

Volume 4 , Issue 1

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We hope you are enjoying  
**"The Strawberry Jam"**

**Elected Officials**

**Willie Leal Jr., Mayor**

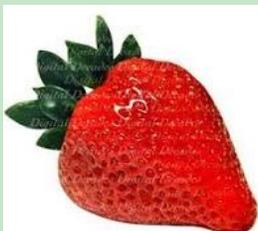
**Nick Sanchez, Council Member**

**Jesse Leal, Council Member**

**Rick Castillon, Council Member**

**Denise Sanchez, Council Member**

**Rick Flores, Council Member**



**A letter from the Mayor**



**Mayor Willie Leal**

There has been a lot of activity in the past few months in our community. The City Council approved a request for annexation of 183 acres of land located between Strawberry City Road and School Drive on the east side of FM 1470. It is located directly across from the Poteet ISD school complex. This is for the new subdivision Strawberry Fields of 361 homesites. The City Council is ensuring the developers and the city are compliant with the legal procedures set in our city's ordinances to protect everyone's interest. Poteet's freshwater and wastewater infrastructure will be able to support the future growth of the subdivision. The subdivision will be developed in phases over 4 years allowing for pre planning to augment any infrastructure as needed. The developers hired a marketing firm to conduct an analysis on the potential sale of the properties. The results of the analysis provided positive data, which encouraged the developers to move forward in the investment. The sale of the homes in the new subdivision will generate considerable revenue for the city. The potential growth in businesses will also provide increased revenue in sales tax for the city. The increased revenue will benefit the entire community. I met with Poteet ISD Superintendent Camarillo to discuss the potential growth of the student enrollment at the school. Mr. Camarillo informed me the school had the capacity to support the potential future growth in students and could adapt over time as the subdivision grew.

**City Mayor (cont.)**

The Coronavirus -19 (CV-19) pandemic is still among us. CV-19 has impacted everyone, in one way or another; physically, emotionally, and financially. It is especially hard to be thankful when someone has lost a loved one this year. Let us not surrender our lives to the fear of the pandemic. We just need to learn how to adapt to the situation to help protect ourselves and all those around us. The distribution of vaccines has started; however, availability is limited. We need to be patient a little longer. As more vaccines are produced, availability will increase. CV-19 will soon be behind us. It is only a matter of time until the vaccine will be readily available for everyone. Hopefully, once everyone takes advantage of the vaccine, the state of emergency will be terminated. Only then will we be able to resume our way of life as it was. The effect of the pandemic has taught me to be more aware and appreciative of God's blessings.

As my first term of being Mayor, I never expected to guide our community through a national, state, county, and city Declared State of Emergency. During the State of Emergency, the City Administrator and I kept the city councilmembers abreast of the issues and developments of the CV-19 pandemic as they emerged. My duty and responsibility, as Mayor, are to provide the councilmembers with recommendations for courses of actions. In doing so, the council members were able to do their duty and acted on measures to protect our community during the state of emergency.

All our city employees have adopted innovative methods of conducting day to day business. All in effort to better serve our community. We have made some structural modifications to the lobby area at the city hall office and procedural modifications as well to increase customer safety. There are more changes to the city hall building coming soon. All the expenses for the structural modifications are being paid with the federal government CARES funds. NO COST to the city.

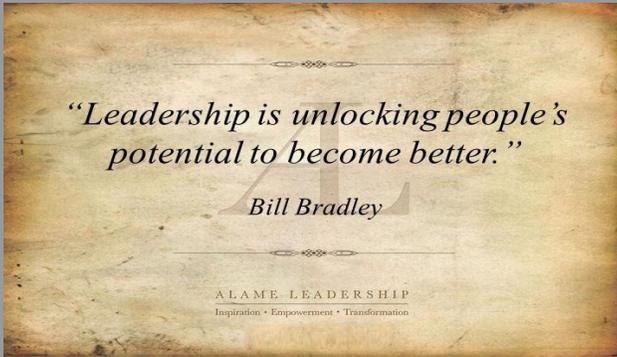
City Mayor (cont.)

