

Volume 4 Issue 2

# A letter from the Mayor

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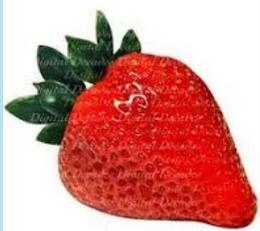


**Mayor Willie Leal**

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**



### Greetings:

Many interesting events have transpired this past quarter and there is more to come. We need to realize and accept, we can only manage how we respond to the things at our level. We need to be a part of the solution, not just complain about the problem. Part of the solution to stopping the Corona Virus-19, is to get vaccinated against the virus. I highly encourage everyone to get vaccinated to increase herd immunization. The larger and sooner the herd immunization is achieved, it will help reduce the exposure to contacting CV-19.

The City Council approved the Strawberry Fields final plat for phase one. Construction at the Strawberry Fields subdivision is underway. Earth moving equipment has started carving away to begin the street and utility construction phase. The construction of new homes should start very soon.

The Children’s Head start program opened its doors along with several new businesses in our community. We are always looking for more entrepreneurs to start a venture in our city. We have plenty of room for commercial growth.

## City Mayor (cont.)

We had a winter blizzard hit our area this year. The beauty of the snow was ruined by the below freezing temperature for approximately 102 hours straight and with the loss of electrical power for several consecutive days. Once the temperature warmed up, residents became aware of the aftermath of frozen water lines thawing out. Several residents with limited resources got together to help others make minor water leak repairs. Our whole community came together and pulled together to help in several different ways. Some of our local restaurants donated hundreds of hot meals, some of local churches opened their doors to provide a warm haven. Poteet First Baptist Church organized several teams to help residents make minor repairs to their water lines. A great example of "Poteet Aggie Family Spirit".



We had our second annual City Block Party. A lot of people came out to enjoy the evening listening to an awesome performance by the Ranch Road Band and took advantage of some great food vendors. One great thing about the party was it did not cost the city anything. We were fortunate to have wonderful sponsors who donated, which helped cover the expenses. We are working and planning on more community events that will occur throughout the year.

The Shalom Ministries, the Poteet Police Association along with the Poteet Grange hosted a "Meet the Candidate" forum for the candidates running for Poteet Mayor and Poteet City Council Place 4 and Place 5. All the candidates received an invitation to attend and given an opportunity to express why they are seeking election for their respective position. Unfortunately, not all of the candidates attended the event. Mayoral candidates Nicholas Sanchez and I were present and council candidates Jesse Leal and Melinda Orta were also present. The forum was recorded and later posted on Facebook. This was a good opportunity to get to know the candidates who were willing to speak in a public forum.

**City Mayor (cont.)**

The 2021 Poteet Strawberry Festival was a great success. Special thanks to the parade Grand Marshall, Stephanie Serna from San Antonio KSAT-12. Stephanie is a weekday anchor on Good Morning San Antonio, GMSA, at 9 a.m. There was a huge attendance at the festival grounds. Special recognition and thanks to some BIPs – BERRY IMPORTANT PEOPLE, the Strawberry Festival Association directors and staff who worked so hard to organize this event. A shoutout to all of the law enforcement officers who worked to ensure everyone's safety. I expect next year's 2022 festival to be a special and greater event. It will be the Poteet Strawberry Festival 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Many of PHS students have competed in a variety of events; athletic, band and scholastic. Several advanced to Area and State competitions. I encourage everyone to reach out and congratulate ALL these fine young gentlemen and ladies Aggies who are doing an outstanding job representing our school and our city. Our community could not be prouder of the efforts of all our students' performances both on and off the field. They are why we say "POTEET AGGIE PROUD

I am sure you have probably noticed that the drive-up window and the 24 hour kiosk are now operational. This will afford our citizens easier access to make their utility payments. I have been working on updating our city's operating methods to keep up with today's technology advancements. There will be more to come in the near future.

Remember to Keep Poteet Strong; Gig'em Aggies

The logo features the word "POTEET" in a large, bold, maroon, blocky font with a black outline. Below it, the word "Aggies" is written in a black, cursive script font.

