

## **LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY ON COVID-19 CRISIS – 5/29/20**

Dear Leon Valley Community:

City Hall offices will re-open on Monday, June 1, 2020. **City Council moved the June 2, 2020 city council meeting to Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** at 6 pm. This was to enable city council to review Governor Abbott's next Emergency Declaration Order, scheduled to be released on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. At the June 4<sup>th</sup> council meeting, possible action will be considered on status of opening the swimming pools, playgrounds, and basketball courts; and when the library will move into Phase 2 (curbside services only). If you are unable to attend the council meeting in person on June 4<sup>th</sup>, email your comments for Citizens To Be Heard to [s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov](mailto:s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov) , by 4pm on 6/4/20.

The weekly conference call with County Judge Nelson Wolff, his staff and the Suburban Mayors was held on May 28, 2020. The entire call was spent on addressing the CARES Act federal dollars available to the county and which programs can directly help citizens and businesses in the suburban cities. The federal allotment from the CARES act was \$150 billion, with Bexar County receiving \$79.6 million and the City of San Antonio receiving \$270 million. All monies received must be spent on COVID-19 related public health emergency expenses, incurred from March

1 – December 30, 2020. Any monies not spent must be returned to the federal government.

There are four areas in the County's Corona Relief Fund budget in which the suburban cities, citizens, and businesses are eligible to apply for funding:

1). **Workforce Initiatives** – To help with retraining, providing a stipend and childcare for those who have lost their jobs during the pandemic. The county will focus on assisting people who have applied for unemployment. \$34.9 million has been budgeted. Anyone who is interested in applying, please visit [www.workforcesolutionsalamo.org](http://www.workforcesolutionsalamo.org) for more information.

2). **Small Business Support** - There are *grants* available for small businesses which have been impacted by the pandemic through the county's LiftFund program. A \$25,000 grant is available for businesses of less than 25 employees and a \$10,000 grant is available for micro-businesses which employ 1-5 employees. Total funding budgeted for this program is \$6.5 million. For more information and to apply, visit [www.liftfund.com](http://www.liftfund.com).

3) **Household Stabilization** - There were two programs mentioned:  
**TRAM** – Temporary Rental Assistance Measure for both citizens and

landlords to register for reimbursement of up to three months rent at market rates. Please register at [www.habctx.org/tram](http://www.habctx.org/tram) or call (210) 940-1180.

**Utility Assistance Program** – This is a separate program from CPS Energy for assistance with utility payments due to the effects of the pandemic. For more information and to see if you are eligible, visit [www.bexar.org/eed](http://www.bexar.org/eed).

4) **Reserve to reimburse suburban cities** - The county budgeted \$9.1 million in this category and is proposing \$55 per capita allotment to each of the 26 suburban cities. The City of Leon Valley, based on a population of 11,485 may be eligible to receive up to \$631,675 for COVID-19 related expenses. The cities and county will enter into an interlocal agreement and will be eligible for reimbursement of qualified COVID-19 expenses, and to submit proposals for spending this money.

The County also allocated \$700,000 for providing 2,000 businesses in the county an Essential Safe Business bag to help with initial costs of re-opening businesses. Each bag contained a touchless thermometer, masks, sanitizer and plexiglass. The City of Leon Valley was allocated 136 bags, thanks to Bexar County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez. Special thanks to Renee Watson from the county who was responsible for

coordinating this program throughout the county, as well as William Cox, Business Relations Specialist for the City of Leon Valley who coordinated with local businesses for distribution. If you have a business in Leon Valley, which did not receive an essential business bag, please contact Mr. Cox at (210) 812-3332. A team effort by all!

### **UPDATE ON COVID-19 TESTING SITES**

Several testing sites for persons showing no COVID-19 symptoms, are available at Metropolitan Health District website, [www.sanantonio.gov](http://www.sanantonio.gov). The closest testing site to Leon Valley scheduled for Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> is at the Nellie Reddix Center, 4711 Sid Katz Drive in the Medical Center from 10am – 2pm. No appointment is needed, first come first serve up to 175 people total.

The COVID-19 testing site in Leon Valley at the ReNu RX Bandera, 6428 Bandera Road, phone number (210) 256-8199, located within Health Texas Clinic, *has extended its testing program through June*. Curbside testing will continue Monday-Friday from 10 am – 2 pm for persons who have been exposed or have symptoms, but have no insurance or are underinsured. , Patients must receive a voucher from

[www.doineedacovid19test.com](http://www.doineedacovid19test.com) and then schedule an appointment on line.

This is the only testing site in Leon Valley.

### **UPDATED NUMBERS**

As of May 28, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 2,583 (up from 2,371 as of May 21<sup>st</sup>) with 71 deaths (up from 64 deaths on May 21<sup>st</sup>). There are 41-80 cases in Leon Valley's zip code 78240 and 21-40 cases in zip code 78238. This has remained constant from the last reporting.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Two websites established by United Way where those who want to help can donate and volunteer: [www.helpSATX.org](http://www.helpSATX.org) and [www.SAunited4good.org](http://www.SAunited4good.org) . This is in addition to the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center for blood donations (210) 731-5555. For food donations, please contact Ms. Rivera at Meals on Wheels at (210) 735-5115, Ext. 1033 or the San Antonio Food Bank (210) 431-8388). San Antonio Pets Alive! is seeking people to foster and adopt dogs and cats. Also, call on your neighbors to see how they are doing. If you know of someone in our community who needs help please let me know (with their permission).

THANK YOU to all the health care workers and first Responders, who continue to put their lives on the line to treat and save other lives during this emergency. Now that the economy is beginning to re-open, Dr. Woo requested that we continue to understand the need to social distance, wash hands, wear masks and use hand sanitizer. If you are sick, stay at home to minimize exposure and get tested. Take care. Stay healthy, safe, and remain positive!

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092 – Please call with any questions or concerns.