

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY  
COVID-19 CRISIS –8/7/20**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

**HOUSEHOLD STABILIZATION PROGRAM**

The Leon Valley City Council is considering funding a Household Stabilization program in the amount of \$100,000 to provide emergency financial assistance to families and individuals in the City of Leon Valley who have been directly impacted by a loss of income due to the COVID-19 health emergency. The funds for this program would come from the \$631,000 CARES federal money received from Bexar County. A Resolution to approve this program as well as entering into an agreement with Ascension De Paul Services, a non-profit organization in San Antonio to administer the program, will be finalized by city council on **Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**, at a special city council meeting. Possible qualified expenditures to be considered are mortgage assistance, temporary rental assistance, internet services (up to two months), fuel assistance, food assistance programs, clothing closets and counseling services, You can see and hear this discussion by going to [www.leonvalleytexas.gov](http://www.leonvalleytexas.gov) and connect to this meeting.

This assistance comes at a critical time when unemployment insurance has expired (\$600 per week) and a renewal of federal relief has been stalled in Congress. The County has given a deadline of October 30, 2020 for this money to be spent by all suburban cities. The City of Universal City developed this model for other suburban cities. A big thank you to William Cox, Business Relations specialist who tirelessly called around the county to find a non-profit who could help us, as well as City Manager Kuenstler who followed up with getting the agreement done. More specific information, including contact information, cap amount, documents need to complete the application will be included in next week's weekly letter.

**Please note:** At the council's request, a tri-fold explaining all the CARES assistance programs offered by Bexar County which Leon Valley citizens are eligible for, has been mailed out to each household. This was done before we considered the Household Stabilization program, which provides additional benefits. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Cox at (210) 684-1391, Ext. 232.

### **STATUS OF SCHOOL OPENING**

Governor Abbott has given each school board the authority to set its own back to school schedule either on-line or in person. Dr. Junda Woo, at

the Metropolitan Health District will issue a new directive updating guidelines for each school district to voluntarily follow when deciding how and when to open schools. Wearing masks, social distancing and keeping hands sanitized are important. Dr. Woo emphasized that the number of positive cases should be at 5% or below before full school opening. Currently the rate is 15%. Another important statistic is the rate the virus doubles, which currently is 21 days. Dr. Woo states this number should be at 30 days for doubling of the virus as a medical guideline when determining what is safe for students, etc. Governor Abbott did say that local health officials could shut down local schools if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs after they reopen. This is indeed a difficult decision on when and how to reopen schools, which is now in the hands of the local school boards. If we all remain vigilant and follow the protocols, the number of cases will drop and our children/teachers can return to school in person safely.

### **UPDATED NUMBERS**

As of August 6, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 41,939, a 4% increase in 8 days. (The rate of increase in total cases declined from 16% to 4% in one week!). There were 406 deaths

reported on August 6<sup>th</sup>, a 17% increase in 8 days. There was also a slow reduction in the number of people in the hospital, in ICU's and on ventilators. This is a very positive trend! Acting together, we can make a difference in continuing to see a downward curve in the virus spread.

Dr. Anita Kurian of the Metropolitan Health District reported on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> that the total aggregate number of COVID cases in Leon Valley to date is 205, a 50% increase from 136 COVID cases reported on July 17<sup>th</sup>. The wider zip code areas of 78238 and 78240 are still reporting 311+ cases of COVID.

**COVID-19 TESTING SITES** - There are no testing sites in Leon Valley. Joe Freeman Coliseum is still an option for free testing for individuals showing symptoms, but you must have an appointment to get tested. Call 833-213-0643 for more information. Cuellar Community Center at 5626 San Fernando Street and Ramirez Community Center at 1011 Gillette Blvd are two free walk up testing locations. No appointment required and open 7 days a week from 10 am to 2 pm.

### **CITY FACILITIES REMAIN CLOSED**

At the August 4, 2020 City Council meeting, the council decided to continue to keep closed City Hall, City Parks and the Forest Oaks swimming pool. 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 continues to remain closed, with adult and children activities online only and curbside pickup for books and DVD's.

The decision to cancel the Soap Box Derby event, or possibly to go forth as a virtual event, will be discussed at the August 18<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

The council voted to allow bandit signs promoting local businesses as a way to help these businesses survive during the pandemic.

Please stay safe and healthy and call/email if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092

[mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov](mailto:mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov)