



Dear Friends,

It's certainly cold at home — but things in Austin are heating up! I hope you find this week's Rotunda Report helpful and informative.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT: Overnight Warming Station is Open!

Based on the forecast for this weekend and into Tuesday morning, it appears that we will have some of the lowest temperatures we have seen in years. Most of us are secure with roofs over our heads, big coats and warm meals – but many in our own backyard are not so fortunate. Many are homeless ... and we've got both an obligation and opportunity to meet them at the point of their need. To that end, I wanted to take this time to bring an amazing service to your attention - the Plano and McKinney Overnight Warming Stations. These safe locations are run by The Salvation Army and are equipped and ready to serve the homeless population in Collin County. Having visited the Plano Overnight Warming Station myself, I've seen firsthand how these locations are able to provide a warm, safe place for people to hunker down anytime the weather falls below 32 degrees at night. Both stations are expected to be open tonight, Saturday night and Sunday night. If you know anyone in need of shelter, here are some important details:

Plano Overnight Warming Station:

- Located at 3528 E. 14th Street, Plano 75074
- Doors open at 6pm with stay until 6am the next morning
- Buses begin pick up at 6pm at the DART Parker Road Station then proceed to the Downtown station and on to Harrington Library until 9pm.
- Get there early - due to COVID-19, there are restrictions on the number of people who will be allowed in and temperatures will be taken at the door.
- A boxed meal will be provided
- More information can be found here: <http://pows.collincares.org/>

McKinney Overnight Warming Station:

- Located at 600 Wilson Creek Pkwy, McKinney 75069
- Open 6pm-8am
- Rides available the first hour - pick up at Hall Library and Hope Fellowship Church
- Call or text 214-945-4637 for more information

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATES

Beginning yesterday, February 11th, select CVS pharmacies in North Texas began taking appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine. Supply for the limited rollout, which is sourced directly from the federal pharmacy partnership program, will be about 38,000 vaccines - with the plan to increase locations as more vaccines become available. Additionally, Walmart also hopes to expand their vaccination rollout into North Texas by the first or second week of March. To book an appointment online with a CVS pharmacy nearest you, please visit this website.

Last Friday I sent a letter to Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Commissioner, Dr. Hellerstedt, asking him to add teachers and school personnel to the 1C group immediately following the completion of 1A and 1B. Educating our kids - unhindered, unabated and in-person - needs to be a top priority for our state. And while we will not mandate vaccines for any Texan, getting the vaccine to willing educators is a necessary step to that end. Rest assured, I will continue to do everything I can to ensure teachers and school personnel are able to receive the vaccine as quickly as possible.

Finally, one more word on the vaccine front ... be assured that we are working diligently at the state level- and fighting on your behalf - to ensure that Collin County is distributed our fair share of vaccines. And as those vaccines come in to Collin County, our counterparts at the county level, led by Collin County Judge Chris Hill, and many City leaders and other private third-parties, are doing everything possible to efficiently and effectively manage the growing wait-list of individuals in the 1A and 1B groups who are eager to access the vaccine. This is no easy or simple task - and while we are confident in our collective efforts to get the vaccines to those who need them most in the quickest way possible, we are learning and improving our strategies each and every day. The best way to do that is to hear from you as to your own experiences and to be receptive to your questions or concerns. In that regard, please reach out to me and my office and/or to your County Commissioner so that we can effectively address your concerns and serve your needs. And, as always, thank you for your continued patience and understanding as together we continue on in this monumental task.

STATE OF THE STATE

Last week, Governor Greg Abbott delivered the “State of the State” address, his biennial report to the people of Texas. He clearly and boldly outlined the challenges and opportunities facing the Lone Star State and set forth a great vision and plan for the 87th Legislative Session — investing in education, supporting our law enforcement, attacking COVID-19, safeguarding our fundamental liberties, strengthening small businesses, improving healthcare, and more. I strongly encourage you to read his address and/or view it at the following link:

<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-delivers-2021-state-of-the-state-address>

I am really proud to be working directly with the Governor and his team - and with all of my legislative colleagues - on key legislation to ensure Texas remains strong and that we emerge from this crisis stronger than we entered it. I'm confident that, working together, we'll deliver on your behalf.

TEXAS RENT RELIEF PROGRAM

This week the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) announced the Texas Rent Relief Program. The passage of the Coronavirus Relief Bill in late December 2020 by Congress meant the delivery of \$1.3 billion in emergency rental assistance and utility bill assistance for qualifying Texas households impacted by the global pandemic. To qualify, applicants must have income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income and qualify for unemployment or have experienced financial hardship. TDHCA will accept applications from landlords and tenants beginning February 15, 2021, at 8 a.m. CST. To learn more about the qualifications or how to apply, please visit [Texas Rent Relief](#) or call 833-989-7368.

I'm here for you, friend. As always, call me directly if I can be of service to you.

God Bless you, friends. And God Bless Texas!

Warmly (sort of),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Leach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Leach

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