



## 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  
Anne Hessburg – *Mayor Pro Tem*  
Zeke Reister  
City Administrator - *Vacant*

April 30, 2020

Community Members,

Does anyone else have this sense of being in a time warp? Normally time flies by for me. I blink and a month goes by. If I lose track of time, it is because it is racing far ahead of me. How many times have I heard, or have spoken, “Where did the time go?” But that is not what I have been experiencing during this pandemic, and I am not sure why. When I think back on all that has happened in this time or the coronavirus, it shocks me to think that we have essentially been closed down for less than 40 days. Now, it is true that we had already begun to respond prior to that time. We had begun to suspend some events, and had already been practicing some distancing, and doing extra disinfecting. But the true stopping of all nonessential services occurred just 38 days ago. When I say “just 38 days ago”, I know that is a long time for so many. It’s a long time to be out of work. It’s a long time to be stuck at home. It’s a long time to have a business closed. But to my earlier point. Normally that amount of time would have gone by so quickly that I would scratch my head in wonder as to where it went, and how it could pass that swiftly. But with these days when we have been experiencing this pandemic, I am scratching my head in wonder of another sort. I can’t believe how slowly those days have gone by! When I reflect back on those first days, and how quickly we went from “just another kind of flu” to an almost total shutdown of our economy and activities... It seems like that was not just a blink of the eye ago, but actually ages and ages ago. It can’t really only be 38 days. Time has frozen for me. Now, I am not quite sure what to make of that frozen time. It is probably only a very temporary situation. I am sure as we start to open things up, and get back to normal, life will once again speed up and time will once again pass as a blur. I would like to hope not. I would like to think that even as things start to ease back to “normal” (we know it won’t be the old normal, but a new normal), that some of what this pandemic has taught us would stay with us. The slowing down of life is one thing I would like to keep. But, in all honesty, I am not at all certain of my ability to sustain such things. Life has a way of returning to its own equilibrium. Which means the hectic pace of our society will probably return, and maybe more quickly than some of us would like. But let’s hope that we can keep some of what we have learned in these days. Stay safe!



**Carl J. Florea, Mayor**

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