

Volume 3, Issue 3

## A letter from the Mayor

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Everyone is aware of the COVID-19 pandemic impact. We are facing new challenges in how we need to adapt to how we work, how we socialize, basically how we live our day to day lives. I want to thank everyone for being responsible in following the appropriate measure in helping to prevent the spread of the virus. With the beautiful weather we are having, it makes us feel good, wanting to get together with family and friends. We cannot afford to be complacent. We cannot let our guard down. We have not yet reached the peak of the pandemic. The number of positive cases has risen. Now is the time to be even more vigilant in effort to curtail the effect in our community, mostly importantly the effect on our relatives.

I know it has been a very trying time for everyone, especially for those who have been out of work. With everyone’s continued diligence we will overcome this ordeal soon. Now is the time for all to pull together in doing whatever to help our neighbor, whether it is to run an errand so they don’t have to leave the house, cooking a meal for a family in need of assistance, calling someone who is living alone in need of someone to talk. These are but small things, but they mean a lot to the recipient.

We hope you are enjoying  
**“The Strawberry Jam”**  
 the City of Poteet’s official newsletter.

- 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.)

Until a vaccine is developed, this virus is going to be around for a long time, hopefully not as prevalent. Even though the Governor is slowly opening the state for the public and businesses, **EVERYONE NEEDS TO CONTINUE TO PRACTICE GOOD SAFE HEALTH PROCEDURES AND SOCIAL DISTANCING.** Everyone should insist business owners and their employees to also wear face covering. Everyone should insist that others follow social distancing out in public. It is up to each individual to be responsible for their actions and how to respond to the developments. Keep in mind, **YOUR ACTIONS** not only affects you but **EVERYONE** around you.

The city staff is eager to get back to some semblance of normalcy to provide our citizens access to the city office. The city staff and I are working on a plan to open the city office and possibly the library. However, until this pandemic's threat to our society is minimized, there will be some guidelines, restrictions and procedures set in place in order to provide a safe environment for our citizens and employees. Along with the guidelines and procedures, there will be some modifications/remodeling done in the city hall office. As soon as we have all the details outlined, we will make them available to everyone. As for the city parks, because of the difficulty in the ability and lack of resources (manpower and supplies) in maintaining them sanitary for everyone to use the equipment safely, for now, the parks will remain closed. We have made some progress in our city and we have some more to go. We have managed to keep all the city services in operation through the pandemic crisis. This was only possible because of the dedication of **ALL** our city employees, who despite the constant threat of possible exposure to the virus to themselves and their family members, continued to perform their duties without. Let us not forget our Poteet Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD). The PVFD response to calls for help without hesitation. We have a lot of great people working for and in our city.

## City Mayor (cont.)

We are facing a very challenging time in our lives, If dealing with the CV-19 pandemic was not enough, now there is another nationwide crisis. An event happened in Minneapolis, MN resulting in the tragic death of George Floyd by a police officer. What happened to Floyd was wrong on so many levels. Numerous protests across the country were organized in effort to convey their view of the injustice towards the minority population in our country. The criminal justice system will address all those for their actions and or lack of resulting in Floyd's death. I believe and support everyone's right to PEACEFULLY demonstrate to express their views and beliefs. Unfortunately, some people have taken advantage of the peaceful demonstrations to commit violent acts against innocent people, looting businesses and destroying private and public property. I DO NOT believe rioters and looters have any right to destroy property, steal and attack innocent people because of what happened to Floyd or because they believe in the Black Lives Matter. Their mob actions are reprehensible, unjustified, self-servicing and illegal. These individuals are criminals and should be prosecuted. Now is a time we should all peacefully come together to seek positive change in ourselves and our society.

Adaptability and constant innovation is key to survival. I ask everyone to please continue to use safe practices in effort to prevent the potential spread of the virus and to help everyone stay healthy. Everyone should work on being a part of the effort to help prevent the potential spread of the CV-19 and not being a part of potentially spreading the CV-19.

