



CITY OF SILVERTON

SPRING 2020

Mayor's Corner

What a difference three months makes. It says a lot about the state of our community that I had to wait until the very last second to write this as things have been changing daily, and sometimes hourly. Let me start by saying that these have been unprecedented times – for Silverton, for our state, for our country, and for the world. Rarely before has the phrase “we’re in this together” meant more. On that note, I’ve never been more proud to be part of this community – the collective response to some very difficult but necessary orders from our Governor, the voluntary responses from some businesses before those orders even came out, and the amazing instinct to help each other has been inspiring.



Mayor Kyle Palmer
503-932-8550
kpalmer@silverton.or.us

The irony of a place called “Gather” closing because they knew that gathering put their staff and customers at risk. The visual of seeing the Palace Theatre marquis announce that they were temporarily closed before they had to be, along with posters that announced they were putting the welfare of Silverton first. These businesses and others recognized in advance what others would soon be told – every reason and every place even a few of us would congregate near each other was an opportunity to endanger us all.

As a result, much of our commercial identity has all but disappeared for now, every event has been cancelled, and every meeting postponed. It helps me to remember the large and glaring notice on our theater: Temporarily Closed. Those two words say it all – it will take a while, but Silverton WILL be back because this IS temporary.

As is typical during troubling times, there are heroes all around us. Our medical professionals at Legacy Silverton Health, Silverton Urgent Care, and every provider seeing patients in their offices are on the front lines, placing themselves at risk to make sure each of us remains healthy. They will never get enough credit for what they have done.

Our first responders, our vital city employees, our manufacturers, our providers of needed supplies, and anyone else still providing services to our community are helping us all make it through this. Our grocers in particular deserve our appreciation – they have been managing huge rushes for certain products, managing occasional hoarding of some products, and have been managing shortages and outages of some products, all while evolving to help us all get the things we need in a safe manner for everyone, including their teams.

While our commercial businesses have been hit hard, and our restaurant industry is fighting to hold

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Responding to COVID-19 Special Focus Issue

This quarter’s issue of the City Newsletter is specially focused to the COVID-19 declared emergency that continues to unfold in our community and around the world. Information may change rapidly.

You can find a full-color version of this newsletter on the City’s website, www.silverton.or.us, as well as the latest information and links and all contact information for City departments. Please also sign up for City alerts direct to your email or phone – look for the red “Stay Connected” button on the homepage!



Guidance from Oregon State Police, Silverton Police regarding “Stay at Home, Stay Safe” Order

Are police arresting or ticketing people in public or in violation of the Governor’s Executive Order?

- People that violate the Governor’s Order in an Emergency Declaration could be arrested or cited, which is a C Misdemeanor – the lowest level of criminal conduct designation.
- All Oregon law enforcement are united on the premise that police action is extremely undesirable and we hope to educate Oregonians if congregating in violation of the Governor’s Order.
- Citation or arrest would be an extreme last resort if a person failed to comply with the lawful direction of a police officer.

What about my kids that may congregate in a place without my permission, like a skate park?

Police know our children don’t often take their parent’s advice and may ignore direction when away. Like adults found to be congregating in a location, officers will likely approach the youths and educate them on the order. Citations and arrest are extremely unlikely, reserved for only the most extreme circumstances.

Should I call 911 if I see people congregating?

No. The level of this violation is not for reporting police, fire or medical emergencies through 911. People may choose to self-educate their fellow Oregonians or if a large gathering is noted, they may call their respective police agency’s non-emergency number.

(Source: Oregon State Police. March 24, 2020 Twitter Post, re: Executive Order 20-12)



Then: August 2019 City Hall Selfie

Now: Physical Distancing = No Group Selfies for now!

SEE INSIDE FOR

- Your City at Work:
Operations and Policy Updates
- Community Resources:
Getting Help and Helping Others
- Business Resources
- Census Update and more!

Your City in Action and COVID-19

In the weeks since Oregon Governor Kate Brown declared an emergency (March 8, 2020) and the World Health Organization declared a pandemic (March 11, 2020), City operations have adapted to:



- Promote the health and safety of the community and of City staff, volunteers, and elected officials by adhering to Executive Orders and best practices from the local (county) and state health authorities.
- Continue to provide the community with essential services.
- Continue meetings for essential business while promoting physical distancing (non-essential meetings will be cancelled or postponed).

Action	When	What Does It Mean?
Closing City Hall to the Public	March 18, 2020 – until further notice.	City staff are available by phone and email; please see the guide below to access services you need.
Mayor Declared a State of Emergency	March 23, 2020 (ratified by Council April 6, 2020). Effective until May 4, 2020 and may be renewed if needed.	The declaration authorizes the City Manager as the Emergency Management Organization (EMO) Director and allows additional flexibility in terms of creating and deviating from adopted ordinances when necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. (An example of this flexibility would be enacting the temporary policy below regarding utility services.)
City Manager signs Temporary Administrative Policy Suspending Utility Shutoffs and Certain Fees and Charges	Effective March 27, 2020 and until revocation by the City Manager.	The City recognizes the importance of having water to combat the COVID-19 virus. From March 27 onward, the City will not disconnect services for non-payment of utility bills. The City will also suspend charging late fees, monthly interest charges, and administrative fees for delinquent accounts.
Closing City Parks	March 23, 2020 – until further notice.	In order to promote social distancing, City parks and playgrounds are closed.

Accessing City Services

This is a rapidly changing situation. Please check the City's website and Facebook page for official information about City operations. Staff are here to serve you. All staff contacts are accessible through the online staff directory: www.silverton.or.us/directory.

Utility Billing and Court	Payments can be made online: www.xpressbillpay.com . Mail check payments to: 306 S. Water Street, Silverton, OR 97381 or a drop box is located as you exit the City Hall parking lot.	Questions: 503-873-5321 (option 1) or finance@silverton.or.us .
Building and Community Development	Inspection scheduling, inspection results, and tracking the progress of submitted applications may be done online through the Silverton Permit Portal at www.silverton.or.us/367/Search-Permit-Records . Inspections may also be scheduled by phone at 503-874-2208. Permit applications are available online at www.silverton.or.us and can be emailed to permits@silverton.or.us . Payments can be placed in the drop box or mailed to: 306 S. Water Street, Silverton, OR 97381. Plan submission or pickup will be done by appointment only and requires 24 hours' notice. To schedule an appointment call 503-874-2207.	Questions: 503-874-2207.
Silver Trolley (dial-a-ride)	(Service levels and hours subject to change). Dispatchers are available to answer the phone between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.	Schedule a trip: 503-873-4546.
Closing City Hall to the Public	March 18, 2020 – until further notice.	City staff are available by phone and email; please see the guide below to access services you need.
Public Works	For services such as right-of-way permit applications, system development charges and traffic concerns: After-hours (emergencies only):	503-873-8679 503-991-9795
Police Department	Lobby closed; phone is available outside City Hall. For non-emergencies 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday: After hours:	– 503-873-5326. 503-873-5326 listen to message and press #1 for METCOM Dispatch.

Backflow Assembly Report Due Date Extended for 2020. Reports Are Due By August 1.

Community Resources

Help Available

Utility providers ensuring service:

See opposite page for information regarding utility billing in Silverton beginning March 27, 2020.

PGE (800-542-8818) is suspending non-payment disconnections and fees for residential and small business connections.

NW Natural (800-422-4012) is suspending non-payment disconnections and fees.

Food Resources:

SACA (Silverton Area Community Aid)

Food Pantry – Mon, Thur & Fri 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Tuesdays 4 - 7 p.m. 503-873-3446.

Mission of Hope (Silver Creek Fellowship) – Wednesdays 2 - 4 p.m. Saturdays 9 - 11 a.m. 503-873-7353.

Meals on Wheels (home delivery) – call 503-873-6906.

SNAP – call 211 or visit 211info.org for help applying for food benefits.

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) – call 211 or search “WIC Interest Form Oregon” to request a contact. Dads, grandparents, and other guardians can apply for benefits for kids in their care.

Need Healthcare?

Oregon Health Plan

Visit one.oregon.gov and call 800-699-9075.

Helping Others

Blood donations needed:

Both the American Red Cross and Bloodworks Northwest are in need of donations from healthy donors – visit their websites for details.

