards and plant-life. Please make sure to keep your grass cut and branches and limbs off the roadway or from blocking the view between drivers and their view of signs and oncoming traffic. It's important for the sake of everyone's safety and keeping our properties outstanding. Should you see something that would pose a concern, please feel free to submit the concern on our website, so it is disseminated to the proper departments.

I continually look forward to meeting each and every one of you over time. I'm still encountering individuals with some creative ideas and awesome stories about their property and the legacy they've established throughout the years here in Poteet.

Don't forget 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 within the City. Also, the City Council meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month. Important decisions are constantly 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.

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

Library

Poteet Public Library

The library was busy with the October, November, and December Holidays.

October brought National Night Out. The library handed out Color-your-own tote bag full of goodies from the library.

Lisa, the Librarian attended an Appreciation Breakfast sponsored by S.E.A.L. (Student Earn and Learn) program at the San Antonio Food Bank. Camino Real students had a Halloween Costume contest and crafts. Marie Levy read "Coco" to our Lil' Aggies for Dia De Los Muertos. On display are books on cancer we received thru a grant from ASRT 9American Society of Radiologic Technologist.

In November the library, in conjunction with the Poteet High School, read the book "Thank you, Omul!" by Oge Mora for National Read for the record. This was followed by singing, crafts, and food.

USDA Rural Development hosted a "Single Family" housing workshop. Brown Hearing was also here.

December was a busy month with the Friends of The Library decorating the library and putting up two Christmas trees. The 1st Annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony was held in front of the library. The Poteet ISD, Band, Choir, Silver Dancers and Culinary club were here to celebrate this event. Santa Paws was also here and pictures were taken with Santa and the Family pets.

In other news, the Census 2020 is looking for Census Takers. This job pays \$18.50 an hour. Come by the library for more information. Brown Hearing will be at the library on January 16, 2020. Please call and schedule an appointment. The Community Room at the Library is available to rent for meetings and small get togethers. Contact the library for more information. We have 2020 Strawberry Festival Pins for sale \$10 each. Lil' Aggies every Thursday 10am-11am.



Medals \$10.00 each

Keep calm and read a good book!

Look on the Library Facebook page for upcoming events.



Lisa Burbridge
Library Director



Andrea Faz
Library Clerk

Police Department



Chief

Bruce Hickman

Greetings Citizens of the Strawberry Capital of Texas,

Happy Winter. We hope your fall season was pleasant. We would like to thank all of you that attended and participated in this year's Nation Night Out. This event was held on October 1st at the Poteet Municipal Park. It was a big hit. We had a great turn out with lots of participants. The snacks and goodies were plentiful. We extend a thank you to everyone that visited with us.

We are looking for applicants to attend an upcoming Volunteer in Policing Program and Citizens Watch Academy. For more information or to print an application, please visit <https://www.poteettx.org/2194/Volunteers-In-Policing>.

Blue Santa was another successful event that we enjoyed. This year it was hosted at the Atascosa County EMS Training Building. The Blue Santa parade was a fun preceding event to the night. We had many participants. Area Law Enforcement Agencies, Fire Departments, EMS and local businesses made up the parade. We had lots of visitors excited to see Blue Santa and enjoyed Hot Chocolate, Cookies, cakes, candy canes, and Fruit cups. Blue Santa and the Pastors from Shalom ministries went out on traffic stops with me and handed out gift cards.



I would like to thank the Poteet Police Association, the City of Poteet and all of our sponsors for working together to make these events continue and to grow. We believe that these events are helping us to create a healthy and stronger relationship with our community.

As usual our south Texas winter is all over the place. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall.

Remember 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 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.

The Poteet Strawberry Festival is quickly approaching, and we are looking forward to a pleasant and enjoyable weekend.

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

Chief Hickman



Building Official



Building Official

Bill Lay

Welcome 2020!

We are starting the year off busy. The city is seeing some new construction in progress, which is going great.

The Building Department is currently working to upgrade and go paperless. When this is complete, all permit applications will be online to fill out and email to us for review and the cost of the permit. For our citizens that do not have access or are unable to use a computer, I will be happy to assist you here in City Hall.