## City Administrator



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



Hello Poteet,

The past several months have been very interesting and busy for us here at the city. With COVID-19 hitting everyone from the public sector to the private sector, city staff and I have been working diligently to assist and make access to City Hall more convenient. The Federal Government passed the CARES Act and under this act, the Coronavirus Relief Act (CRF) is to be used to make payments for specified uses to states and local governments. The total CRF funding allocated to the state of Texas is approximately \$11 billion. The City of Poteet's portion of the CRF was \$191,510.00. The first twenty percent (20%) of \$38,302.00 was distributed to the city, so the money could be used for various Coronavirus prevention and safety efforts. The remainder of the money the city had to spend on additional Coronavirus prevention and safety efforts before the city could submit for reimbursement. This money helped with the new Drive Thru window for our residents. A kiosk was installed outside, so customers can make payments after hours and on weekends. The lobby inside City Hall had barriers installed for employee safety and an AC ventilation system was added to help circulate the air. Liquid hand sanitizer was purchased for city employees and Poteet ISD employees. A 45lb UniMac Pocket Hardmount Extractor washer along with automated soap pumping system was purchased for the Poteet Volunteer Fire Department, so its members could wash their gear after responding to COVID-19 related calls. Self-reporting equipment was also purchased for the Poteet Police Department, so residence could help in reporting incidents. These are just a few examples.

## City Administrator

As a city, we strived to take every precautionary measure for our employees and residents. This was a difficult task as \$191,510.00 is not easy to spend, especially when the purchases have to follow certain criteria.

While dealing with the COVID pandemic, in February of this year, a winter storm affected all of Texas. No city was exempt. This storm hit from North Texas all the way down to South Texas. Our little city experienced power outages and no water for several days. City staff worked diligently to try and correct these problems, but third-party contractors had to be called in for their expertise. After a week of winter wonderland, the city began to return to normal. During this winter storm, Poteet came together and worked together to help one another (#POTEETSTRONG). This is what a unified community does when adverse conditions affect us as a whole. Thanks to the Leadership from our Public Works Director Ruben Quintana our Public Works employees held their own during this winter storm.

We are still not out of the woods yet with COVID lurking amongst us. As we all try to return to a sense of normality, I recommend each of you take your own health into account and take whatever precautions you feel need to be taken. As a city, and a city leader, my staff and I will do our best to continue working during this pandemic to bring our community safe activities to participate in and city events that all can enjoy.

“Stay Poteet Strong”

God Bless,

Eric



# What's New!

Hello, Poteet!

I'd like to introduce myself—my name is **Kerry McCollough** and I was appointed by City Council in April as your new City Secretary. I'm honored to have been chosen and am enjoying learning as well as applying my experience in meeting your needs. I'm originally from Montana and have had the opportunity to live in a variety of places. As it happens, I've called Texas home for the longest. I went to high school in Oregon and was fortunate to gain a scholarship to Vassar College. After college, my work experience was in helping to expand and develop small business owners in picture framing. This took me from Washington to New Mexico. Moving from New Mexico to New Jersey introduced me to second career in public service, beginning with a Master's in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers and employment with various entities and duties focused on water quality, grant funding, organizational development, and regulatory reporting. I love variety as well as serving the public and look forward to meeting you.



**New Payment Kiosk and Drive Thru window for utility payments.**



## Public Works



# POTEET PUBLIC WORKS

Ruben Quintana  
Public Works Director



Hello again everyone, what a way to begin the year. Just when you think nothing can top 2020, BOOM!!!

SNOW, ICE, NO WATER, NO ELECTRICITY!!! NO BREAD!!! But we are still here. I am first of all, very proud of my staff and want to thank them for there hard work and dedication to our community during the winter storm that we experienced back in February. It was definitely a team effort, and a big thank you to the citizens that brought out hot chocolate and snacks. Very much appreciated.

Now for the USDA waterline project, progress continues to made. We still have a little less than half of the project left, so once again we ask for patience in this matter. I believe we have made great strides here in public works, and we will continue to strive for excellence because that is what our residents deserve.

We are here to serve our community, and that is exactly what we do.

Until next time,  
Ruben Quintana

## Building Official/Animal Control Officer



**Building Official/ACO**

**Bill Lay**



Hello Potteet!

We have made it through another fabulous festival. We had just over 25 vendors here in the City. Our great vendors that came out this year did an excellent job with the health, fire, and permit requirements. There is now visible progress out at Strawberry Fields Subdivision. The contractors have started site preparations for the construction of the homes. The manufactured home park that is being built is progressing along well. Infrastructure is being installed at this time, and then the home pads will be started. We have begun enforcing the City's new dangerous building ordinance. This has led to property owners working with this office to either demolish or repair the structures. We have had one house demolished, and several more have permits and will begin soon. Currently, with this ordinance, we are only targeting vacant structures, both commercial and residential.

