



City of Converse Texas

Connecting Community + Commerce

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Letter From the Mayor

Dear Citizens of Converse,

I would like to congratulate you for taking a pro-active role in city government by voicing your opinions, concerns and providing us with quality feedback. We will continue to work together and build a better Converse for tomorrow's future. Our first priority is to maintain a safe place for all residents to enjoy. Please feel free to call us anytime with your concerns. I invite everyone to consider serving on our citizen commissions and participate with your local city government. For applications or more information please call 658-5356.

The City of Converse continues with explosive commercial & residential growth. Our Economic Development Corporation works diligently to provide increased commercial development for a city that is experiencing an explosive population. We continue to strengthen our infrastructure and prepare for the future of this great city. Thanks to the Converse Citizens Capital Improvements Committee members for developing a detailed plan of improvements for City Council consideration. On August 18, 2015, the City Council voted unanimously to place 6 Bond Propositions for consideration by the Converse Citizens on the November 3rd, 2015 Election Ballot. A detailed list of the proposed Bond propositions can be found at www.conversetx.net. Any questions or information regarding the proposed bond please call 658-5356.

The City Council has tentatively approved the effective property Tax Rate (0.540198) for the 2015-16 tax year. What this means is that the City of Converse will receive the same property tax revenue as the prior year. The proposed 2015-16 effective property tax rate will be .540198 cents per \$100 property valuation. The current property tax rate is .585518 per \$100 property valuation (a property tax decrease of 4.5 cents). The City Council has proposed a balanced budget with a strong reserve fund balance for the 2015/16 City Budget and continues to be fiscally responsible with your tax dollars. No property tax increases for 2015-16.

The City of Converse has NO WATER restrictions in place, but we must continue our proactive efforts of conservation and I urge all residents to please do their part to conserve water. We continue our city beautification efforts with the newly developed 4 C's for Converse program that provides all residents an opportunity to discard their bulk items and household hazards every month (please call 658-5356 for details). Let's work together for a beautiful city.

As a reminder to all drivers, Judson High School, Judson Middle School, Converse & Copperfield Elementary Schools are in full swing so please use caution when driving through the school zones. A new sidewalk adjacent to Judson Middle School from the Copperfield Subdivision was recently built by the Converse Public Works Department to facilitate a safe transition for all children. Additionally, several new crosswalks have been completed near the new Copperfield Elementary School to allow for the safety of all children while walking to and from their homes.

Finally, I encourage and invite everyone to attend your City Council meetings, which are held at 7:00 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. Your City Council, City Staff, & Employees will continue to work together as ONE COHESIVE TEAM... for one common GOAL ... to make Converse a better place to live, work and raise a family. If you have a complaint, concern, question, or suggestion, please contact me anytime at 210-658-5356 (office), 210-787-7295 (cell) or email: mayorsuarez@conversetx.net. Please stop by and visit me at "MAYOR'S CALL" on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of every month from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. (City Hall Conference Room/ 405 S. Seguin) NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

Let's keep making a difference together! We look forward to hearing from you very soon!

My Best Regards,

Converse Mayor Al Suarez



CITY OF

CONVERSE
CONNECTING COMMUNITY + COMMERCE™



VOTE

2015 Converse Bond Issue

At their August 18, 2015 regular Council meeting, the Converse City Council called a Bond Election to consider six projects (propositions) to be supported by voter approved bonds.

The six projects were selected by a group of local citizens who worked for several months to identify, cost and evaluate projects of need for Converse. The projects are:



Proposition 1



\$10,600,000 Bond for constructing street improvements (including utilities repair, replacement, and relocation), street lighting, technology improvements, signage, curb, gutters, and sidewalk improvements and drainage.



Proposition 2



\$3,000,000 Bond for designing, acquiring, constructing, purchasing, improving, demolishing, and equipping public safety facilities (to include a new/replacement fire station), acquiring land, easements and rights-of-way necessary and other real property interests, and completing related landscaping.



Proposition 3



\$2,500,000 Bond for designing, acquiring, constructing, purchasing, renovating, improving, enlarging, demolishing, and equipping the City Hall Complex and the purchase of land, easements, rights-of-way, and other real property interests necessary.



Proposition 4



\$2,000,000 Bond for the purpose of designing, acquiring, constructing, purchasing, improving, and equipping the City's animal control facility.



Proposition 5



\$1,000,000 Bond for designing, acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving, demolishing, and equipping the City parks and recreational facilities and the purchase of land, easements, rights-of-way, and other real property interests



Proposition 6



\$800,000 Bond for designing, acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving, expanding, demolishing, or replacing the City's library facilities.