The last the two weeks in January and sometime in February the city will have an employee working with a state inspector to finish up training for the qualifications of health inspector. Once this portion is complete, we will be out doing heath inspections at city establishments.

Thank you and have a good New Year.

Animal Control



Bill Lay
Animal Control Officer



Welcome 2020!

Animal Control has been out driving around and has notice a rise in the number of dogs running at large on the streets. I will be out working traps and working to collect these dogs.

Remember per city ordinance, you need to have your dog secured on your property not running the streets. If you do have the dog tied up, remember the dog needs food, water and shelter at minimum. There are other rules that need to be adhered to also and I go over them with you.

Thank you and have a good New Year

Community Events Coordinator



Shawnene Heather

Community Events Coordinator

Welcome to 2020! My name is Shawnene Heather. For those that I may have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, I am the new Community Event Coordinator for the city. My office is housed at the Poteet Public Library off 5th street.

My employment with the City of Poteet started in October. I hit the ground running and haven't stopped. We started off with a meeting on October 29th with the organizations we tend to work with often. Our New Things to Come meeting was a success. I was introduced and shared the visions and plans for future events.

Events Coordinator

The next thing to happen was the Halloween Costume Contest. We had all kinds of ghost and goblins show up. We were able to get wonderful sponsors to donate prizes that the children received for different categories of best costume. The contest was held at the public library. Thank you to Lisa Burbridge, Librarian and Andrea Faz, library clerk for your hard work in helping make this a success.

Mayor Leal requested that I put together a luncheon/meeting for the city managers and mayors of the surrounding towns to come together, discuss issues, remedies, and even mutual similarities. This was accomplished and held November 20th. The luncheon was informative and positive with knowledge of resources that each city has available. The plans are currently in the works for a second luncheon to be held at the City of Pleasanton in February.

We ran a jacket/blanket drive from November 23rd-December 20th. It was called Share the Warmth. Our community came together and donated blankets, jackets, gloves and hats to help those who needed them. Thank you, Poteet!

Our Aggie football boys did amazing this year. To show our support and pride we contacted the school and local businesses and had a sendoff for the team. The high school band, cheerleaders and dance team all staged by the city hall to await the bus going by. Throughout town people stood and showed their support. Chief Hickman and his officers were great to go around town getting the local businesses on board. Thank you.

VR Outfitters comes to town! A new business opened on November 15th. The new business located at the corner of Hwy 16 and Amphion road is a deer processing/taxidermy business. Brad and Nate we are glad to have you. Welcome!

December was exciting. On December 6th we had a town Christmas tree lighting. The elementary students from Kinder to 5th in Morgan Borja's class made Christmas ornaments that went on our beautiful tree. The high school band, junior band choir along with Silver Dancers dance team all participated. Project grad set up a table and sold bake good for a fundraiser. The Culinary group sold hot chocolate for a fundraiser and the library had free popcorn. It was a perfect night with our community all gathered as the Mayor gave the countdown and our town Christmas tree lit up. Santa made his grand appearance and the children were able to take pictures with him. Santa Paws had been

Events Coordinator

Santa wasn't quite done. He had made some rounds around town passing out flyers and candy canes. But he wanted to stop at a special place before heading to the North Pole. So, he stopped at the Poteet Nursing Home to visit some of his friends. A huge thank you to Friends of the Library for all your work and help getting the event ready. Thank you to Poteet ISD for your involvement as well. A special thank you to our city guys who worked and hung lights, climbed ladders and helped make the night perfect. Thank you.

As December came to a new business hosted an open house for their new place. Little Sprouts Daycare is a new facility in town that will benefit many families. Welcome to Poteet!

2020 is already looking busy and full of fun. We have some activities in the planning stages now. Mark your calendar for March 14th. We are having a block party that day with a live band, bounce houses, and more! March 21st will be the towns Easter Egg hunt at the Canyon Park starting at 9:30am. Stay tuned for more information on both events.

We plan to host a couple of free movie nights this summer. There will also be some resource events coming up for our community. These events allow our citizens to see what resources are available to them should they need them.

