

GOLDEN VALLEY CITY COUNCIL ASKS COMMUNITY FOR HELP DURING COVID-19

March 30, 2020

As Mayor and City Council of Golden Valley, we are here to help our residents get through this time of great uncertainty. COVID-19 has affected our daily lives in many ways, but the City is well prepared and working to help keep our community safe while continuing to provide high-quality services in innovative ways.

Although City Hall and Brookview Golden Valley are closed, staff is doing an outstanding job to keep the City working remotely. Non-emergency staff are accessible by phone or email, while key staff continue critical municipal services. The Golden Valley Public Safety building is open and staffed with emergency responders 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Our first-ever virtual City Council Meeting March 17 was quite the success! Our next virtual meeting is April 7, with Open Forum starting at 6:20 pm. We will continue to gather public input by telephone or electronically as we maintain social distancing and blunt the spread of this coronavirus. Similar virtual functions will also be available as we get our City Commissions, Boards, and Task Force groups up and running on-line in April.

We know communication is key to staying connected. That's why our police are providing regular virtual updates and our Parks & Recreation Department rolled out "HomeRECD" family activities via YouTube (www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/homerecd.php). We are always open to hearing your creative thoughts on ways we can bring more programs and services to you at home and connect with our community.

We also need your help complying with Governor Walz's Stay At Home order, which was passed to slow the spread of COVID-19. From a recreation standpoint, activities like walking, running, biking, and hiking are acceptable in parks and open spaces as long you remain at least six feet away from individuals from other households. The use of playground and park equipment is discouraged, as are group sports and activities in which you can't maintain six feet of social distancing. However, our Police Department is receiving

multiple complaints of large group gatherings, close-contact athletic games, and other lack of social distancing. This is unacceptable in our current situation.

While the Governor's Stay At Home order carries penalties of a fine up to \$1,000 or 90 days in jail, the City will continue to educate people about the order's social distancing guidelines before police issue tickets for the misdemeanor. Please do your part. Protect yourself and your neighbors by maintaining social distancing when you are out. Don't gather in groups. We will continue to review policies and procedures with input from City staff to further limit group activities to ensure we can enforce the Stay At Home order.

As we all adjust to this new environment, we are mindful that we have residents who are in serious need of help. Please spare what you can with food and supply donations to PRISM and/or make a financial contribution to the City's Human Services Fund (www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf).

Finally, the City is in constant communication with local, state, and federal agencies and health organizations to coordinate any necessary responses during this challenging time. The City website's COVID-19 page (www.goldenvalleymn.gov/about/covid-19.php) has up-to-date information on the status of City services, meetings, programs, and event closures.

Collectively, we are in new territory. This is a stressful time balancing family dynamics, work and school pressures, and isolation. But we are here to help and listen. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact any one of us and we will get through this together!

Thank You,
Shep Harris, Mayor
Larry Fonnest, City Council
Maurice Harris, City Council
Gillian Rosenquist, City Council
Kimberly Sanberg, City Council