Masks:

As of press time, Legacy and other health systems are no longer accepting homemade masks. You may wish to assemble or sew simple masks for personal use and to share with family or friends per current CDC recommendation to wear simple masks in public.

Connecting:

In a time of physical distancing, there are still ways to connect with people, especially those who may feel isolated. Want to share a positive message with someone? Here are a few opportunities:

- Send snail mail to friends and family, either in town or across the state/country/world
- Send messages to those you may not know personally. For example, the Edward C. Allsworth Veterans Home in Lebanon, OR has been significantly impacted by COVID-19: send cards, letters or other materials in an unlicked envelope to attn: Operation Well Wish, Oregon Veterans' Home, 600 N. 5th St., Lebanon, OR 97355. Videos may be ODVAInformation@odva.state.or.us

Looking for more ideas?

Check out “How Can I Help with the Coronavirus Effort in Oregon?” at Myoregon.gov

Health Reminders

For the latest health information, including guidance on symptoms and testing, please consult the following trusted sources leading the COVID-19 response:

Local: **Marion County Health Authority** www.co.marion.or.us/HLT
 State: **Oregon Health Authority (OHA)** www.oregon.gov/oha
 National: **Center for Disease Control (CDC)** www.cdc.gov
 International: **World Health Organization (WHO)** www.who.int

Washing your hands is easy, and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can stop germs from spreading from one person to another and throughout an entire community – from your home and workplace to childcare facilities and hospitals.



COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus

Enjoy warm weather at home

COVID-19.MCHealthy.net

As we transition to warmer weather, it is important to remember the importance of continuing to stay home as much as possible. Please enjoy nature safely and continue social distancing. We have some tips to help you enjoy the sunshine without putting yourself or others at risk.

- Open the window and let fresh air into your home.
- Take your work outside – If working remotely, work on a patio or balcony.
- Start a garden – spend time in nature.
- Go on walks – maintain social distancing and stay local.



STAY HOME, SAVE LIVES



Supporting Local Businesses

The City of Silverton understands the tremendous impact the COVID-19 response is having on our local businesses. We are here to support you and your business, including communicating what resources are available to help during this difficult period. Please visit the City's website for additional updates after press time.

1. **Silverton Chamber of Commerce:** business updates and local restaurants offering take-out and delivery (business.silvertonchamber.org/news, 503-873-5615)
2. **Business Oregon COVID-19 Resources for Businesses:** direct financing, workforce & employee Assistance, state debt relief, Small Business Navigator: www.oregon4biz.com, 833-604-0880
3. **SEDCOR:** Coronavirus Resources Page (www.sedcor.com/page/coronavirus)
4. **Small Business Administration:** SBA.gov for federal relief.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

Oregon State University is offering a free 10-week spring term online course for anyone interested. Search for “Punch through Pandemics with Psychological Science” to find the course site. Interested Oregonians (and people worldwide) may join at any time!

Silverton City Council



Mayor
Kyle Palmer
503-932-8550
kpalmer@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Laurie Carter
503-580-5355
lcarter@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Jason Freilinger
503-874-4430
jfreilinger@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Crystal Neideigh
cneideigh@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Matt Plummer
mplummer@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Jim Sears
503-873-9357
jsears@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Dana Smith
503-873-4921
dsmith@silverton.or.us

Silverton City Hall

306 S. Water St. • 503-873-5321
Finance Director Kathleen Zaragoza
 503-874-2203 • kzaragoza@silverton.or.us
Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu
 503-874-2212
jgottgetreu@silverton.or.us
Public Works Director Petra Schuetz
 503-874-2210 • pschuetz@silverton.or.us
Police Chief Jeff Fossholm
 503-874-2228 • jfossholm@silverton.or.us



City Manager
Christy Wurster
503-874-2205
cwurster@silverton.or.us

City Calendar

Please note that meetings are subject to rescheduling or cancellation due to the COVID-19 Emergency. Please check the City's website for the latest information and remote participation options. Remember, you can sign up for City alerts direct to your email or phone – look for the red “Stay Connected” button on the homepage!

April

April 23 – Urban Renewal Agency Budget & Budget Meeting
6 p.m. *

April 28 – Budget Meeting
(if needed) 6 p.m. *

Silverton City Council Chambers
421 S. Water St.