The Bond Election is called for November 3, 2015. Call Lanny S. Lambert, City Manager at 210-658-5356 with questions.

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Brandon Younts
Ko Anderson

2015 NOVEMBER ELECTIONS MAYOR AND COUNCIL PLACES 1, 3, AND 5 & BOND ELECTION

Early Voting: October 19, 2015-October 30, 2015
Location: Converse City Hall Conference Room 405 S. Seguin
(Complete list of locations available on city website)

Mon., Oct. 19 thru Fri., Oct. 23 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 24, 2015 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 25, 2015 12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m.
Mon., Oct. 26 thru Wed., Oct. 28 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 29 thru Fri., Oct. 30 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Who's Running?

(Listed in order of appearance on ballot)

Mayor

Deborah James
Al Suarez

Place 1

Kathy Richel
Everet Taylor

Place 3

Nancy Droneburg
Earl Boutelle

Place 5

Rick Davis
Robert Raney

CONVERSE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Fall in the City of Converse means Summer is coming to a close, we begin another school year, and best of all, we begin football!

Take extra time in the mornings as you begin your day to remember to buckle up, be aware of school zones in your area, and cell phone use is prohibited (hand free only).

Watch out for children at bus stops and remember to stop for the flashing red lights.

Night in Ole Converse is fast approaching, please come see what all the fun is about October 2-4, 2015 (Converse City Park).

National Night Out is Tuesday, October 6, 2015. Please call 210-658-2322 to have your block party placed on our list for Police/Fire participation.

This year the Lions Club and Converse Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association will host a parking lot party at Converse Police Department, so make plans to attend!

The Citizen's Police Academy registration will continue through December 20, 2015. Interested parties should complete an application and submit for a background check. This academy is for citizen's wishing to become more involved in the community and learning about your Police Department. For further information, please call Cpl. K. Molder at 210-658-2322.

Let's keep Converse safe!

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS OCTOBER 4TH – 10TH

The Converse Fire Department would like to remind everyone that practicing fire safety and prevention year round is important. A properly operating smoke detector provides early warning to occupants in the event of a fire. A minimum of one detector should be on each level of your home and please remember to change your batteries when you change your clocks. Practice home exit drills with all members of your family and designate one place to meet in the event that you must evacuate in case of fire. Teach children to never reenter a burning building once you have safely evacuated. Fire extinguishers should be readily accessible and checked at least twice a year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the fire department at 210-658-8900.



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NEW SERVICES COMING SOON



City of Converse Announces New Refuse Service

The City of Converse announces new refuse service. The city's residential solid waste collection services will adjust to one pick up per week starting the first week of January 2016. The goal is to provide curbside recycling and promote cleaner streets and neighborhoods.

- **Free of charge**, every residential garbage customer (not served by a dumpster) will receive a new **trash cart** and a new **recycle cart** with the new City Logo.
- Watch for details about your weekly trash and recycling service schedules in your December bill.
- New carts will be delivered to homes during the month of December. Please do not use them until the week of January 4, 2016.
- Every residential garbage customer requiring a second pick up can call Waste Management customer service at 1-800-772-8653 at no additional charge.
- Look for additional information in the upcoming months

"We are so very pleased to introduce an updated service to our customers and residents in Converse," said Mayor Al Suarez.

"Converse is becoming more and more cost-conscious and aware of the impact to our streets, our residents and our environment," said Lanny Lambert, City Manager.

"We are looking forward to providing the best services possible within our existing budget."

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Converse Public Library



Family Events at your Converse Public Library

Saturday Storytelling Adventures! Each month we will have a special guest performer telling stories, folktales and fairy tales from around the world! Our newest family event will kick off with Sue Kuentz on Saturday, September 12 at 10:30 featuring Grandparents Day. Mary Grace Ketner will be at our library on Saturday, October 17 at 10:30 and will feature ghost stories since Halloween will be just around the corner. Lupe Ruiz-Flores will be here Saturday, November 14 at 10:30 and will read one of her own published book; she is also an author who was selected in the 2014 National Picture book Month Champions.

The Dia Family Book Club is designed to encourage all family members to read, discuss, and learn about contemporary children's literature. We will meet once a month starting Saturday October 24 at 10:30. The best thing is that each family will leave with a copy of the book that was featured at the meeting! This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission under

the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (2016).

Children Events at your Converse Public Library

Preschool Story Time with Ms. Jennifer is every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30. Preschool Story Time features two books, a craft activity and a snack!