This office has begun working with the Atascosa County Rural 911 Addressing office to update and correct the addressing here in Potteet. We expect this to take a while, but we will hopefully have this project complete by the end of the year. If we find that your address is not correct, we will send you a letter advising the proper address. "All address identification shall be legible and placed in a position that is visible from the street or road fronting the property." Address identification characters shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall not be spelled out. Each character shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 1/2 inch (12.7 mm)." This information comes from the 2021 International Fire Code, and we will start enforcing this. We have received information from utility services and emergency services that they cannot find an address or see the address on the house.

# Animal Control



## Summer Pet Safety Tips

Many of you are likely enjoying the long summer days outside with your pets. Although this can be a fun time of the year for our furry friends, it is important to remember that higher temps mean higher risks for pets. Experts at ASPCA recommend you follow these precautions:

- 1. WATER**  

 Pets can get dehydrated quickly, give them plenty of fresh, clean water when it's hot or humid outdoors.
- 2. HEAT STROKE**  

 Excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart rate and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse are all symptoms. Seek veterinary attention immediately!
- 3. HOT CARS**  

 Never leave your pets alone in a parked car.
- 4. POOLS**  

 Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool- not all dogs are good swimmers.
- 5. WINDOWS & DOORS**  

 Keep all unscreened windows or doors in your home closed, and make sure adjustable screens are tightly secured to avoid having your pet fall out of them.
- 6. FUR**  

 Never shave your dog. The layer's of dogs' coats protect them from overheating and sunburn. Brushing cats more often than usual can prevent problems caused by excessive heat.
- 7. HOT ASPHALT**  

 When temperature is very high, don't let your pet linger on hot asphalt. Being so close to the ground, your pet's body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during these times to a minimum.



Provided by Pasadena PD  
 Community Services  
 (626)744-4551

Hello Poteet!

We are starting to get into our warmer months, so let's remember that your pets outside will need some kind of shade and plenty of clean, fresh water. State law and city ordinance state that if you have your animal tied up outside, the tie-out length needs to be three times the length of the dog or ten feet, whichever is greater. If you have questions on this, please contact Animal Control, and we can answer your questions.

A friendly reminder that animals cannot be left in a vehicle. City ordinance states that an animal cannot be left in a vehicle for any length of time. Even if the windows are open, the temperature inside the vehicle can be twenty to forty degrees higher than the outside temperature. If we respond to a call for animals inside a vehicle, and the animals appear to be in distress, we will do an emergency seizure of the animals. The City will pursue charges for ordinance violation and possibly animal cruelty charges.

Animal Control is still working on a low-cost vaccination and spay or neuter mobile clinic to come to Poteet. Shawnene and I are still working on an animal pageant. We plan to sit down in May and start working on this. Animal Control is still seeking donations to buy a microchip scanner to use here in the city.

# CODE ENFORCEMENT

Hello Poteet!

Code Enforcement has now fully transitioned from the Police Department to City Hall. This is because the city went from police officers trained in code enforcement to an employee that is not a police officer, but a licensed code enforcement officer. This will free up our police officers to focus on other tasks.

My main focus for the first few months will be dangerous vacant buildings, tall grass, skirting on homes, and junk nuisances. If you have a code enforcement complaint, you can call my office and file a complaint or go to the city website to file the complaint. I am breaking the city up into small sections to focus more time on an area to work on taking care of any issues. I am doing this because I want to be more educational with people and spend time talking and educating people on the ordinances and what is required.

As a Code Enforcement Officer, I am not here to bring people to court, but rather educate and gain voluntary compliance with state law and city ordinances. If someone wants to schedule an appointment to come into the office and speak with me, please call and schedule. I would enjoy talking to you and help educate you on the state laws and city ordinances related to code enforcement.



# Library



**Lisa Burbridge  
Library Director**

## 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.

The library had a St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt from March 10th - March 17th, 2021. We had several participants. Once all 5 items were found, they were able to pick a prize from our Treasure Chest of goodies!

We are gearing up to have our Summer Reading Program from June 7th - June 30th. We will be posting more information at a later date.

Brown Hearing will be at the library on May 27th, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Call Brown Hearing to schedule an appointment.



# Poteet Police Department

**Chief  
Bruce Hickman**



Greetings Citizens of the Strawberry Capital of Texas,

Summer is here and hot weather is on its way. We hope you are looking forward to a great summer.

As we start to move forward with community events, we ask that you all be safe, stay cool and hydrated. Be mindful of your at risk family members and pets. Limit direct exposure to the sun and dress in light colors.