* Denotes meetings on SCAN TV

May

May 4 – City Council Meeting 6 p.m. *

May 12 – Planning Commission Meeting
7 p.m.*

May 18 – City Council Work Session 6 p.m.

May 25 – City Hall Offices Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

June

June 1 – City Council Meeting
6 p.m. *

June 9 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 p.m. *

June 15 – City Council Special Meeting 6 p.m. *

July

July 3 – City Hall Offices Closed for Independence Day Holiday

July 6 – City Council Meeting
6 p.m. *

Mayor From page 1

on using take-out as their only means of income, the one demographic that has been hit the hardest is our citizens themselves.

I know that some of you are scared – for yourselves, for your families, and for your friends. We've temporarily lost the benefits of using direct and physical companionship outside of our homes as a tool to manage the stress that this pandemic has caused. We've temporarily lost the ability to have a dinner out, to go to the gym, or to get our hair done. All minor things compared to saving lives by staying home, but nonetheless things that normally help us express our need for human interaction, activity, and self care. It's very hard, but we must remain vigilant. I know we can do it.

Our children have temporarily lost the structured education that we've all come to take for granted will always be there (unless we wake up to snow), and perhaps just as importantly, they've temporarily lost access to the continued social development that is normal at their ages. I know that our district staff and teachers are desperately wanting to be there for them and hopefully soon will be in some form. Our students will persevere however, despite the loss of their athletic seasons, state championships that were to come, dances, and almost certainly graduations in a form they would recognize. They may very well enter a college system that is still operating remotely. I am comforted in knowing that these kids will grow up to lead a world that is more prepared for this type of crisis than we were.

Despite all of the things we've lost or put on hold, this community has not complained. Social media has been full of support, both emotionally, and tangibly in the form of assistance. When I signed the order declaring a State of Emergency in Silverton, you didn't panic, and understood it was just a necessary step in managing our City's response. When restaurants were reduced to take-out, you didn't panic, and instead responded with organized efforts to support them. When you were asked to stay home to save lives, you didn't panic, you took it to heart and have done so when possible. Thank you!

We've held weekly video calls with representatives from various organizations who play key roles in the community in an effort to remain connected and share information – SACA and Mission of Hope have evolved to keep supplying food to those in need. Sheltering Silverton provides a daily sack lunch to our homeless population. The Silver Falls School District is operating multiple “grab and go” sites to help feed students. This is an amazing community!

Many of you have asked some very understandable questions.... Where can you walk outside? At this time, anywhere you want on public sidewalks, but not in our parks systems – just stay 6 feet from anyone not in your immediate household. Will your vital services be shut off? PGE and Northwest Natural both assured us that no customer will lose service for non-payment during this time. Our City Manager signed an administrative order directing that no water service will be shut off for non-payment during this time (see page 2 in this newsletter for more information). When will these restrictions be lifted? Sadly, we don't know, but no matter how difficult this is, it is the only way to beat this virus.

2020 Census is Open for Self-Response

- Online at 2020Census.gov
- Over the phone by calling the number provided in your invitation
- And by paper through the mail

Responding now will minimize the need for the Census Bureau to send census takers out into communities to follow up. According to 2020Census.gov, your responses influence highway planning and construction, grants for public transit systems, Head Start program funding, housing assistance, and a variety of other programs. Check out 2020Census.gov for more reasons why the Census matters!



Meanwhile at the City...

Urban Renewal Grant Applications Open through July 15: Proposals are reviewed semi-annually by the Silverton Urban Renewal Advisory Committee and Silverton Urban Renewal Agency. The application deadline for review for the year's first round passed on Jan. 15. Building Improvement or Façade Improvement Applications can be found on the City's website and should be completed and submitted to City Hall by the submission deadline.

If I Were Mayor Contest Deadline Extended to May 29, 2020: Mayor Palmer would like the question to be more specific. He is asking students at home to answer the following: “To Help Silverton Recover From COVID-19 (Coronavirus), If I Were Mayor, I Would.....” Local winners will be entered into the state contest for a chance to win a prize worth \$500! Details at: silverton.or.us/mayorcontest.