

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –10/9/2020**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – OCTOBER 31ST

As an option instead of trick or treating door to door in the neighborhoods, and in the spirit of keeping COVID-19 from spreading, the city council on Tuesday approved a **Drive-Through Halloween event at the Community and Conference Centers from 5:30 pm to dark or until treats are gone.** Participants will not have to get out of their cars and families can drive through several stations and get goodies. The event will be sponsored by the City of Leon Valley and area businesses. The police, fire and library departments will host a station, as well as Leon Valley Café (tentative), Tiger Sanitation, J.B. Woolf Sheds, Banis Towing, and residents Chris Moreno and Beth Federico, for a total of 9 stations. Masks, gloves, social distancing and PPE will be worn by staff and volunteers to protect participants. Anyone wanting to donate or volunteer at this event, please let me know. This is free and open to our public.

SOME LEON VALLEY FACILITIES ARE REOPENING

The Leon Valley City Council voted this week to re-open the children's playgrounds, baseball and soccer fields (no organized sports),

park pavilions (limited to 10 people), and tennis courts in Raymond Rimkus park. Basketball courts remain closed and will be readdressed at the October 20th council meeting.

City Hall and Municipal Court offices will also re-open, although Municipal Court will continue operating via a cloud-based program and by appointment only. All people entering City Hall will be required to wear a mask, have your temperature taken, and complete a brief health screening questionnaire. If you are feeling sick, please stay home. You may also use the drop box in the front of City Hall to make payments without having to come into the building.

The Leon Valley Library will continue with Phase 3 operations: offering curbside pickup book/ DVD services only, as well as online adult and children programs. Hours for curbside services are Tuesday, Noon to 7 pm; Wednesday – Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; and closed Sunday and Monday. Book drop remains open and all books are quarantined for 7 days after return. There is a WIFI hotspot on the library porch 24/7. The password is located on the front door of the library. In November, council will consider allowing patrons to make an appointment to use a library computer for 45 minutes. This service will be limited to 4-5 people at a

time. The City of San Antonio will add this service to all its libraries on November 4th.

The Northwest Senior Citizen Center and the swimming pools remain closed. The pools never opened for the summer and now the swim season is over.

COVID NUMBERS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

The San Antonio/Bexar County area continues to experience steady improvement in the number of cases, hospitalizations, people in ICU, and people on ventilators. Last week the positivity rate, which the week before was at 5.9%, dropped to 4.9%! The Metropolitan Health District's goal of getting the positivity rate (the percentage of tested cases which are positive) below 5% has been met, but the virus is still present. All residents are *urged* to continue wearing masks, social distance, wash hands, avoid large crowds and stay home if you are feeling sick. We have seen that if we do not remain vigilant and take these precautions, the virus can spread quickly, infecting many. With the flu season approaching, it has been reported that Australia and New Zealand in the Southern Hemisphere which have already experienced winter, have not seen a spike in the COVID -19 cases. Wearing a mask to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus is also effective in helping to reduce the flu virus. The mask is a win-

win for both illnesses. Thank you to each of you who is doing your part – keep it up!

As of October 8, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 59,323, a 2.3% increase in 8 days. There were 1,171 total deaths reported on October 8th, a 2.8% increase in 8 days. There was a drop in the number of current daily hospitalizations, from 208 to 185, so these numbers are reflecting a downward trend.

FLU SHOTS – Bexar County Commissioners will sponsor a second drive-through **FREE** flu shot event on **Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 9 – 2 pm at Nelson Wolff Stadium**. This is a partnership between HEB Pharmacy and University Hospital. You must register by calling (210) 358-7020 or online at www.universityhealthsystem.com/flu. You **do not** have to get out of your car! Metropolitan Health District recommends everyone get a flu shot for added protection during the COVID-19 pandemic.

VOTING DURING COVID-19

Early voting runs from October 13th through October 30th. There are 4 Mega voting sites in Bexar County, including AT&T Center and St. Paul's Community Center on Donaldson with 40 voting machines on site. County Judge Wolff reports there will be 48 early voting sites in the county with 284 voting sites on Election Day. All sites will follow safety precautions for

COVID. He reminds citizens that you can vote anywhere you want during early voting or on election day (no longer have to vote in precincts).

Deadline to call to receive a mail in ballot is October 23rd. Applications for mail in ballots will be sent to everyone over the age of 65. If you decide to mail in your ballot, it has been reported to me you need two regular stamps to mail in the returned ballot. If you have a mail-in ballot and do not want to place it in a mail box, you can hand deliver it to the Bexar County Elections office (1103 S. Frio) and drop it off. You will have your temperature taken (wear a mask) and show your identification. For more information and to call for a mail-in ballot, contact the County Elections office at (210) 335-8160.

Our weather has been perfect, but we do need rain! Please take care and keep safe!

Sincerely, Chris
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