Thank you,

*Willie Leal, Jr.*  
Mayor  
City of Poteet

## City Administrator's Corner

### Greetings Poteet,

I hope all of you are doing well during this pandemic. I guess none of us will really get use to all these changes and recommendations that are being made in regard to COVID-19. As adults we are capable of thinking and making decision for ourselves and as for young people, they look towards us adults for guidance and assistance. Though there are many opinions about facial coverings and social distancing, there is no "right" answer. As a city government will are charged with the welfare and safety of the community. Decisions are made on the best interest of the community as a whole and not for a collect few. COVID-19 has made its way into Atascosa County and to our small city. As a government entity we try to ensure we take all the appropriate steps to safeguard our employees and the community. Most city facilities have been closed to the public and recently an emergency declaration was executed by the Mayor. This was done to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and to put some safeguards into place that act as a barrier to slow the spread. Right, wrong, or indifferent this decision was made with confidence and with the desire to keep our community safe. All of us need to take the appropriate measures to safeguard our family, neighbors, and community.



**Eric A. Jiminez**

I asked that you continue to show your support to one another and to do your part in slowing the spread of COVID-19. I encourage you to get tested, not because you may be infected but for a peace of mind for you and your family. Coming out with a POSTIVE TEST is not taboo. It is life and unfortunately, many of folks will get the virus. Just because one maybe becomes infected, does not mean they did not take the necessary precautions to prevent contamination. The virus will show up unannounced and when you least expect it. All we can do is practice safe measures, wash our hands, and keep our social distancing.

Recently, a City of Poteet employee tested positive for COVID-19. This employee remains at home and in quarantine. The work area was cleaned, and the employee's workspace had been unoccupied beyond the recommend 24 hour waiting period. The City of Poteet follows all recommendations and guidelines put forth by the CDC.gov and will continue to do so.

I ask that each of you continue to do your part during this crisis and we (the City) will continue to do what is in the best interest for our community.

Eric A. Jiminez

**GREAT LEADERS DON'T  
SET OUT TO BE A  
LEADER...THEY SET OUT  
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.  
ITS NEVER ABOUT THE  
ROLE-ALWAYS ABOUT  
THE GOAL.**

# Public Works



# POTEET PUBLIC WORKS

Ruben Quintana  
Public Works Director



Hello again everyone, what a time it has been for all of us. This current pandemic has proved to be very challenging. We are constantly adapting our ways of operating and working to the ever-changing conditions of day to day life at this time. Our top priorities here in the Public Works Department are to continue to provide good clean services that will meet all our citizen's needs and maintain a safe environment for both our employees and citizens alike. Again, we ask for patience and understanding during this difficult time.

Thank you  
Director of Public Works



# Community Compliance



**John Seda**  
Community Compliance Officer



Hello again Poteet!

I would like to take a moment and wish you well. We are experiencing some extremely tough times and I pray everyone stay healthy and safe.

While on the topic, I ensure everyone that my office is taking your health and safety into deep consideration and that any interactions are done so considering your well-being throughout the entire process. Measures I am taking to ensure this are:

Mask and sanitary measures with each individual interaction (whether it be a letter or in-person contact)

Adherence of the most strict social distancing guidelines

Availability for the citizens via phone, email, or other technological means

If you need to speak to me, I am no longer taking appointments or walk-ins at my office due to the proximity and space of my work area. Please make sure to call our office to speak to me or schedule a call back. If I am not in my office to speak with you at the time, please leave a detailed message and I promise to get back to you as soon as possible.

Summer is officially here and we are now in the hottest months of the year. Our properties are as green and as luscious as ever which obligates us to some of the most labor intensive upkeep during these extremely hot times. Please remember to stay hydrated and pace your work out reasonably. I like attacking the yard over the course of a weekend. I'll take care of the front yard in the cool hours of the morning on Saturday and then repeating the same for Sunday in the backyard.

Considering the current pandemic, I am taking advantage of viewing church services online. It's not ideal, but it is contributing to keeping myself and my family safe during this difficult time. Staying home might motivate us to do some long overdue cleaning. If you plan on discarding some bulky items or several bags of trash, please do so properly. Indoor furniture or several bags left at the curb line violates our Nuisance Junk ordinance and attract bugs and pests. If you need a special pickup for numerous items, please coordinate with our City Hall staff to place a special work order with Republic. They can provide you options to help with your waste/junk items.

