



MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TRUAX

April 2, 2020

We have made it through two and one-half weeks since the emergency order was issued here in Forest Grove. Since then, we have:

- practiced social distancing;
- traveled only for essential reasons;
- supported our businesses in Forest Grove, and the people who work in them;
- appreciated our first responders for their continued devotion to duty, such as our police officers delivering prescriptions to the homebound; and
- supported each other in this difficult time.

I am continually amazed and gratified by the individual acts of kindness and charitable contributions that are made each and every day. Whether it is something as big as the shift to distance learning in our school district, or as seemingly small as posting pictures of quiet solitude on Facebook, we are coping with the crisis. And that is the key. We are coping; we are not blaming. We are caring for each other; we are not looking for villains. We are acting with compassion; we are not pitting neighbor against neighbor.

There are also things the City of Forest Grove is doing. Links on our website www.forestgrove-or.gov deal with impacts of Coronavirus. There is the Small Business Emergency Assistance Program to assist eligible businesses with rent or mortgage payments in April. The Emergency Grant for COVID Assistance is designed for non-profits who can provide immediate assistance for the most vulnerable in Forest Grove. We are also providing updated situation reports to help keep you informed.

We are also working with utility customers to ensure that interruptions to electric or water service will not occur. And other suppliers, such Northwest Natural Gas, Comcast and the myriad of cell phone providers are working to make sure we don't go without. I appreciate all those efforts. As we move through this, I will continue working with our partners: my fellow mayoral colleagues; the Washington County Commission and staff; Metro Council and staff; and the Governor's Office. I do hope the State Legislature will soon hold its much needed special session. Because of this crisis, cities need some temporary relief in such things as budgeting and land use regulations moving through this crisis.

Finally, I urge that we take the time to fill out the Census report online. You should have received a card in the mail with instructions. A proper count means a lot to Oregon and its residents.

We will come out on the other side of this stronger than ever, of that I am sure. I leave you with the words of Pluto, the talking dog: "Keep your social distancing. It's okay to bark from across the street and wag your tail. But, keep your nose to yourself and don't drool."

Peace.