

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –9/11/2020**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

UPDATE ON COVID-19

- As of September 10, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 47,956, a 1.8% increase in 8 days. Last week the increase was 2.7%. There were 990 deaths reported on September 10th, a 16% increase in 8 days. Last week the increase was 11% (The number of deaths include 86 deaths that were not counted in August through September 3rd, which reflects this increase). There continues to be a reduction in the number of people in the hospital, in ICU and on ventilators. This has enabled other elective surgeries to be conducted due to the freeing up of hospital beds.

- The positivity rate (the percentage of people who test positive for COVID -19 over a 7 day average) between August 30 – September 5th is now at 6.7%, down from 7.8% the week before. San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg reported this week that Bexar County is now in the “safe to moderate zone” when it comes to COVID.

- Bexar County Commissioner’s Court has set aside \$150,000 for

stipends as an incentive for those citizens who have already recovered from COVID-19 to encourage them to donate their plasma to help others fight the disease. There are over 40,000 San Antonians who have recovered from the virus, but only 5% of those have donated plasma. Contact Bexar County Commissioners Court at (210) 335-2011 for more information. South Texas Blood and Tissue Center is offering a \$50 gift card (compliments of two attorney law firms) for donating plasma if you have recovered from coronavirus. For more information call South Texas Blood and Tissue Center at (210)731-5555.

- Bexar County Commissioner Court in partnership with the San Antonio Spurs organization will be conducting a safe and accessible drive - through voter registration drive on Tuesday, September 15 at the ATT Center. The ATT Center has been designated as a mega voting site for the November 3rd election. More information will be forthcoming.

- Area school districts are not required to post infections data on their websites but are required to report COVID-19 positive students and staff to Metro Health within 24 hours, as well as weekly data to the Texas Education Agency. To view school districts COVID-19 statistics, visit the Texas Education Agency website at <https://tea.texas.gov>

NEW COVID-19 TESTING SITE- funded by the state has opened at Las Palmas Library, 515 Castroville Road. This testing site will be open seven days a week, from 9 am to 6 pm. No registration is required and there is no charge for the testing. Other testing locations can be found at www.covid19sanantonio or by calling the City of San Antonio COVID-19 hot line at (210) 207-5779.

Congratulations to the citizens of Leon Valley and Bexar County for working hard to contain the COVID-19 virus spread. The COVID -19 numbers are going down because of the behaviors practiced by our citizens! Continue to remain vigilant! Remember to wear masks, social distance, wash hands and avoid large indoor crowds.

LV HOUSEHOLD STABILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

Just a reminder that the City Council has set aside \$100,000 to help citizens (homeowners and renters) who have been financially affected by COVID– 19. If you need help you are strongly encouraged to apply through the website as it will make the funding process move rapidly (http://www.leonvalleytexas.gov/news_detail_T5_R975.php). If you have difficulty navigating through this link, you may call Ascension DePaul Services at (210) 334-2300.

To date, we have received 8 applications, 7 from homeowners. Financial assistance up to \$4999 may be provided for overdue rent, mortgages, utilities, unforeseen funeral costs, food, prescriptions, clothing fuel, counseling services, qualified childcare and internet services are available depending on the needs. Any amount over \$5,000 needs special approval. These monies must be spent by October 30, 2020.

PLEASE NOTE

- **CITY FACILITIES REMAIN CLOSED-** City Hall, City Parks (athletic fields, picnic tables, tennis courts, playground areas). Rimkus Park walking trails, park restrooms and community garden remain open to the public. A citizen has requested City Council to open the tennis courts, which will be discussed at the September 15th council meeting.
- **Leon Valley Public Library** remains closed, with online adult and children's activities only and curbside pickup for books and DVD's.
- **National Night Out**, scheduled for October 6th, as well as the **Soap Box Derby**, usually scheduled in October have both been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Enjoy the cooler weather and much needed rain we received this week. Take care and call/email if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Chris

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