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

Poteet Police Department

# Library

## Poteet Public Library

Although you're not able to enter the library to browse for books we do offer Curbside services for that. Browse our inventory and give us a call. Give us your card number and we'll check them out for you.

FREE PUBLIC WIFI is available outside the library-Sign as a guest of the library.

Mayor Leal read via Facebook live "We are going on a bear hunt" this month.

"Imagine Your Story" is this year's Summer Reading .

### POTEET PUBLIC LIBRARY



*Did You Know That Your Local Library Has An Online Catalog*

[Poteet.biblionix.com/catalog](http://Poteet.biblionix.com/catalog)

Create an account with your library card number and a password.

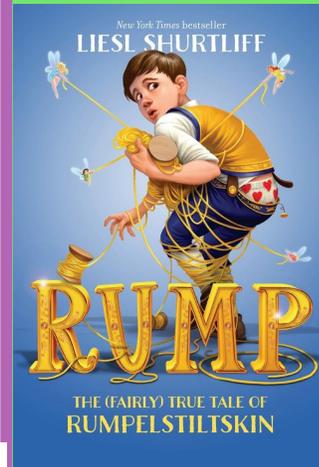
Have access to search thru all the inventory your local library has.

You can renew your books online.

You can reserve a book (3 day hold).

You can check surrounding libraries inventory.

Keep calm and read a good book!



Books can be picked up here at the library with a handout.

Follow the handout on how to read the book daily.

Poteet Public Library  
Storytelling Performance with Sue Kuentz



FREE BOOKS!!



Lisa Burbridge  
Library Director



Andrea Faz  
Library Clerk

Look on the Library Facebook page for upcoming events.

## Police Department



**Chief**

**Bruce Hickman**

Greetings Fellow Strawberry Pickers,

Summer is upon us, and unfortunately COVID-19 is still continually active. I know that it is frustrating, that instead of gathering outdoors doing activities we would normally do, we still find ourselves having to spend a lot of time at home and away from friends and family, but please understand that it is VERY necessary. Please use a mask when you are out and about doing your necessity runs. If you do not have to go out, please stay home and stay safe. Let us all continue to do our part to help stop the spread of this virus. If you must go out remember to keep your distance, wash, and sanitize your hands regularly, wear a mask and do not touch your face, don't touch other peoples faces. Not event those cute babies that are hard to resist touching.

We are waiting to see all the coloring contest sheets. We have 6 bikes to give out two winners in each of the 3 age groups. We would like to thank all of you that have helped us with the prizes and gifts. We will be announcing the winners on July 1<sup>st</sup> at noon. We will soon be announcing another bike contest soon. This one will be an essay contest for the 12-15-year old's. Check in on our PD and city Facebook pages for updates.

Along with summer, comes our legendary hot weather. With that said please remember to stay hydrated, wear light colored clothing. Check in on our at-risk community members regularly. Remember that it is **NEVER** safe to leave a toddler, disabled person or pet, locked in a car, even in the winter. On another note, if you have a toddler in your household, lock your cars, even in your own driveway. Kids play in cars and can get locked in. Cars can heat up quickly when left in the sun.

## Police Department-Continued

Please Visit [www.weather.gov/safety/heat](http://www.weather.gov/safety/heat) for more information.

- “Look before you lock” What can you place in the backseat that you need to get before you leave your car to ensure you double check the backseat where the car /booster seats are
- Pay attention to other cars in the parking lot as you are walking into and from the business.

Our mission is to continue moving forward in a positive direction; in order to assist the citizens of our community and improve our quality of life. With that said I would like to remind you about our daytime curfew for those under 18. Please refer to our city website or Facebook pages for more details.

Until next time, be safe, stay sanitized and enjoy our South Texas spring.  
Chief Hickman



## Building Official



Building Official

Bill Lay



## Building Inspections

I hope this newsletter finds you well during this trying time. The Building Department has been working and taking this time to grow exponentially. We have new software that is currently being implemented that will hopefully make the permit process easy for our citizens. Our goal is to eventually go paperless but we will have paper applications always available if we fully reach that goal. If there is some reason you are not able to come to city hall, I am always happy to go to you here in the city. We are having tremendous growth with residential projects. People are building, remodeling, or bringing in new homes. If there is anything I can do for you, please reach out to my office and I will do my upmost best to assist you.

