



Dear Citizens of Converse,

I am happy to report that we adopted a balanced budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year. We are lowering the current property tax rate by 2 cents per \$100 valuation. The City of Converse is financially sound with a strong reserve fund balance and a high grade AA - bond rating. We continue to have the best basic quality services available for all citizens to enjoy. We continue to have one of the safest communities in Bexar County thanks to the proactive approach taken by our Police & Fire Departments. We continue to invest in our City Parks and have formulated a plan for future developments. We approved the 2014 City of Converse Strategic Plan that highlights our short and long term goals.



The roadway expansion of FM 1604 from Lower Seguin Road to IH-10 is well underway. This \$29 million dollar TXDOT roadway project is estimated for completion in the fall of 2015. The FM 1516 Roadway Expansion from FM 78 to FM 1976 was approved and will commence in late 2016. This \$8.5 million dollar TXDOT project in partnership with the City of Converse will expand FM 1516 to 5 lanes. We recently received approval for a third TXDOT roadway improvement project at the intersection of FM 1604 & FM 78. This \$3.2 million dollar project is expected to commence in February 2015 and will undergo extensive improvements to increase the safe expeditious flow of traffic.

The Converse Economic Development Corporation continues to bring responsible growth to the City of Converse. Judson ISD opened the new Copperfield Elementary School this month that will accommodate the children of our community here in Converse. As mandated by the Edwards Aquifer Authority, we have implemented our emergency water conservation plan Stage IV. We are very confident that if all our residents do their part to conserve water we will overcome these challenges. As we continue to seek alternative water resources, we urge all our residents to please conserve water. Our newly hired City Manager Mr. Lanny E. Lambert is now on board. Mr. Lambert arrives with over 35 years of experience in city government, leadership and management. With his proactive approach and hands-on leadership style, I am confident that Mr. Lambert will help move Converse forward to the next level. Please stop by and welcome Lanny to one of the best cities in Bexar County.

I encourage and invite all citizens 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 any complaints, concerns, questions, or suggestions please contact me anytime at 210-658-5356 (office), 210-787-7295 (cell) or email me at 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 REQUIRED.

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

My Best Regards,

Converse Mayor Al Suarez



Streets – 659-9513

Solar lights will be installed at North Park walking trail this month. A special thank you to Cimmaron South Homeowners Association for their donation, making it possible for us to purchase these lights. Will be crack sealing City wide.

Grounds – 659-9513

Is busy and on schedule with brush pickup and weed eating in the right of ways.

Parks – 659-9513

Is prepping for NIOC Event and keeping up with all park and ball field maintenance.

Water Billing – 658-1965

Friendly Reminders from Water Billing

- The City is currently in Stage 4 Water Restrictions.
- The restrictions are being strictly enforced. If you see any watering violations, please report them immediately to the Utility Billing Department at 658-1965 or the Police Department at 658-2322. For information on the stage restrictions, please visit www.conversetx.net.
- The City offers free Automatic Bank Drafting for your utility payments. Call or visit the Utility Billing Department for more information or to sign up for bank drafting.
- Watch the “Special Message” area of your bill for updates or news from the Utility Billing Department.
- Please subscribe online to “Notify Me” for all Utility Billing updates.

Utilities – 658-3453

The Water Distribution Division has recently completed the first phase of the water main valve replacement and upgrades in the Schertz Subdivision behind City Hall and is in the process of upgrading the water main on the 100

Block of Legion Drive West. We are also working toward controlling and repairing all city leaks as quickly as possible, as we are currently observing mandatory Stage 4 water restrictions. For more information on all Stages of Water Restrictions (1 – 4), please visit the City of Converse website at www.conversetx.net. In order to help conserve our water resources, we encourage all residents to report any observed leaks or restriction violations by calling the Converse Utility Billing Department at (210) 658-1965 or the Utilities Department at (210) 658-3453 during normal hours of operation of Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. To report leaks or violations of stage restrictions after 5 p.m. please contact the Converse non-emergency Police Dispatch at (210) 658-2322.