We will host a food handlers' course soon as well. This course is needed for anyone who has bake sales, food sales, fundraisers etc. More information will be given once dates are decided.

My goal is to provide events for community. Some on a larger scale and some on smaller scale. Volunteers will always be needed. So, if you are interested in helping your community please contact me. I love meeting new people. Feel free to come by my office anytime to visit.

May your 2020 year be full of blessings. I look forward to planning more events and bringing out community together in doing so.

Shawnene Heather

Community Events Coordinator

AGGIES PLAYOFF BOUND!!



VR OUTFITTERS
GRAND OPENING





Election Information

2020 MAY ELECTIONS

For the next upcoming election in May of 2020, the City of Poteet will have 3 places up for re-election. City Council Places 1, 2, and 3 terms are set to expire in May 2020.

Polling place for Early Voting is held at the Poteet ISD Administration building located at 1100 School Dr Poteet TX 78065.

Polling Place for Election Day is held at the Poteet Jr. High Cafeteria located at 1000 FM 1470 Poteet TX 78065.

Filing Deadlines:

To file for a place on City Council you must:

- 1) Be a qualified registered voter of The City of Poteet
- 2) At the time of filing for office have attained the age of 18
- 3) Have been a resident of the City of Poteet for at least 1 year
Immediately preceding filing for office
- 4) Not (in anyway) be in debt to the City on any obligations past due,
provided however, that a person may be elected and hold office if such obligation
is being actively contested in the appropriate form.

First day to file for a place on the ballot is January 15, 2020 (Wednesday) and the deadline (last day) to file for a place on the ballot is February 14, 2020 (Friday).

Please click [here](#) to view posted "Notice of Filing Deadlines" in English and Spanish.

The City of Poteet currently holds a Joint Election with Poteet ISD. Poteets' General Election is in May of each year.

The City of Poteet citizens elect 5 City Council-Members and 1 Mayor. Each member will serve a two-year term, unless re-elected.

TERMS:

Mayor	2019-2021
Council Place 1	2018-2020
Council Place 2	2018-2020
Council Place 3	2018-2020
Council Place 4	2019-2021
Council Place 5	2019-2021

For more information please contact City Secretary Abigayle Frautschi at (830) 742-3574 Ex:102, email afrautschi@poteettexas.gov or come by City Hall, 491 Ave H Poteet, TX 78065.



Strawberry Festival
April 03 - 05, 2020

Carnival wristband night
will be Thursday,
April 2nd, 2020



Parade Information:

The Poteet Strawberry Festival Parade will be held on Saturday, April 04, 2020 and will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Parade Entry Information:

The link to the online application for Parade Participation is now open. Please consider participating in the Parade or referring others in your community to participate.

The link is: <https://strawberryfestival.com/forms-and-rules/#psf-parade>

The final deadline for entries in the parade will be March 20, 2020. Entries must be in by this date.

NOTE: Please be sure to read through all of the Parade Entry Rules (**they have changed**) at the beginning of the application before you agree to them, so that you will not be in violation of any parade rules.

For additional information regarding the Parade Entry please contact the Poteet Strawberry Festival Association at the below numbers.

(830) 742 - 8144 - Local

(830) 276 - 3323 - San Antonio Metro

(888) 742 - 8144 - Toll Free

Vendor Information:

We have made some changes as far as fees and requirements, please read through the Ordinance carefully and call (830) 742 - 3574 or come to City Hall at 491 Ave H, Poteet, TX 78065, for any further questions or information.

*****Mandatory Vendor Meeting*****

Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 6:00 PM at City Hall 491 Ave H, Poteet, TX 78065

All permits must be purchased by **Thursday April 02, 2020 at 4:30 PM** to avoid late fee of \$100.00

All **Food Booth** vendors will be required to submit copies of Temporary Food Establishment Permit and Food Handlers Certificate(s) for each employee handling food.

Please read through the Ordinance before filling out the forms and call City Hall @ (830) 742-3574 for any questions.

Fill out the Application in its entirety and bring to City Hall at 491 Ave. H, Poteet, TX 78065, accompanied with the attachments. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Forms of Payment Accepted

Credit card, Cashiers Check, Money Order, or Cash (no personal checks will be accepted)