



**Carl J. Florea**  
Office of the Mayor  
City of Leavenworth

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Community Members,

As we continue the somewhat delicate, and very important, gradual reopening of our tourism-based economy, we continue to do all we can to make sure we are stressing safety in all we do. We continue hearing positive feedback from our guests to the opening up of Front Street to pedestrian traffic only. Each week we hear from several guests expressing their opinion that this should remain permanent! We explain that this has been the eventual goal for some time now, but that we need to take a few steps between now and then. The biggest step has to do with having adequate parking to replace the parking lost due to the closure. When we figure out just what our parking need really is (the eventual installation of the new meters and sensors will get us this information), and address the shortfall, we will be able to focus on moving the pedestrian plaza concept along. That will truly be an exciting time in the life of our community.

This week I was able to spend some significant time with the Chamber's new Executive Director, Troy Campbell. We covered a broad range of topics related to the COVID-19 crisis and reopening of the town. But we also ventured into the broader issues around moving our town forward, and the vision of a dynamic and diverse community. I truly believe that we will work well together moving us into this new unified vision where the entire community pulls together for a true win / win for businesses and residents. Just as COVID has reminded us in a powerful way; we truly ARE all in this together!

In light of Governor Inslee's recent order that facial coverings will now be mandatory statewide, both indoors and outdoors when we are in public spaces. We believe that with encouragement rather than threat, we can positively change behavior. We will now be reminding people that the mandate requires masking in our public spaces – both indoors and outdoors. But just like Governor Inslee, we will rely upon the good will of people to want to do the right thing and abide by the mandate. We are talking with our Chamber partners on what else we can do to make the idea of wearing a mask more fun, more acceptable. The philosophy behind this is that you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. The very sad reality is that too many people see this as a question of individual rights, rather than a public health issue. Dr. Malcolm Butler, the chief medical officer for the Chelan-Douglas Health District, likened it to the ban on smoking in public buildings. It was met with resistance at first, but now even smokers accept it as a public health and safety issue and have adjusted. We need to get there with mask wearing. But we need to get there much more quickly if we are going to have an immediate impact on this virus.

One thing we can all do as residents of this great town is to give our guests the example of a community that "gets it" – and has no need to defy the Governor "on principle", but has a need to protect our neighbors "on principle". Stay safe so we can all enjoy this summer!



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