The Wastewater Department is still diligently working with San Antonio River Authority (S.A.R.A.) on the ongoing Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) issue. Placid Mobile Home Park is working with us to make sure all clean out caps and manhole lids have a water tight seal. Of the four pumps at Judson Valley Lift Station, we have replaced two and rebuilt two. The two pumps at Autumn Run Lift Station are being completely rebuilt in mid September. As always, please make sure that all clean out caps on your property have a water tight seal to prevent any debris or rain water runoff from entering the sewer mains.

The Water Production Department is committed to the water quality of the Converse community. This department performs sampling, monitoring and enforcement to prevent environmental pollution. Since the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) is the main source of water, anything put down the drain or that enters the storm drains could re-enter the water cycle.



Fire Department – 658-8900

The Converse Fire Department would like to remind everyone of some safety items for the upcoming winter. Having your heating appliances checked prior to using them when the first cold weather arrives. In addition those with fireplaces should have the chimneys cleaned and the firebox checked before lighting the first fire of the season. Use caution when using Turkey fryers and remember to have a fire extinguisher close by. For those that enjoy live Christmas trees, please remember to check the water often and to remove the tree before it becomes excessively dry. Before hanging any Christmas lights please check for frayed wiring or other damage that could cause a fire or injury. The Converse Fire Department would like everyone to have a happy and accident free holiday season.

C O N V E R S E



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!
EARLY VOTING— October 20th-31st, 2014
ELECTION DAY—NOVEMBER 4, 2014
Polling places can be found on the city website
City Council Places 2, 4 and 6 up for election.

Council Place 2
Robert E. Raney
Renee Paschall

Council Place 4
Joseph A. Guastella
Ray Rodriguez
Jon Lindgren

Council Place 6
John Shadron
Steve Brown
George Q. Reyes

C I T Y C O U N C I L



FRONT ROW: Councilman Rick Davis , Mayor Al Suarez, Councilman Jon Lindgren
BACK ROW: Councilwoman Deb James Councilwoman Renee Paschall
Councilwoman Kathy Richel, Councilman Steve Brown

Economic Development Corporation 659-9163

The City of Converse Economic Development Corporation recently added two new Board members appointed by City Council. The new Board members include Dr. Mary Riley, business consultant and Mr. Eric Gonzalez, District Manager for the Starbucks Coffee Company.

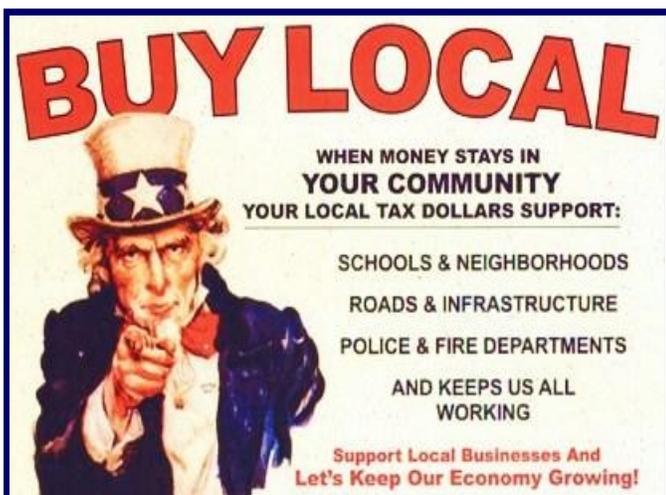
The EDC Board meeting in a Regularly Scheduled meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room, 405 South Seguin.

During the last few months, the Board has set about working on its Corporation Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, appointing officers, establishing a Corporate seal, developing its FY 2015 Budget and the Corporation Plan for FY 2015, streamlining the EDC Grant program, adopting a purchase policy and investment policy, approving a Management Services Agreement with the City of Converse, and approving a Legal Services Agreement.