Thank you.

Bill Lay/Animal Control

# Animal Control



**Bill Lay**  
**Animal Control Officer**

Hello Poteet. Animal Control as not been out as much during this pandemic and it is showing. The stray dog population as increased and I am aware that it is becoming a great problem again. I have been out in force the last several weeks working diligently to bring the stray population down. Several animals these last few weeks I had brought to the shelter had homes ,but some how escaped. If the animals were registered or if they are registered had their tag on, I could have been able to return your fur baby home. I personally believe that capturing a pet and taking to the shelter Causes them undue stress, so please register your pets or put their tag on them please.

Bill Lay

## Community Events Coordinator

Shawnene Heather  
Community Events Coordinator



2020 is proven to be more challenging than I believe anyone anticipated. Our plans to have several events over the spring and summer quickly changed. We are still moving forward and hope to be able to start planning for the fall.

Meanwhile, as we wait for our life's to resume somewhat normalcy, we work to keep our community informed on the latest news of covid-19 and resources that are available.

Daily, we are posting any updates on Covid-19. Rather it's the most current test sites to the update on numbers of cases for the county.

Our priority has and will continue to be the safety of our citizens. A big part of my job at this time is making sure everyone has the information that they need to keep your families safe. Keeping up with any new reports from Texas Department of Human Services and CDC is a daily part of my routine. We also stay in touch with the Atascosa Emergency Management office to ensure we are receiving the most current number of cases for the county daily.

While, this isn't the ideal way to spend summer, we hope you are practicing social distancing, taking any down time you may have to spend with your family. Pick up a book, binge watch your favorite tv series, plant a garden or simply catch up on much needed rest. Most importantly, stay safe.

You can keep up with the current events of the City of Poteet by checking out our city website at [www.poteettx.gov](http://www.poteettx.gov) and our Facebook page.

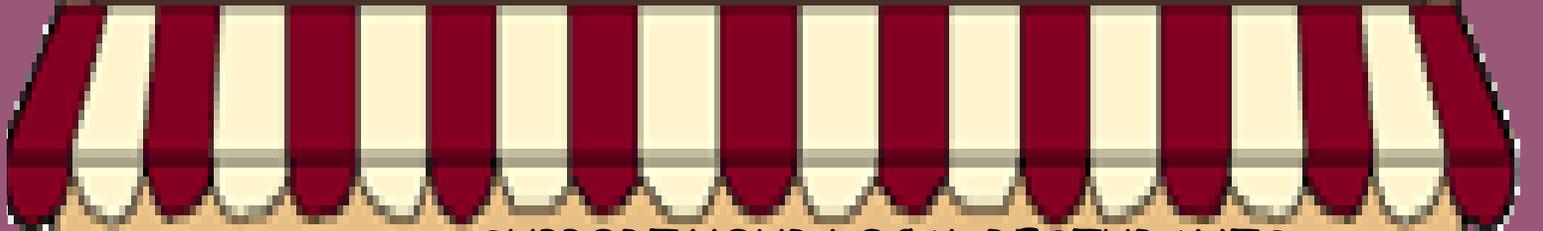
Stay safe, stay positive,

Shawnene Heather

# Support your local eateries



# RESTAURANT



## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL RESTURANTS

Backyard Kitchen

973 Ave H

Aggies Café

808 4th St

Ogden's Barbacoa

8634 N HWY 16

Donut Expresso and  
Coffee

9580 HWY 16

Irma's Tacos

343 4th St

La Mesa Restaurant

8465 N HWY 16

Don Juan Restaurant

9300 HWY 16

El Rey de Aguascalientes

8385 N HWY 16

Heads & Heels Beverage  
Barn

24 School Dr.

Del Rio Tortilla Factory

175 4th St



The top of the page features a graphic with the words "EARLY VOTING" in large, bold, white capital letters. A red checkmark is positioned to the right of the word "VOTING". Below the text is a 3D-rendered button with a red and white starburst pattern and the word "VOTE" in blue capital letters. The background of the graphic is a dark blue field with white stars and the word "VOTE" repeated in a lighter blue, semi-transparent font.

# EARLY VOTING

Early Voting for the Primary Runoff Election is Monday, June 29-July 2 and July 6-10 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended hours on July 7 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can vote early at the following locations:

Annex II Bldg. in Jourdanton

Poteet EMS Bldg. Precinct 1 Constable

#2 Bldg. in Lytle, Precinct 1 Constable

#4 Bldg. in Pleasanton

The Primary Runoff Election is set for Tuesday, July 14 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the following

Location: Pleasanton Civic Center

# **Strawberry Festival Rescheduled!!**

**Oct. 30th-Nov. 1st, 2020**



# City of Poteet Public Notice

## City Hall Staff:

City staff will continue to work and can address questions or concerns via phone calls or emails. The main number is: 830-742-3574.

## Library Staff:

Library staff will offer curbside service to check in / out books. The Library is now open to the public for copies, faxing and use of limited public computers. An appointment will need to be made for use of computers. Call the library for more questions regarding this service. The main number is: 830-742-8917.

## Emergency Personnel:

If you have an emergency dial **911**.

**Police.** The Poteet Police Department will continue their normal duties and operations in the field. Access to the police department will be limited by nature due to the size of the entrance. For general questions call: 830-742-8123.

To file a police report, please call the Atascosa Sheriff's Department at: 830-769-3434 press #1 for dispatch.

## OURT DATES RESCHEDULED:

Due to the COVID-19 Crisis Court Dates have been rescheduled to July, 2020. Poteet Municipal Court will resume operations with restrictions that will be posted at a later date. Please call the Court Clerk to found out your rescheduled date at (830) 742-3564.

## Permits:

Homeowners and contractors needing to apply or obtain a permit application must submit the application and a digital copy of the plans via email to [blay@poteetexas.gov](mailto:blay@poteetexas.gov) . General questions can be asked via email or by phone as well. Credit card payments for permits and re-inspection fees may be paid over the phone. If you have questions, please contact the Building Official 830-742-3574 ext. 110.

## Meetings:

City Council meetings will continue as needed.

Other meetings will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Utilities:

**\*Penalties will start July 16th and Disconnections will be July 27th \***

Trash. Republic Services is maintaining their standard operations

In accordance with Order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16th, 2020, the governor has suspended various provisions of the Open Meetings Act pursuant to his state disaster authority, and the attorney general's office has issued guidance on the suspension. Tex. Gov't Code § 418.016(e). The changes are effective March 16, 2020, until further notice or until the state disaster declaration expires.

City of Poteet official meetings will be conducted via live video stream or phone until further notice.

Information on how to access the meetings by livestream or phone will be posted on the appropriate agenda.

If you would like to have your concerns voiced, there is a 3-minute limit for all public to speak to the Council at the beginning of each Scheduled Meeting. You **MUST** fill out a Speaker Card and submit it to the City Secretary PRIOR to the start of the meeting and you can do so via email to [afrautschi@poteettexas.gov](mailto:afrautschi@poteettexas.gov) or by fax 830-742-8747.

If you have an item that you would like placed on the next Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting please submit this form, to the City Secretary no later than 5:00 P.M. the Tuesday before the scheduled meeting via email to [afrautschi@poteettexas.gov](mailto:afrautschi@poteettexas.gov) or by fax 830-742-8747. When submitting an agenda item request form, please be as detailed as possible as to what it is you are searching for in the Mayor and Council, and please specify whether and action needs to be taken. All citizen agenda's must be approved by the Mayor before a citizen's agenda will be allowed to be placed on the council's agenda.

City of Poteet customer utility bill payments should be made using the outside drop box outside City Hall, online, or automatic draft. Customers can also call City Hall and make payments over the phone at 830-742-3574 ext. 105 or ext. 106. Payments online can be made at: <https://poteettx.merchantransact.com/>.

Customers that chose to take advantage of these options; the City of Poteet will be waiving ALL convenience fees associated with paying online or by phone.

In an effort to ensure our residents have water, the City of Poteet has temporarily suspended account disconnections in recognition of the COVID-19 issues, however, please understand that all penalties will still continue to accrue on customer accounts not paid on time.

\*Information regarding City operations, meetings, and closures are subject to change. Changes will be updated on the City's website [www.poteettx.org](http://www.poteettx.org) and social media as needed. You can follow the City on Facebook.