As Mayor for our city, my only agenda is to improve the quality of life for the residence of our city in any way I can. Our city's positive image has drawn the attention of many people and business investors who are now interested in coming to Poteet. My goal is to safeguard the small-town friendly atmosphere while at the same time meeting the needs for our growing community. In the last 20 months, there have been several significant developments in our community, and more are scheduled to be implemented soon. I will keep you informed as things develop. I will continue to devote my energy towards enhancing the quality of life in our community.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Willie Leal



## City Administrator



**Eric A. Jiminez**  
**City Administrator**

Hello Poteet,

Well, it is that time again where the City of Poteet is looking for candidates for the upcoming elections. Whether you want to run yourself, support another or support the current Mayor and Council members, I encourage you to get out there and express your concerns to your favorite candidate. From my current perspective and experience, we currently have a great Mayor and City Council who have all been instrumental in 2020 in making some tuff decisions and voting to approve some much-needed maintenance contracts, sewer projects, water rate increases, annexing land and approving a new subdivision. These folks have the foresight to see the progress that has been made and the progress that will be made in the near future. I want to personally thank each of them for efforts, determination and commitment to City Staff and the community.

2020 was a heck of a year for all of us here in Poteet. COVID-19 has affected us all. However, even with this pandemic we have continued to provide city services to our residents and community. With all of the rules and policy changes in from the Governor's Office, City employees have been able to continue to work and accomplish every day task that keeps this city working well.

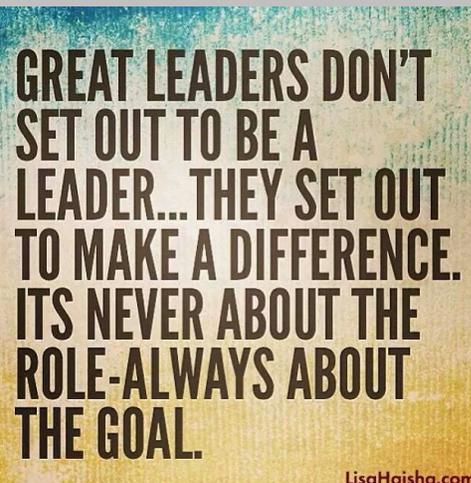
## City Administrator

In the three (3) years that I have been your City Administrator, I have seen many much-needed changes to the community and just here within our own city government. Infrastructure has improved tremendously, improvement on water and sewer lines have been accomplished. Restructuring city staff, job titles and job descriptions has allowed for a more efficient workforce.

Additionally, we have created more community events throughout the year and relations with citizens, business leaders and non-profit organizations. City employees strive to continually build these relationships daily. We have implemented training for all city employees regarding workplace harassment, cyber security and Ethic & Compliance training. We strive to become better in our personal growth and to learn as leaders in the community.

As we move into 2021, I believe we will continue to see great things in our community. The new Strawberry Fields Subdivision will begin construction in the next couple of months and new families will be joining our bedroom community. We have had investors call and inquire about property and city ordinances because they want to purchase property here in Potteet. I know its hard to see progress but believe me, I have seen it in the short time I have been City Administrator. I hope all of us as a community can continue to do great things.

God Bless



## Public Works



# POTEET PUBLIC WORKS

Ruben Quintana  
Public Works Director

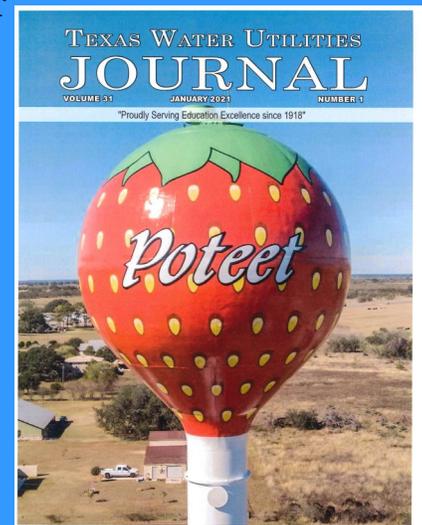


2021 is finally here! Public Works Department has been busy with various projects in the city. Our waterline project is well underway. We can say unofficially, we are at the half mark from completion. Our storage tanks have undergone needed maintenance as well. Currently there is work being done on a few of our storage tanks. Primarily they are doing metal work to the existing structures. Public Works is focusing on training and upgrading our utility system as well.