The EDC is continuing the contract work with The Retail Coach and are beginning to see success coming out of those efforts. The analysis for the Primary Retail Trade Area (defined as the region where most Converse residents and others who shop in Converse conduct their shopping) was shared with the Board and City Council. The study indicated that of the \$954 million in shopping done by those in the Primary Retail Trade Area, approximately \$732 million is leaving (or “leaking”) to destinations outside the Converse Primary Retail Trade Area. This data can then be used to make a reliable business case to retailers and developers interested in looking for locations for new stores and retail centers. The EDC will be using this information to market Converse at meetings and conferences related to retail development.

The Converse EDC is also working on ordinances for an overlay district for the Loop 1604 Corridor. This work is also being developed in concert with information from the Joint Land Use Study for Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

law. For more information, contact the Converse EDC at 210-659-9163 or info@converseedc.com. The Converse EDC has a revised website which can be found on-line at www.converseedc.com.

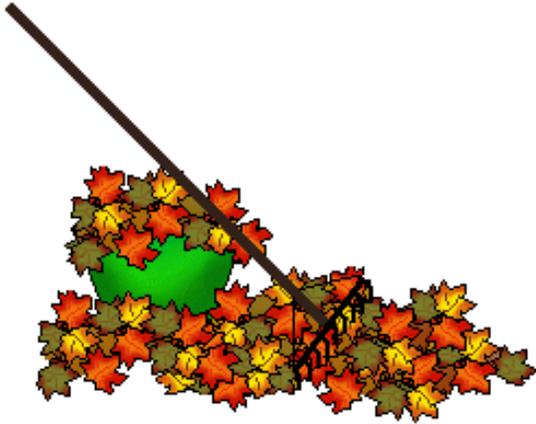


Police Department – 658-2322

Fall in the City of Converse means the close of summer, the beginning of school and the start of 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 in school zones. Watch out for children at bus stops and remember to stop for the flashing red lights.

As always, stay safe and please call to report suspicious activity! Let's keep Converse safe!



Storm Water – 658-3453

The City of Converse Storm Water Department is now in its fourth year. Over the last year we have marked all of the existing storm water inlets within the city with storm drain markers that say NO DUMPING, DRAINS TO CREEK. In addition, we have mapped out and marked the outfalls and inlets for the storm water system and conducted inspections to see what repairs are needed to ensure good water flow.

There are educational flyers in all City buildings for your benefit to help the environment. If you see illegal dumping, please call the Converse Police Department at 658-2322. Your help is needed. For more information, please check out the City's website or call 658-3453 for the Storm Water Department. Remember that it is illegal to dump trash or debris over your fence.



For a full calendar including meetings and public events, please visit us on the web at www.conversetx.net.

City Council

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
7:00 pm, 402 S. Seguin
There is a time provided for citizens to speak at every meeting.

Beautification & Environmental

Meets the 4th Monday of the month
7:00 pm, 405 S. Seguin

Building & Standards

Meets as needed
6:00 pm, 405 S. Seguin

EDC

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month
6:30 pm, 405 S. Seguin

Parks & Recreation

Meets the 2nd Monday of the month
6:30 pm, 405 S. Seguin

Planning & Zoning

Meets the 3rd Monday of the month
7:00 pm, 405 S. Seguin

Mayor's Call

Held the 2nd and 4th Saturdays
8:00 am - 10:00 am
405 S. Seguin

Council Call

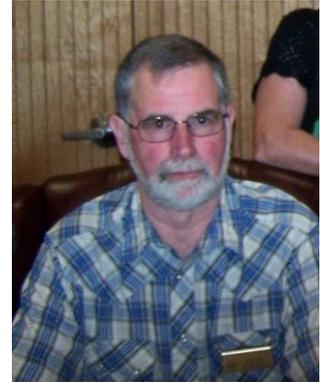
Held the 3rd Saturday of the month
8:00 am - 10:00 am
405 S. Seguin

Council Corner

Council Corner is a rotating column amongst the members of City Council. It gives the opportunity for Council members to reach out in the written word directly to the residents. Contact information for this quarter's member is listed at the bottom.

