My Dear Fellow Residents,

Our world has changed since I last wrote to you. You have been in my prayers. I am concerned for the welfare of each city resident. I want to say some things to you at this time.

The worst virus that we are facing is the virus of fear and panic. Indeed, there is reason for these two feelings to come to the surface as we face this unknown pandemic but let us not buy into fear or panic. Let us resolve to approach every situation, every gloomy report, and every flagging of a new case of the virus, near or far, with hope, faith and optimism. We are going to get through this.

In Ephraim, we know how to do hard things. In Ephraim we come from resilient stock and we will get through hard days with a smile on our face.

As a city we have been working tirelessly to ensure a redundancy of capacity to continue city services despite even the worst-case scenarios coming to Ephraim City. I have spent hours with each department head in Ephraim City during these last few weeks to ensure that our city services will continue despite possible serious setbacks in the health of our community members.

You should know that our water systems are safe, healthy, and will continue this way. There is no need for buying water products outside of what you normally use. Our power services, sewer services, police services, fire department, ambulance and other essential elements of what city government provides to a community will continue without interruption.

I have met with the management team of Walmart and they assure me that our supply chain is strong and will continue without interruption. All we need to do is to return to our normal buying habits and we will see in very short order that our shelves are completely restocked, and our provisions will be where they were prior to the panic buying that we saw earlier.

As I said before, the worst virus that we are currently facing is the virus of panic and fear. Let’s not buy into unrealistic fears or anxiety but let us also be prepared.

Now, having said this, we do need to be smart. In the last couple of weeks, we have seen the spread of the COVID-19 virus within our state. Here are the smart things to do to avoid, as much as possible, the spread of this virus.

Continued on page 2
Please Help

While we are trying to cope with the situation in the world today, and finding ourselves short on toilet paper, please be aware that toilet paper is the ONLY thing that should be flushed down your toilets.

“Flushable wipes” will flush, but they will not break down like toilet paper does and will clog your pipes and make a huge mess in our sewer system which must be cleaned out manually.

Did you know that boxed tissues and paper towels will not break down in the sewer pipes, either? All these products make their way into the public sewer system and collect together causing very large obstructions and clogs in the main collector lines and get tangled in pump stations requiring costly repair or replacement of equipment.

Please be mindful of this situation and if you must use something other than toilet paper, please dispose of it in the trash. We understand this may be an unpleasant thought, but we need your help if we want to keep our sewer system working throughout this crisis.

Remember, ONLY TOILET PAPER should be flushed down your toilet.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

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Grounds Positions Announcement

Ephraim City is looking for 2 qualified individuals to work on a temporary basis, now through fall 2020. One position will be working with the Public Works department and the other working in the cemetery/parks.

Responsibilities will include ensuring the efficient watering of City properties, maintaining and repairing sprinkler systems, and assisting in the planting, watering and weeding of City flower beds and flower pots. These individuals must have transportation, with preference given to those with experience with sprinkler systems, preferably large gear driven systems.

This position reports to the Public Works Director. Wages will be $12-$13 an hour, with flexible work hours to be determined by employee and supervisor. Please submit applications with references to the Ephraim City office at 5 South Main, Ephraim, Utah 84627. The position will remain open until filled. Questions about the position should be directed to the Public Works Director, Chad Parry, at 435-340-1255.

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EVENT CANCELATIONS

Due to recent restrictions on gatherings set in place because of the pandemic, we are sad to announce that the following Ephraim City events have been canceled:

* Easter Egg Hunt at the Four-Plex
* Scandinavian Heritage Festival
* Memorial Day Program
A Message from Our Council
Alma Lund

With all the recent uncertainty in today’s world and the uncharted future we’re facing, I have been spending a great deal of time reflecting on the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy as citizens of the most beautiful city, in the greatest country in Utah.

When we wake, there’s fresh, clean water with which to drink, cook and clean; when the much-needed snow falls, we’re never prevented from safe travel; we have electricity to power every facet of our daily lives; our garbage and waste is whisked away with hardly a second thought; our security and health are assured by our honorable police force and skilled EMTs; the list is nearly endless…

I’m so grateful to every single Ephraim City employee whose tireless devotion to us all rarely goes rewarded or thanked. Our employees often work extra and off-hours, in adverse conditions, missing events with their families, all so that you can have quality time with yours. The next time you see one of Ephraim City’s hardworking employees, don’t forget to say thank you for all their hard work.