Intergenerational Read-Along is a partnership program presented with the Army Residence Community. These generous veterans and their spouses volunteer their time to come to the Converse Public Library to read to our children. Reading out loud and reading along has proven to increase reading fluency and vocabulary, as well as assisting children in getting ready for kindergarten. Join us in the next Read Along on Friday, September 25 at 10:30.

Teen Events at your Converse Public Library

Teens the fun continues beyond the summer! We have our Teen Book Club, Poetry Club and our Gaming Club all designed for ages 11- 18 only. Please look at our Facebook page and online Calendar for details and upcoming club meetings!

Adult Events at your Converse Public Library

Adult Lunch Bunch Book Club meets once a month to discuss the chosen novel. If you do not finish the novel come anyway! If you did not like the book, come anyway to help decide the next one. Join others who love to read and share your thoughts! Don't forget to bring your own lunch! Look at our Facebook page and online calendar for upcoming meetings!

Needles Group will start Saturday, October 3 at 12:30 and will meet the first Saturday of the month thereafter. This group is designed for people who enjoy crocheting, knitting and any kind of sewing to gather together and enjoy each other's company! Bring your supplies and join us!

Want to serve the community? Love libraries? Join us for an informational meeting on forming a Friends Group on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30.

The City of Converse library is pleased to announce we are now accredited!

Converse Lions Club will host

NIGHT IN OLE CONVERSE

Friday, October 2 - Sunday, October 4

Carnival, Food, Arts and Crafts, and Live Entertainment. Parade on Saturday 10am. Bring your Judson Football game ticket stub on Friday for \$1 gate admission after the game. Proceeds go back into helping the community.

Live auction Saturday 2pm • Sunday carnival only

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
— TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 —

Hosted by Converse Lions Club, Converse Police Department and Police Alumni. Converse Police station starting at 6pm. There will be food, games for the kids and lots of good information for keeping our neighborhood safe.

Converse Lions Club **WE SERVE**
visit our website for more information
www.converselions.org



CITY OF CONVERSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

CONVERSE EDC RENOVATING 110 W. LEGION FOR EDC OFFICES

Due to space constraints in City Hall and to improve visibility for businesses and entrepreneurs, the Converse EDC will soon be moving its offices to 110 West Legion. (EDC Board meetings and events will continue to be held at City Hall Conference Room.) After



months of coordination, negotiation and obtaining the full support of City Council, the Converse EDC closed on the home near City Hall on July 31. The purchase price on the home was \$113,320. The EDC is currently seeking bids and will award a contract in the September timeframe for renovations to make modifications for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and code requirements. These modifications include an exterior ramp, demolition of the detached garage for parking and accessibility alterations to the bathroom. Barring any delays, the EDC anticipates moving into the new offices before the end of the calendar year.

BUSINESS APPRECIATION SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 8

The Converse EDC will hold its third quarterly Business Appreciation Event on Thursday, October 8 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Converse City Hall Conference Room. The Converse EDC will honor three long-standing Converse businesses: Custom Pools, KL&E Tax and Bookkeeping Services and Papa Dante's Italian Restaurant. To RSVP for the event, please contact Kat Lindquist at (210) 659-9163 or klindquist@converseedc.com by October 2. At the second quarterly event in July, the EDC honored A to Z Rentals, J.R. Inc. and Simmang's Auto Service Center.

The Converse EDC reminds you to please shop local and support our local business community.

PLANS RECEIVED FOR WALMART NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET

Having worked with a broker for Walmart for nearly four years, the Converse EDC is excited to welcome Walmart Neighborhood Market to Converse near the intersection of Kitty Hawk and Toepperwein. Plans were submitted for the 41,000 square foot grocery/pharmacy/gas station in June 2015 and permits have been issued. Site preparation and construction will begin in the next few months. Please watch our website for details on a ground-breaking ceremony yet to be scheduled.

CONVERSE EDC AWARDS INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS TO LOTT'S LANDING

Residents and businesses will soon have an alternative access to Lott's Landing off of FM 78 and Crestway. Through coordination with real estate contacts at Chase Bank, Converse EDC will fund \$50,000 of a \$75,000 improvement under a performance agreement with Converse-based T.J. Elite Services to provide alternative access for customers and businesses in that shopping center.

GRANT PROGRAM, RECENT AWARD TO CROSSROADS VISION

The Converse EDC offers grants up to \$10,000 for business relocation, expansion and capital investment improvements on a reimbursement basis. In July, the EDC awarded \$9,900 to Crossroads Vision for the replacement of an air-conditioning unit. Governed by performance agreements, the projects must demonstrate performance of capital investment and job creation targets or the funds must be repaid. Please contact our offices for more information or the converseedc.com website.

