



City of Leavenworth

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City Administrator - *Vacant*

April 2, 2020

Community Members,

It has been gratifying, humbling, and important to witness the signs of spring even as COVID-19 ravages its dark winter on our lives. The wonder of the world coming back to life brings hope. When everything seems dead, and it seems like the brown shades would remain, suddenly there is a little green, and a little purple, and a little yellow. Life from what was decayed.

We will get through this. Life will spring back as robust as ever, regardless of appearances. That is the hope that carries us forward. But it is also humbling. Because, even as we witness the planet being rejuvenated, it is a stark reminder that the earth doesn't really care what we humans are having to deal with. Nature doesn't really notice our fears, our anxieties. When I watched the flock of quail running through the bushes this morning, or saw the swallows checking out one of our bird houses, they were oblivious to our need for social distancing. Don't they know? Don't they care? The stark reality is, they don't.

And that is a gift. It is a gift that I keep finding over and over when I look at majestic peaks, or watch wave after wave after wave crash against the shore. It is all so big, and grand, and majestic. And I am so small, so insignificant, so fleeting. A gift. A gift to be given perspective. We are not the center of all things. We are not really so important. To some, that would be a depressing thought. For some, that might leave them thinking, "what is the use?" But for me, and I hope, for you, it is a gift to know that, really, very little depends upon me. It is not a gift that leaves me paralyzed. It is a gift that frees me up to do everything I can, to make every effort. And I can do that, give it 110%, to love, to forgive, to work, to better the world and those around me, precisely because I do not need to fear failure. I do not need to worry that it won't be good enough. I don't have to feel the weight of the world on my shoulders. The world carries its own weight quite well without me. I just need to carry the weight of one grain of sand, for one moment in time. That I can do. I might ultimately have less significance than the crocus I see poking up right now. That's OK. I can still offer the glimpse of life, love, beauty, and hope that is my own small contribution. And know, that, as small as it might be, it is enough!

Your light, your joy, your hope... it may ultimately matter very little, but it matters a great deal to those around you. It may ultimately matter little to the world, but it means the world to those you touch! Keep touching those around you, but just do it from a distance for now! Stay safe, stay at home!



Carl J. Florea, Mayor

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