

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –8/21/2020**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – AUGUST 18, 2020

The City Council took the following action at this week's council meeting:

- Adopted Judge Nelson Wolff 's Executive Order of August 13, 2020 with two major changes from the previous Order: Bexar County Parks will be closed to the public Labor Day weekend and the foreclosure sales scheduled for September 1, 2020 will be postponed.
- The annual National Night Out scheduled for October 6th to meet your neighbors, city council, police & fire departments was cancelled.
- The Soap Box Derby, also scheduled in October, was cancelled. Discussion regarding the possibility of rescheduling the Soap Box Derby for Spring, 2021 will be brought back to city council in November. It takes at least 5 months to plan this event and depending on where the virus is at, this event may not occur until Fall of 2021.

- City Hall, City Parks and Forest Oaks swimming pool will remain closed. The option of opening the pool on weekends in September was given to council, but was not acted upon.
- All athletic fields, playground areas and tennis courts remain closed to the public. The exceptions to these closings are the Rimkus Park walking and hiking trails, park restrooms and community garden, which remain open to the public.
- The City Library remains closed, with online adult and children activities only and curbside pickup for books and DVD's.

HAVE YOU BEEN FINANCIALLY AFFECTED BY COVID -19?

The City Council approved spending \$100,000 from the CARES money received from Bexar County to help our Leon Valley citizens in need of emergency financial assistance impacted by a loss of income due to the COVID-19 health emergency. A Resolution approving the program and entering into an agreement with Ascension De Paul Services, a non-profit organization in San Antonio to administer the program, was approved by Leon Valley city council. As of last week, the agreement is still being reviewed by Ascension De Paul attorneys.

As a reminder, qualified expenditures available to Leon Valley citizens are for mortgage and temporary rental assistance, internet services (up to

two months), fuel, food assistance program, clothing closets and counseling services. The County has given a **deadline of October 30, 2020** for this money to be spent by all suburban cities, or be returned to the County. The goal is to expend all money allocated to help our citizens who need assistance during this pandemic. As soon as more specific information is available it will be communicated to our residents in Leon Valley.

UPDATED NUMBERS

As of August 20, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 44,642, a 4% increase in 8 days. There were 677 deaths reported on August 20th, a 2.1% increase in 8 days. The positivity rate (the number of people who test positive for the virus in our community) stands at 11.3%, down from last week's number of 18%. According to Dr. Junda Woo, Metropolitan Health Director, the positivity number needs to be at 5% or less in our community in order to flatten the spread of the virus. There continues to be a reduction in the number of people in the hospital, in ICU and on ventilators. This is going in the right direction!

Dr. Anita Kurian of the Metropolitan Health District will give updated COVID cases to the suburban cities on August 21st which will be updated in

next week's letter. On August 3rd the City of Leon Valley had 205 cases of COVID -19 reported.

Metropolitan Health District is also encouraging anyone who has recovered from COVID 19 to consider donating plasma to help others who need it to recover. Contact the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, (210) 731-5555 to make an appointment.

COVID-19 TESTING SITES - Testing locations can be found at www.covid19sanantonio or by calling the City of San Antonio COVID-19 hot line at (210) 207-5779. *All testing sites will be closed September 7th for the Labor Day holiday.*

Please wear your mask, social distance, wash hands, avoid crowds and keep positive. Working together we will contain the spread of the virus. Please call/email if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Chris

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