

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –02/26/2021**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

EXTREME WINTER WEATHER OUTCOMES

Last week's weather event was not expected – a deep freeze for 5 days, coupled with snow and ice! This was an unprecedented event.

Many of our citizens were without electricity and water. Thanks to those in Leon Valley who responded to my request on how you were affected by the storm. Two citizens from Sun Valley reported that they were without power (one for 52 hours and another intermittently from Sunday through Wednesday night). The police chief reported that Pavona and Linkwood subdivisions were without power, but it seemed the rest of the city fared well. The president of Pavona Homeowners association reported broken pipes in that neighborhood, as did a Canterfield resident. The public works director reported between 40-60 people on the Leon Valley water company were without water. San Antonio Water System customers (1/3 of the city) received a boil water alert mid-week due to low water pressure/bacteria buildup. We still need a full understanding of where the power and water problems were.

Special thanks to the county for donating cases of water to the area residents to help us through this challenging time. Leon Valley's proximity

to the South Texas Medical Center could have been a factor as to why the majority of homes were not without power.

Thanks also to our public works, police, fire and staff who constantly monitored the situation, some working a 96-hour shift! A debriefing was held this week and details will be reported in the next Lions Roar issue.

There is help for SAWS customers who have experienced broken pipes. Go to SAWS.org/CPR (Community Pipe Repair). SAWS has also committed to charging water bills from last month's usage, excluding the impact of this weather event on broken pipes. Tonight, the Leon Valley City Council will consider the same type of ordinance, that citizens pay either the previous water billing amount or the current water billing amount, whichever is the lesser of the two. The County is developing a \$5 million relief package to help citizens who have plumbing repairs as a reimbursable or direct contracting program. More details will be forthcoming.

CURRENT CASE NUMBERS

As of February 25th, there were 194,736 total cases reported in Bexar County, a 4.5 % increase from February 11th. There were 2,514 total deaths reported on February 25th, a 5.3 % increase in 14 days. The last positivity rate reported on February 8th was 9.7%. This week the positivity

rate (the percentage of tested COVID cases which are positive) dropped to 7.5%! Judge Wolff reported our positivity rate is the lowest of all the major metropolitan areas in the state.

As of February 25th, there were 494 patients in area hospitals, 194 patients in ICU and 111 patients on ventilators. We are slowly improving, but PLEASE continue mask wearing, social distancing and proper hygiene.

VACCINATION UPDATE

It has been reported by the city and county that the vaccination appointments rescheduled after the storm have been completed. Mayor Nirenberg thanked the staff for vaccinating over 3500 citizens this week. He said another 10,000 vaccinations were coming, but does not have a definite date. If you are interested in getting vaccinated, the city has implemented a text message system. Text "VACCINE" to 55000 to subscribe. Over 34,000 people have already registered. Commissioner Rodriguez reported that University Health System has been contacted to see if they want to order the Johnson & Johnson one-dose vaccine when it becomes available, which will increase the ability to vaccinate more of our citizens. The answer was yes.

HELP IS NEEDED

- **South Texas Blood and Tissue Center** is at an **emergency** level

regarding blood supply. There is only a one-day supply of O negative and all other blood types on hand. Please consider donating blood to help this dire situation by calling (210) 731-5555, or call University Hospital at (210) 358-2812 to set up an appointment to give blood.

After experiencing an unbelievable week of cold and hearing how our neighbors suffered, it reaffirms for me the need to reach out to our neighbors not only during difficult times, but on a regular basis. With no power, many residents did not have the ability to connect to computers and cell phones and did not know there was help out there. At the city, we are looking into how we can better communicate during an emergency under these circumstances. Stay safe!

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092 (cell)