

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
05/21/2021**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens:

MORE COVID-19 CHANGES

Governor Abbott issued an executive order, GA-36, by which no governmental entity, including school districts may require any person to wear a face covering. Exceptions are government-owned hospitals, living centers and any state, county or municipal jails. Thus, the City of Leon Valley cannot require masks at any of its facilities. *The recommendation from Metro Health is: if you are not fully vaccinated you are encouraged to wear a mask and then get vaccinated.* The virus is still being transmitted in the community even as our case numbers continue to be low (1086 new cases last week for a .5% increase) but the positivity rate rose to 2.3% on May 17th after falling to 1.7% on May 10th. Almost 1 million people eligible to receive the vaccine (age 12 and up) have received the first dose and over 740,000 of our neighbors have become fully vaccinated in Bexar County. There are plenty of vaccines available with no appointment necessary at the Alamodome, Wednesdays – Fridays from Noon – 8 pm beginning next week. Do it for yourself and for your family, friends, and neighbors, to help eradicate the virus from our region.

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

On Tuesday, May 18th, the following items were taken up at the council meeting:

- The Honorable Oscar Kazen, Judge of Bexar County Probate Court #1, swore in *newly elected councilmen* Benny Martinez, Jed Hefner and Will Bradshaw in council places 1, 3 & 5 for two-year terms;
- *Restructuring of Leon Valley's* debt of two bonds (fire truck and city hall renovations and new fire station) for gross savings of \$580,326 and annual savings through 2032 of \$52,425. The original interest rates on these bonds ranged from 2.0 – 4.75 % and the interest rate from this restructuring was 1.17%. Importantly, the city's credit rating was reaffirmed at "AA/Stable Outlook" even through the pandemic. Thanks to Anne Burger from Hilltop Securities and our staff for all the work they did to help save money for the citizens of our city;
- *Emergency Preparedness for Severe Weather.* We had a robust discussion. Communication with our citizens is key especially when there is no electricity. CPS Energy had power outages during the February ice storm and they are predicting rolling black outs this summer. Chief Naughton discussed housing citizens in city facilities, if needed, for short periods of time, if we have electricity. City Hall and the Fire Department

have back up generators. Partnering with the American Red Cross was discussed, as well as renewing the City's Emergency Response Team, or other volunteers to help in time of an emergency. A citizen asked about the flood siren, which had been down, but is now up and running. If you live near Huebner Creek, sign up for text messages from the fire department as to where the water level is during a storm. Any citizen who is dependent on electricity for oxygen or dialysis, please contact Chief Naughton (210) 684-3219 so we can add you to his list. This is an on-going discussion. Any ideas you may have are appreciated – please let me know.

- *Water Aerobics* at a city pool will be offered this summer for an additional charge. Specific days, pool location, cost and length of program is being finalized by public works. An update will be announced at the June 1, 2021 council meeting.

- *A grant for the second half of the Huebner Creek Hike & Bike Trail* (connecting the trail from Bandera Road to Rimkus Park) has been submitted by Public Works to the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO). Competition for these federal dollars is stiff – 80% from federal government with a 20% local match for construction of the trail. Citizen input is instrumental in letting the policy board know how important this project is to our community. Beginning June 1st, public

comment period begins. Please submit your comments in support of this project to <https://www.alamoareampo.org/yourmove/>. **An online public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15th at 6:00 pm. Thank you!**

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of your councilmen if you have any questions or concerns. Our next city council meeting is on Tuesday, June 1st at 6 pm at city hall, 6400 El Verde Rd. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Chris
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