Hello everyone,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the honor to serve on the council. Being new to city government has been a very interesting and learning experience. I have been asked questions like, are you ready to quit, did you make a mistake running, and are you tired of the (blank). This is an easy one to answer. Not in the least. It has proven how important it is to be involved in our community. We need participation from citizens from all avenues of our diverse city. So please volunteer to serve on the various commissions and boards to help our city operate in an efficient fair way.



As a longtime resident of Converse it is amazing to see how the city has grown. We will see more growth with future commercial development. It is important to balance this growth with support of small businesses. Several road projects are beginning which will also stimulate even more progress.

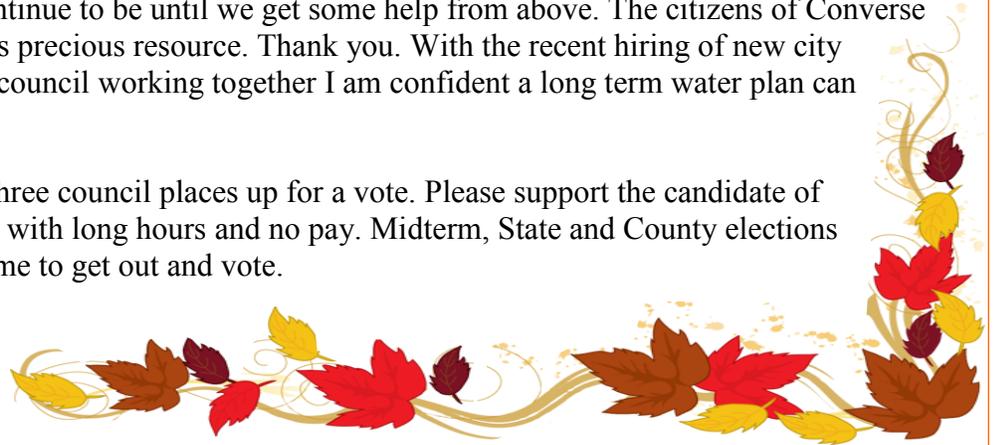
As always we enjoy the best police and fire departments in the state. It has been a pleasure to see how all the city departments operate with sometimes limited resources. These people deserve a big thank you for the work that they do.

Water will always be an issue with the ongoing drought and stricter regulations. We have been in stage IV water restrictions for quite some time and will continue to be until we get some help from above. The citizens of Converse have been doing their part to conserve this precious resource. Thank you. With the recent hiring of new city manager Lanny Lambert, city staff and a council working together I am confident a long term water plan can be developed.

Election day is November 4th. There are three council places up for a vote. Please support the candidate of your choice as this is a voluntary position with long hours and no pay. Midterm, State and County elections are also on the ballot so please take the time to get out and vote.

That's all for now, see you next time.

Rick Davis, Council Place 5



City Contact Information

*The City of Converse Operating Hours are
Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.*



You can subscribe to the newsletter at www.conversetx.net to receive each new issue, in color, by email. This will keep you informed more quickly and help the City save paper!

Public Works

Streets, Parks, Grounds
(210) 659-9513

City Hall

Administrative
(210) 658-5356

Utilities

Including Storm Water
(210) 658-3453

Building

(210) 658-8285

Economic Development

(210) 659-9163

Water Billing

(210) 658-1965

Fire

(210) 658-8900

Library

(210) 659-4160

Police

(210) 658-2322

Library – 659-4160

Family and Young Children Activities

The Converse Public Library is leaping into the Fall Season with weekly story time for children ages three to five. We will be learning our letters, numbers and celebrating the various fall holidays; Come and join us Wednesdays at 10:30!

We have a Halloween party planned for our story time children on **October 29th** at 10:30. Pizza will be served along with various other goodies! Come in costume - both adults and children!

For the month of October we will be having a pumpkin decorating contest. 3 and prizes will be awarded once you come in. Come see us at the library for more details!

On **November 17** at 10:30 we will have a special story time celebrating Thanksgiving. If you would like to share in our potluck luncheon with the children, please ask a staff member for the sign-up sheet, starting November 5.

