



## City of Leavenworth

700 Highway 2 / Post Office Box 287  
Leavenworth, Washington 98826  
(509) 548-5275 / Fax: (509) 548-6429  
Web: [www.cityofleavenworth.com](http://www.cityofleavenworth.com)

**City Council**  
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Carolyn Wilson  
Mia Bretz  
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Jason Lundgren  
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City Administrator - *Vacant*

April 21, 2020

Community Members,

As this virus has continued its rampage through our lives, I know that anxieties have risen exponentially for a lot of members of our community. One of the most difficult situations many of our community members are facing is the inability to make their house payments, or rent payments, due to their lack of income at this time. People are struggling to get signed up for unemployment with a system that is overwhelmed. New monthly rent payments are coming due soon. And on top of all the stresses being produced by this horrendous disease, losing one's housing would compound that reality beyond imagination!

The good news is that our Governor has extended his emergency proclamation to not allow evictions during this crisis. That extension now goes until June 4<sup>th</sup>. This means that no one can be forced to leave their home for lack of payment. They also cannot be assessed late fees for missing payments. Eventually, this rent will need to be paid. But the best thing people can do for themselves is to talk to their landlords early. Discuss what kind of payment plan they can accept once things begin moving towards normalcy again.

Finally, we are fortunate to have in our upper valley an organization to assist those who will be faced with a situation that will leave them struggling and unable to keep up even after things begin to move forward. Upper Valley MEND has hired a new staff person just to help people in need of such emergency assistance. Kaylin Bettinger, the Executive Director of MEND, says that they are encouraging people, at this point, to talk to their landlords. MEND can help them understand their options, and will be ready to give assistance if and when that time comes. They are prepared to do this because of the generosity of this community to those who are struggling.

So, stay safe, do what you can, and know that none of us want to see our neighbors homeless!



### Carl J. Florea, Mayor

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[cflorea@cityofleavenworth.com](mailto:cflorea@cityofleavenworth.com)