



## 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

Carl J. Florea - *Mayor*  
Carolyn Wilson  
Mia Bretz  
Sharon Waters  
Clint Strand  
Jason Lundgren  
Anne Hessburg – *Mayor Pro Tem*  
Zeke Reister  
City Administrator - *Vacant*

May 13, 2020

Dear Community Members,

Well, today has been busy, unlike all my other days... 😊 But besides picking out a design at Gibb's Graphics for our "No Parking" posts for the eventual closure of Commercial Street to parking, and responding to the normal slew of emails, there has actually been quite a bit that has NOT been related to COVID-19. That's been nice! Starting with a Zoom meeting to hear presentations from our 3 finalists to provide smart meters for our City's water system. This was exciting because it is going to increase efficiency, and give each of our customers the ability to see their usage patterns, and help them conserve. Those should all be installed before winter comes upon us!

Then I spent some time in a Zoom meeting with a group of high school and middle school students who were a part of the Sustainability Club with the School District. It was fun to hear their thoughts about what can be done to make our community more aware and engaged in practices that are truly sustainable. Prior to this COVID outbreak, I had spoken to them in person, and had invited them to a meeting with the Council to discuss projects that we might do together. While that got postponed indefinitely, it was great to reconvene and recommit to cooperation as we move forward and beyond this current crisis.

Finally, I had a wonderful Zoom meeting with representatives of our local Farmers' Market as they make plans to ready for a reopening, hopefully on June 4<sup>th</sup>. What a great asset they are! They embody the best of what defines true community. Sadly, this virus will take away some of the best of that market experience, but only temporarily. They will have more space between booths. They will have a single line and try to keep people going one direction. They will keep customers spaced out. They will not be able to serve prepared food for now. They will limit the numbers who can be in the market at one time. They will practice all of the COVID-19 safety measures, including a requirement for all vendors and customers to wear masks. It will not be the same without the food, the music, and the lingering and visiting. That will all be lost for now. And how sad! But how appreciative I am of them for their dedication to follow all the safety protocols. They are making the effort to do this right, for the safety of all! If they can do it, every business can do it! But the very saddest thing is, they will not be spending this summer in Lions Club Park. Didn't they know that having proximity to the market was the biggest perk of being elected Mayor? Just for now, and I truly appreciate why they are doing it. They have found a space that will allow all of these new guidelines to occur in a more controlled and controllable environment, and one less "friendly" to hanging out. You will be able to find them this spring and summer in the parking lot of the Alpine Lakes Elementary School.

There is so much to celebrate in this community, even as we mourn and struggle, and yearn for the what we had. What will come back can be even better. We just need to be open to where these changes will take us. Stay hopeful, stay invested, stay engaged, and stay safe!



### Carl J. Florea, Mayor

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