As many are aware the Strawberry Water Tower recently underwent some much needed work internally as well as externally. This was no easy undertaking and it took much planning and negotiating on all our parts to make it happen. We are very pleased with the overall project and the end results. It was quite an accomplishment in such a short period of time. We even made the Texas Water Utilities Journal for January 2021.

As always, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Ruben



## Building Official/Animal Control Officer



**Building Official/**  
**ACO**  
**Bill Lay**

Welcome back from the holidays. At this time the final plat for Strawberry Fields Subdivision has been approved! Currently this department is awaiting the construction drawings which should be here at the first of February. The developer wants to start building mid-February so be on the look out for all the new houses being built. Hopefully in the next newsletter I will have some pictures of the new houses as they are being built.

The city has the started the process of switching Code Enforcement from a law enforcement position over to a non-law enforcement position. I have been selected to take and include code enforcement into my current duties. I have been to class for Basic Code Enforcement Officer which I passed successfully. At the end of January, I will take the state licensing exam and become licensed. My goal with this new added duty is to continue to work with our great citizens to help spruce up our great little town. If you have ideas or need guidance in being a part of sprucing up our town give my office a call. I would to love to talk to you.

To make clear on everything, on January 9<sup>th</sup> a joint investigation was started on BR Outfitters. On the health inspection side of this investigation several major health issues were discovered. This led to the public service announcement released by the city. No other information can be given at this time.

## Animal Control



ADOPT



ADOPT



ADOPT



ADOPT



Hello everyone and Welcome to 2021! Hopefully this year will be a great year for all of us.



I know as we start the new year, Poteet has seen a rise in dogs running the streets. January has been a busy month working to capture these dogs. I beg you if these are your fur babies please keep them secured on your property. The city ordinance requires that all animals be secured at all times and registered with the city. If the animal is not registered with the city or is registered but does not have the city tag on the collar Animal control does not have a way to get in touch with you to return your pet. Animal Control is working to find donors to raise funds to buy a new chip scanner. The chip scanner the city does have quit working and due to price has not been able to replace it. This requires us to deliver the animal to the Atascosa Animal Shelter to scan for microchips.



I am looking to bring to Poteet a low-cost vaccination and spay or neuter mobile clinic sometime this year. I have heard many people say that this is something they would like to see come to Poteet. I will be working with Shawnee this year to see if we can find a way to bring in a mobile groomer and include this service with an animal pageant sometime this year. If anybody wants to sponsor or donate to Animal Control please reach out to my office or to Shawnee.



Thank you to everyone for your continued support for the City of Poteet Animal Control. Happy New Year.

# Library

## 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.

**Lisa Burbridge  
Library Director**



**Due to Covid-19, things have been rather slow at the library. All programs have been postponed until we can gather again safely. We are open for Book check-out, Computer use, fax, and copies.**

**The Library has two new AWE Learning Stations. One - After School Edge Platinum and One - Bilingual Spanish Literacy Station.**

**Bilingual Spanish Station is perfect for ELL to help their English language fluency.**

**Both computers are pre-programmed so you can learn at your own pace.**

**Brown Hearing will be at the library on March 4, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Please call Brown Hearing to schedule an appointment.**

## Police Department

Chief  
Bruce Highman



Greetings Citizens of the Strawberry Capital of Texas,

Happy Winter. We hope you all enjoyed the holiday season. A Merry Belated Christmas and Happy New year to you all.

We have exciting news to share. We have moved!!! The Poteet Police Department has relocated to **274 S. 4th street** . (The Former Appraisal district building). You may have noticed units parked out there from time to time. The Department Staff did most of the work. Texture and painted walls, new flooring, we replaced bad ceiling tiles had new data cables, and some fence work. We are looking forward to serving you from are new home.

### **POTEET POLICE DEPARTMENT'S NEW HOME.**



## Police Department-Continued

The Poteet Police Association did hold a variant of Blue Santa Program. With the assistance of the Poteet Strawberry Festival, we conducted a drive through Blue Santa. We were able to provide gifts to over 100 kiddos.