## Summer Worker Safety Tips

<b>Acclimate</b> 	<b>Drink</b> 	<b>Rest</b> 	<b>Wear</b> 	<b>Conduct</b> 
<b>Acclimate</b> to being in the heat by gradually increasing exposure to the environment	<b>Drink</b> water every 15 minutes	<b>Rest</b> in cool or shaded areas	<b>Wear</b> protective equipment and/or clothing (e.g., cooling vests, breathable materials, sunglasses with UV protection)	<b>Conduct</b> self-monitoring and look out for others

When in need of an officer or if you see something suspicious, please do not hesitate to call it in. You save time and help reduce response times by directly calling dispatch to make your reports. You can reach the Dispatcher at **(830) 769- 3434 then press 1.** Tell them who you are, where you are, and what you are reporting. This is the fastest way to get the correct agency to you in the shortest amount of time.

## Police Department-Continued



# NATIONAL POLICE WEEK



With all that is happening in our great nation, our Law Enforcement officers as a whole, have been categorized as “in need of reform”. I believe that there is always room to improve and update in *any* organization. But, no amount of change, improvement, training, or transparency matters without accountability, and not just for Officers, or “the system”, But for our society in general. A lack of accountability is what got us to this point and the act of accountability is what will fix it.

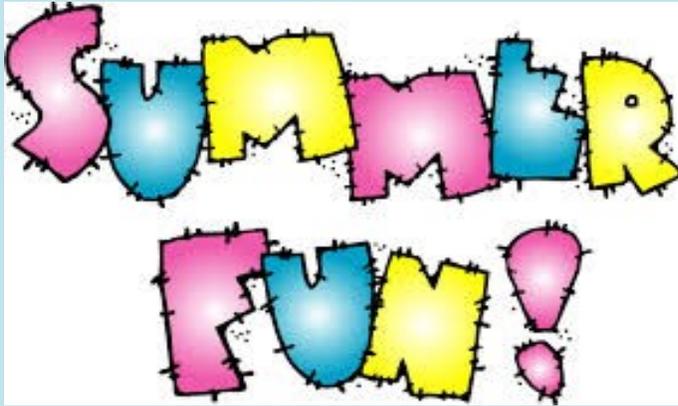
With all that said, let us take some time to acknowledge and thank the ones that show up even after being cursed at, hated, or wished dead. Even though they are made to feel unappreciated, they still must do the unimaginable, and see the unthinkable, to protect all including the ungrateful. 24/7



# POLICE WEEK

## 2021

## Community Events Coordinator



Shawnene Heather  
Community Events Coordinator

Happy Spring Everyone!

Poteet has certainly shown resilience through so much these last few months. Good thing is, we can see some normality coming back. Our community block party was held for the second year in March. We had a good turnout considering the governor had just lifted the mask order for the state. Our sponsors are the reason we were able to have this event. Thank you to each and everyone sponsor who helped make it a huge success.

As we move forward, we are so excited about this summer. June 11th, we kick off the summer celebrating schools ending and summer beginning. Water slides, bounce houses, free food and drink (while supplies last of course), resource tables and games will be on hand. The event will be at the Poteet Canyon Park from 4pm-8pm. So, be sure and mark your calendars for this FREE event.

Summer movie nights are coming up as well. June 26th and July 31st, we are hosting a FREE movie night for the families under the stars on the front lawn of the Poteet Public Library. There will be food and drink there. Of course you can always bring your own food as well.

Each month one of two food trucks will set up in front of the old Poteet Police Department the last Friday of the month. They will be available from 11am– that afternoon thru the evening. A fun way to try something new.

There will be a couple of family scavengers hunts coming up this summer as well. We will use social media and our Facebook page to provide you the information on the hunts. Families that win will receive a prize. This gives our families a great opportunity to get out of the house and spend quality time together while searching all over town for clues. Stay tuned for dates on the hunts.

A couple of other events that dates have not be determined are a Vendor/Mark Days for here in town. The other is a BBQ cook off. We will provide more information soon.

We have started the Beautiful You program again. Last year if you recall, we had collected prom dresses and shoes for prom goers. We have prom dresses and shoes this year as well. All sizes. You will need to call and set up time to come look at them. Our location has moved to the 182 S. 5th. (old police department) Below is the number to call.

The City of Poteet teamed up with the Poteet Volunteer Fire Department and Poteet Police Department for a community Easter Egg Hunt. The children had a wonderful time and several went home with prizes, which included new bicycles and scooter's.

The San Antonio Food Bank has been in town on different dates providing food where needed. Volunteers came out to help. Without volunteers these distributions would not be possible.

