



Riverside, Texas est. 1872

February 2023



Are you a Leapling?



Those born on a Leap Day are exceptionally unique, making up only 0.1% of the world's population while the rest of you in the February club look cool simply by association! Did you know February is named for the Latin word "februum", which means purification? February's birthstone is the beautiful Amethyst, and your flower is the Violet. Rosa Parks was born in February, as was Charles Dickens, Charles Darwin, Sidney Poitier, Jennifer Aniston, John Travolta, Rihanna, Emily Blunt, Kurt Cobain. So, you are in great company!! Enjoy your celebration.

Happy Valentine's Day!



The 8th century Gelasian Sacramentary recorded the celebration of the Feast of Saint Valentine on February 14. The day became associated with romantic love in the 14th and 15th centuries when notions of courtly love flourished, apparently by association with the "lovebirds" of early spring. Because it was thought that the avian mating season begins in mid-February, birds also became a symbol of the day. Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Throughout school, we all gave cards to our classmates, but where did this tradition of Valentine's Day cards begin? Well, back in 1415, Charles the Duke of Orleans wrote a poem for his wife while imprisoned in the Tower of London on Valentine's Day. By the 16th century, cards had become so common on Valentine's Day that several religious leaders preached against them. However, it was not until the 1800s that the ability to send cards through mail by the average person greatly increased the exposure of Valentine Day cards. Valentine's Day flowers began as a tradition in the 17th century, since roses, which represent love in all its forms, were the flowers of choice for the Day. No matter the bells and whistles and newfangled, best and greatest gift ideas may be out there, the old classics still seem to be the best. Flowers, candy, poems, and cards. If it comes from a place of genuine affection, it will always shine brightest.

Mayor's Monthly Message

This section of the monthly newsletter will be dedicated to messages from me, your Mayor, John LeMaire. Firstly, I have had a separate e-mail account created for you all to be able to reach me, personally, with any concerns, suggestions, compliments, or complaints. Issues like where you'd like to see additional streetlights or signage or road repairs. As the city continues to grow it is important to me that our citizens have a say in policies that are put in place. We all want Riverside to remain the charming little city we know and love. With the growth and changes that are coming, we need to stay in front of and in control of it as much as possible. With your help and the help of the city council and city hall we will continue to do our best to serve you! Your constructive feedback and input are how we all get better! In most cases, you can expect a response from me within 72 hours of receiving your email. Riversidemayor@windstream.net

- **Littering is against the law** in Texas, and you can be fined up to \$500 for trash less than or equal to five pounds or five gallons. Repeat the offense, and you could face a fine of up to \$2,000 and 180 days in jail.
- **Remember that you MUST contact City Hall for all your dumpster, garbage / trash removal needs. If you live within the city limits, you may not use any other garbage / dumpster companies due to the city's contractual obligations.**
- **Faith Baptist Church** meets every second Saturday at the Riverside bank and gives out a free meal. Pastor Shane started this as a way to give back to the community. They start at 11:00am and stay until about 1:00pm. It is absolutely free.
- **Please** take a few minutes to go to our website, www.cityofriversidetxt.com and set up your online account. Whether you choose to make your payments online, set up auto draft or not make any payments online at all, setting up your account will allow you to receive a text message and / or email once the monthly billing is complete. It is free to set up your account.
- City Hall is closed Monday, February 20th, for President's Day.
- **ALWAYS CALL 811** before you do any digging.

Citizen's Corner

Mayor LeMaire has asked that we reserve a section in the newsletter for citizen announcements.

If you'd like to recognize an important milestone or celebration, please feel free. Birthday, funeral, wedding, birth, new business opening or other important celebration? Get us the information no later than the 15th of the month for the following month and we will do our best to fit it all into the limited space we have.

*Correction to the January 2023 newsletter. Tony Kuehl has been a council member since July 2021.

Next City Council meeting is Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm, here at City Hall. If you wish to add something to the agenda *or speak on an agenda item*, please contact City Hall no later than **noon February 2nd**. If you'd like to be recognized to speak on any subject you'd like during the Public Comment portion of the meeting, please arrive 15 minutes early to sign up. **You must sign up to be recognized to speak. Forms available on the podium at sign in.** Agendas are always posted at the Riverside Post Office and at City Hall. You can also call city hall at 936-594-2520 or email riversidetxt@windstream.net and we can email one to you. Agendas are available after 3pm the Friday prior to the scheduled meeting. All are welcome to observe your City Council at work.

February Laughs

- ♥ What's the difference between a \$20 steak and a \$55 steak?
 - Valentine's Day
- ♥ I went to buy a watch, and the man in the shop said, 'Analogue.' I said, 'No, just a watch.'
- ♥ Why did the skeleton break up with her boyfriend before Valentine's Day?
 - Her heart wasn't in it.
- ♥ What did 1 piece of toast say to the other piece of toast?
 - "You're my butter half"

Happy Valentine's Day, President's Day, and Groundhog Day!

Be Safe and Be Nice to Each Other!

Mayor LeMaire, Stormy, and Jeri