CONVERSE EDC FUNDS PARKS MASTER PLAN

In order to apply for and qualify for additional parks improvement grants, the City of Converse has requested and the EDC Board approved funding for a Parks Master Plan for Converse. The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) College of Architecture is developing the plan for the City at a cost of \$7,500. The Plan is scheduled for completion in December 2015.

CONVERSE EDC BUDGET ON-LINE

The Converse EDC Board of Directors has adopted its budget for FY 2015-2016. The proposed budget is on the EDC website at www.converseedc.com under the About Tab/Important Documents. The budget will be presented to City Council for consideration in September.

go green

LET'S DO OUR PART IN HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT!

We are proud to announce we are now offering YOU to "opt-in" to having your Neighborhood Newsletter delivered electronically!

HOW?

- 1 Visit www.NeighborhoodNews.com
- 2 Click on: "Let's do our part" and follow the instructions.

What will change?

Well... nothing! Your address will be removed from the mailing list and a digital copy will be emailed to you within the next couple of issues.

We are so pleased to be offering this new service!

Questions? Feel free to contact Neighborhood News at (210) 558-3160 with any website-related questions.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Job opportunities with the City can be found at <http://www.conversetx.net/jobs.aspx> or by calling Human Resources at (210) 658-5357 and selecting option 2.

Applications are accepted only for open, posted positions and to be considered, applicants must submit a properly completed Application.

Applications for Fire Department uniformed positions may be found at <http://www.conversetx.net/DocumentCenter/View/956> and more information obtained by calling (210) 658-8900.

Applications for Police Department and Dispatcher job openings may be found at <http://www.conversetx.net/jobs.aspx> under Tools and more information obtained by calling (210) 658-2322.

Applications for all other jobs may be found at <http://www.conversetx.net/DocumentCenter/View/767>.

The City is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability or any other legally protected status in employment or the provision of services.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

BRUSH PICK UP

Did you know that the City of Converse offers Free Brush Pick Up to City residents three times a year?!? The second week of each month Public Works Crews pick up Brush from one of the City's four Service "Zones".

Residents may also schedule an "Out of Zone" Brush Pick Up by calling the Converse Utility Billing Department at 658-1965. For residents under 65, a \$50.00 minimum charge will be added to your water bill. Details can be found on the City of Converse web page.

NOTE: Our Service Zones have Changed!

In an attempt to balance our Public Works crews' workload, in September the City is implementing the following changes to our Service Zones:

Quail Creek and Converse Hills Subdivision Areas: Zone 2 to Zone 1

In addition to the area north of FM 1976 and East of Toepperwein, Zone 1 now includes the area West of Toepperwein from FM 1976 to Meadow Gate.

Placid Subdivision and Coers – Colina Areas: Zone 4 to Zone 3

In addition to the area from the of Rocket Lane / FM 78 Projection to FM 1976, Zone 3 now includes the triangular area between FM 1516 and FM 78

STREET SWEEPING

In addition to sweeping throughout the entire City, the Converse Street Sweeper specifically cleans the streets in one Zone the third the week of each month... the week after brush pick up. A detailed schedule will be posted to the City of Converse web site soon.

BULK PICKUP

Did you know that the City of Converse offers Free Bulk Item Pick Up to City Residents once per month?!? The City has contracted with Waste Management to pick up bulk items from any City residence the third week of each month. But you must be on the list. You can contact the Converse Utility Billing Department at 658-1965 to be placed on the bulk item pick up list. More details can be found on the City of Converse web page,

Here is our upcoming City Service Schedule:

	Brush Pick Up	Street Sweepin	Bulk Pick Up (Citywide)
Zone 1	Sept 14 to 18	Sept 21 to 25	Sept 21 to 25
Zone 2	Oct 12 to 16	Oct 19 to 23	Oct 19 to 23
Zone 3	Nov 9 to 13	Nov 16 to 20	Nov 16 to 20
Zone 4	Dec 14 to 18	Dec 21 to 23 Dec 28 to 29	Dec 21 to 23 Dec 28 to 29

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Time Dated

Outdated Website Information May be Possible. Please check out the new website design on September 25, 2015. We will keep you updated of any changes!

City of Converse Contact Information

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Finance.....(210) 658-5357
Fire / EMS.....(210) 658-8900
Human Resources.....(210) 658-5357
Library.....(210) 659-4160
Municipal Court.....(210) 658-8021
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Public Works.....(210) 659-9513
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