Adult and Teen Activities

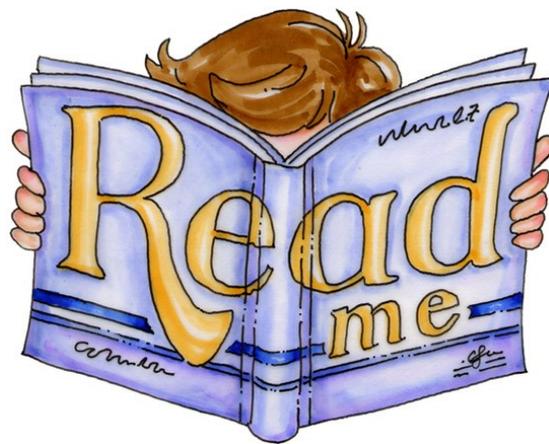
October 12 - October 18 is Teen Read Week a national literacy initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association that is aimed at teens to read for the FUN OF IT! We will have a Teen Activity planned for Saturday, October 18 at 11:00. Ages 11-18 are welcomed to join in the fun. We will be discussing *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky. This book was one of the many banned and reinstated books from 2013. Join in the discussion, fun and come hungry lunch will be served.



New Resources!

The Converse Public Library is happy to announce new resources! Mango Languages has been added to our list of resources. Mango Languages is an award-winning language learning software program available to all Converse library users with an email account and a library card. It is easy to use and set up! We have Spanish, German, French and English as a second language for native Spanish speakers. Each of the courses presented with an appreciation for cultural nuance and real-world application that goes beyond teaching vocabulary to integrate components of grammar and culture.

We now have e-books! We are proud to announce that the Converse Public Library has joined the Lone Star Digital Library allowing us access to Overdrive e-books. You can now access e-books 24/7 through your computer, tablet, smart phone, or other e-reader device. Check it out by going to our online catalog. All you need is your library card!



From the Office of the City Manager:

Hello Citizens of Converse!

It is an honor for me to be hired as the City Manager of Converse! Converse is a growing, dynamic city with a rich heritage of Air Force history at Randolph and academic excellence history at Judson.

Converse is growing by about 25 new houses per month (75 people) and 1-2 new businesses per month. With room to grow, room to develop and highway access to FM 78, FM 1516, and Loop 1604 Converse has the potential to be the largest and most dynamic city in the NE San Antonio Community!



This is a great time to work in Converse, as a City Manager, and Converse is a dream city for growth development and potential. I hope to get to participate in Converse's dynamic energy for many, many years to come! I have five areas that will be emphasized while I am City Manager:

1. Customer Service- The citizens of Converse deserve excellent customer service from their public servants. I intend to emphasize customer service by the employees of the City of Converse.
2. Technology- the world now uses technology and social media to communicate and educate. The City of Converse needs to utilize these new forms of technology to communicate and educate!
3. Infrastructure- Converse needs water, smoother streets, rehabilitated water towers, better water and sewer lines, better storm drainage, and accessible sidewalks and street lights. It is my responsibility to provide these services and improve our infrastructure. I intend to pursue these issues with good planning and good budgeting.
4. Quality staffing- Converse citizens deserve the finest Police, Fire, EMS, Library, Parks, Streets, Utility, Court and Building Inspection employees available in Texas, and it is my desire to hire, train, and retain the finest employees available in Texas for Converse.
5. City Manager development- Converse deserves a well trained, educated, experienced City Manager. I propose to continuously train myself in new and various aspects of City Management as the citizens and employees of Converse can expect the most from their City Manager!

Last week, I drove home through a Converse neighborhood. As I drove down the residential street, I saw a daddy pick up his young son and allow him to drop a basketball through the portable basketball goal on the side of their driveway. I realized that this vision was a metaphor for life in Converse- Families with children looking for a healthy place to live, raise their children, and send their kids to school! That is Converse! What a great Place! Please call me with any concerns, issues or problems!

Lanny S. Lambert
City Manager, City of Converse