If you as a community member would like to volunteer your time to help with events please contact **Shawnene Heather at (830) 742-8917 Ext. 303.**



# Election Information

## ***Election Day Voting***

***Saturday, May 01, 2021***

***Poteet Junior High Cafeteria***

***7am-7pm***



The City of Poteet currently holds a Joint Election with Poteet ISD.

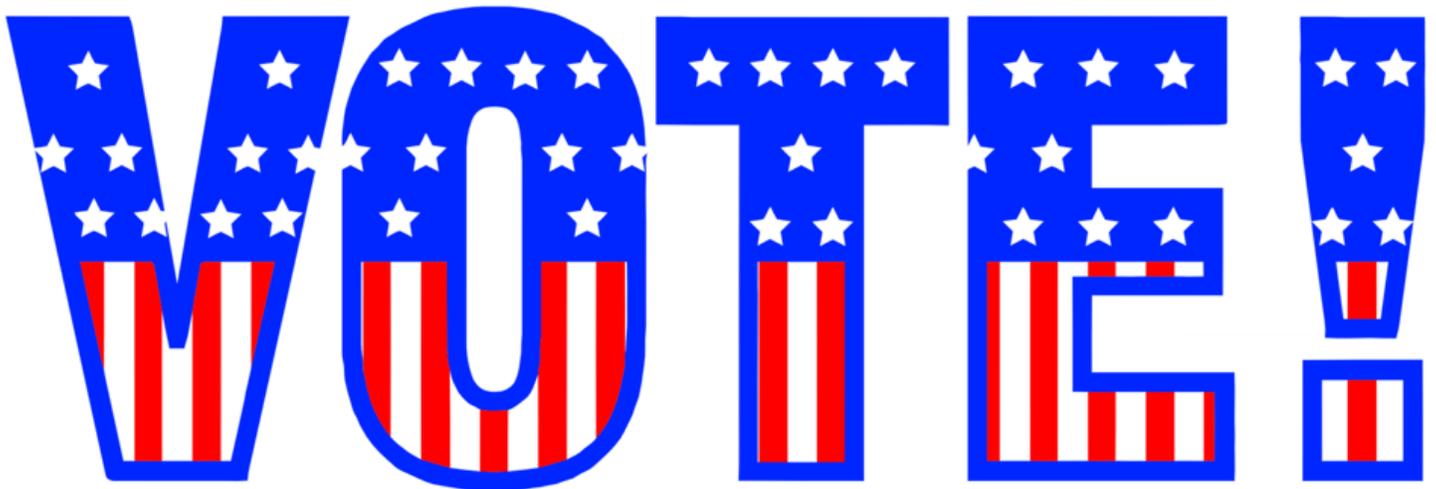
Poteet's' General Election is in May of each year.

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



# ATASCOSA COUNTY COWBOY CONNECT



## Connecting Communities

In partnership with Atascosa County and the cities of Jourdanton, Poteet, and Pleasanton, Alamo Regional Transit started a new transit system in Atascosa County on July 1, 2020. This route has since evolved and changes were made from comments of residents in the communities. Atascosa Cowboy Connect will bring together the 3 communities, servicing all residents at the affordable rates and reliable transportation ART is known for. Atascosa Cowboy Connect is a time point transit system that will follow a set route connecting the cities, but can also deviate up to a .5 mile to include those that may not be able to get to the route, for an additional cost. These 2 loops, one hour long each, will connect residents of Jourdanton and Poteet to Pleasanton from residences to places of employment, County offices, retail centers, and much more.

## Bus Schedule

The route from Jourdanton to Pleasanton departs the Jourdanton Housing authority every hour, going to destinations locally like Jourdanton High School, the County Courthouse, Jourdanton City Hall, and the Methodist South Hospital, continuing to destinations in Pleasanton like Wal-Mart, H-E-B, Pleasanton Housing, and various medical offices along the route.

The route from Poteet to Pleasanton departs the Poteet Housing Authority every hour, going to destinations locally like the Lowe's and Poteet Town Hall, continuing to destinations in Pleasanton like the Coastal Bend College, UPS store, H-E-B, Pleasanton Library, River Park, and various other stops along the way.

Transfers can be made at H-E-B from one route to another, for the same fee.



Pricing

**Atascosa Cowboy Connect**

\$1.00 regular fare

\$0.50 for students and seniors (60+)

For deviations, calls will need to be made to our Control Center at 1-866-889-7433, Monday-Friday, 7am-6pm or

e-mail [needaride@aacog.com](mailto:needaride@aacog.com).