

Mayor's Message Regarding COVID-19

April 8, 2020

We put forward a Declaration of Emergency for the City of North Bonneville pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. Proclaiming an emergency allows the city to bypass normal procedural requirements related to expenditures and competitive bidding, among other things, to save lives, protect property, protect the economic base of the community and preserve the environment. This emergency declaration can also allow North Bonneville to receive state or federal funding if such funding becomes available.

The City of North Bonneville's administrative staff continues to monitor the emergency on a County level through daily situation reports and conference calls with Sheriff Brown, Skamania County Emergency Management, Skamania County Commissioners, Skamania County Public Health Director and other key contacts throughout Skamania County. Daily status updates concerning county wide closures, policies, health advisories etc. can be accessed through the Skamania County website skamania-dem.org . The website is also a good source of the resources available for residents and business during this difficult time. We will do our best to keep the community of North Bonneville apprised of current information as it becomes available.

North Bonneville City Hall remains closed to the public to help minimize the spread of COVID-19. This closure will remain in effect through April 30th. The reopening of City Hall after this date will depend on whether the Washington State Department of Health determines the virus has been contained enough to pose less of a threat to staff and community members.

The closure of City Hall will not disrupt the city from providing services essential to the citizens and businesses of North Bonneville. City staff will be available to conduct business via email or telephone. Water bill payments can be paid online, through the city's website, or dropped in the payment box outside the entry of City Hall. Most other city related business can be conducted by telephone at (509) 427-8182 or by emailing info@northbonneville.net . Any business that needs direct interaction with city personnel, we ask that you call so that a meeting can be arranged.

City Public Works crews will continue business as usual but will limit their interaction with the public for non-essential requests. For any requests requiring action by Public Works we ask that citizens call City Hall or Public Work Supervisor, Bryan Henrichsen, directly at (541) 490-2370.

To minimize the spread of COVID-19 and to adhere to the social distancing order, the April 14, 2020 North Bonneville City Council meeting will be conducted through the Join Zoom Meeting

app. for anyone that would like to participate by phone. The numbers to call to access the meeting will be posted on the city web-site Monday April 13th.

City pathways, as well as trails remain open to residents as it is important for our community to stay mentally and physically healthy by remaining active. The city's disc golf course remains closed to the general public through April 30th. Strawberry Island trails are closed to everyone by order of the Corp of Engineers. The sheltering in place order Governor Inslee has put in effect does not limit your right to remain active if we remain mindful of social distancing.

Finally, according to the most recent statistics put out by the Washington State Department of Health, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state is leveling the curve. By this I mean the number of cases being reported are not exceeding the numbers of confirmed cases reported from the week prior and are trending down. This trend has been apparent the past couple of weeks. Skamania County to date has only had two confirmed cases of COVID-19. The low number of infected individuals in our county is a testimony to the community for following guidelines set forth by Health and Government officials to help keep the virus from spreading.

We will get through this pandemic and the disruption it has created in our day to day lives. American exceptionalism has prevailed in far worse situations and will not be defeated by the Coronavirus.

Mayor Brian Sabo