Please visit [www.poteettx.org/2170/Ordinances](http://www.poteettx.org/2170/Ordinances) to review ordinances that you have questions or concerns. 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 Bruce Hickman, Poteet Police Chief

## Community Events Coordinator



Shawnene Heather  
Community Events Coordinator

**HAPPY NEW YEARS EVERYONE!**

Well, we made it through 2020. Now moving forward to 2021, we have high hopes for some normalcy to be back in our daily routines. We have been busy planning out some events for this year.

But first, let's talk about what was accomplished in 2021 despite the pandemic. We held our second town Christmas tree lighting in December. We were fortunate enough to find a much larger Christmas tree, which was beautiful. The food trucks and vendors were added feature. Santa and the Grinch were there as well. Mr. Grinch was a big hit in Poteet and brought many smiles to children and adults alike. Thank you Mr. Grinch for lifting our towns spirits during such a difficult time.

Moving forward to 2021, we have several events to look forward to. In February the week of the 9th-15th is Random Acts of Kindness week. We are challenging our town to pay it forward in random acts of kindness throughout town.

March will be a busy month. On the 13th, the town will hold our town Community Block Party. Live music, food trucks, and game for adults and children alike.

With high hopes and positive thinking the Poteet Strawberry Festival will happen the second weekend of April.

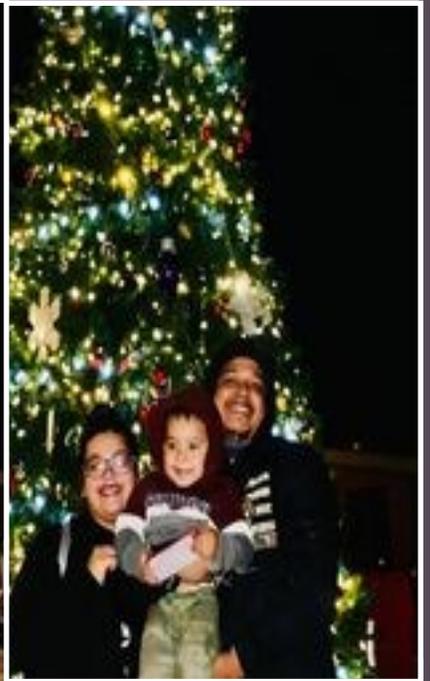
We working on a new idea for the a fun event. A jam session. We want to bring our local musicians out. An afternoon of music and food. Time and date will be announced soon.

Stayed up to date with what's happening in Poteet on our city Facebook page and city website.

Till next time.

Shawnene Heather

# Christmas 2020!



WE'RE BACK!

POTEET™



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Tatum

**STRAWBERRY**  
FESTIVAL

**APRIL 9,10,11 2021**

FOR INFO : 830.276-3323  
STRAWBERRYFESTIVAL.COM



WELCOME TO OUR UPCOMING NEW SUBDIVISION!!

# STRAWBERRY FIELDS SUBDIVISION

Developers Bobby & Renee Girling and Jay Parker

TIMD@POTEETGROWS.COM



MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
833 937-4769



# Election Information

IMPORTANT DATES FOR:

## **CITY COUNCIL ELECTION - MAY 01, 2021**

- Last day to Register to Vote - April 01, 2021
- Early Voting in person **STARTS** - Monday, April 19, 2021
- Early Voting in person **ENDS** - Tuesday, April 27, 2021
- **Election Day Voting - Saturday, May 01, 2021**

### Early Voting Hours:

#### Weekdays:

April 19 - April 27, 2021 - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

#### Extended Hours:

April 20 & 27, 2021 - 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

April 24, 2021 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

#### Election Day Hours:

May 01, 2021 - 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

**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	2020-2022
Council Place 2	2020-2022
Council Place 3	2020-2022
Council Place 4	2019-2021
Council Place 5	2019-2021

For more election information please contact Deputy City Secretary Camille Rodriguez at (830) 742-3574 Ex:105, email [cgrodriguez@poteettexas.gov](mailto:cgrodriguez@poteettexas.gov) or come by City Hall, 491 Ave H Poteet, TX 78065