Watching the news lately, one thing stands out; the health and safety of those in our City is our number one priority every day, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we find ourselves in unprecedented times, we are in this together. This situation is evolving, and as such, Ephraim City may change our approach under guidance from our State and Federal leaders. No one knows just what this future may look like. Know one thing though; Ephraim City, its managers, staff and volunteers work tirelessly for the betterment of you and your family. I pray we escape this pandemic without loss of life and restoration of our economy.

realize you are contagious and should self-isolate from others.

We ask that you be vigilant in following the guidelines of Governor Herbert and the Utah Coronavirus Task Force to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

Everyone can take steps to stop the spread of disease:

• Avoid travel and contact with other people if you are sick.
• Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
• Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
• Avoid contact with sick people.

Additional guidelines from the Utah Department of Health:

• Any individual who exhibits symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19 should withdraw from or be excluded from any physical social event or gathering.
• Avoid social gatherings or events of more than 10 people.
• If an individual has tested positive for COVID-19, each member of the individual’s household should self-isolate.
• Anyone over the age of 60 or who is immunocompromised should avoid contact with any other individual except to receive critical assistance.
• Everyone should avoid discretionary travel, gymnasiums, shopping trips (other than shopping for food and other essentials), and social visits.


SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY

THE EPHRAIM SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH OF APRIL. THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH THE SOCIAL DISTANCING MOVEMENT AND IS A SECURITY STEP IN KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY AND CITIZENS SAFE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CALL 283-6666.
City Manager Message
Shaun Kjar

As neighbors and friends are being asked to be further apart, it becomes clearer to me every day that we are all in this together. Currently at Ephraim City we are following State standards and encouraging Social Distancing, which means we strongly suggest that you and I limit our social interactions by not gathering in groups of more than ten people and keep a distance of about six feet from others if you must do things like shop or work. We will let you know if we change our approach from Social Distancing.

About ten years ago, Ephraim City and entities in the community joined together and came up with a system of how to notify neighbors and friends of the status within your household in the event of a disaster. We have seen so many communities around the world going through a desperate situation with COVID-19, that out of an abundance of caution, we would like to remind you of that system. If we get to the point where this virus enters our community and causes widespread illness, we suggest that residents use the Green Yellow Red notification system. It is very simple. You could put either a Green, Yellow or Red item like a piece of paper or other similarly sized item in a window clearly visible from the street. Here’s what each means:

- Green – This household is in good order. No help needed.
- Yellow – This household is affected and may need help. Please call.
- Red – This household is in distress and urgent help is needed. Please call 911.

If you lack items of the appropriate color, please write the words Green, Yellow, or Red and post that. This will allow us as a community to check on one another without further spread. It also allows for dynamic and changing situations within a household. We want to watch out for each other as best we can and limit exposure in the event of a local outbreak. We hope there will be no need for use of this system, but if there is, we want everyone to be ready.

It is a difficult and unique time. Patience and creative problem solving are being challenged now for everyone in our community as we are isolated. I hope that as we experience this, we will realize that the way through it is a little bit apart, but all together.

Yard Cleanup

The Sons and Daughters of the Utah Pioneers are sponsoring a project at the Pioneer Park that will enhance Ephraim Square with walking paths that connect buildings and bridges. The Pioneer Museum will be improved and opened more often throughout the year and the cabins will be weatherproofed, but we need your help.

$62,000 must be raised, most of which will come from private donations. We need volunteers, both individuals and groups, as well as business owners and tradesmen to donate their expertise and resources.

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Youth City Council

In the March Newsletter, Mayor Scott talked about a new yard cleanup program, and for the week of March 23-28, City Crews picked up small yard waste left on the curb. We would like to make this a yearly occurrence.

For April, we will have one or two large dumpsters available for large yard waste.

Watch our Facebook page and the City Website for dates and locations.

The Ephraim Youth City Council has been busy the last couple of months. In February, they visited the City Council members and Mayor’s homes and did yard work. They wanted to thank them for their service and hard work in behalf of our city. In March, they attended a Leadership Conference in Logan where they heard motivational speakers, participated in teen leadership building activities, socialized with teens from other Youth Councils, and got to eat the famous Aggie ice cream! Thanks to the City for providing the trip for them! They enjoyed it! If you are interested in joining the Youth City Council, applications may be found on the Ephraim City Website.

TO DONATE:

Mail cash or check donations to:
Sarah Thomas
120 S, 100 W
Ephraim, UT 84627

(Checks payable to Ephraim DUP PPP)
Call Debbie Plumber 851-9919, Sarah Thomas 851-6768 or Micki Oliphant 602-793-1734 for information and see Facebook: Ephraim Pioneer Park Project @ EPPP2020.

The 2020 Census is happening now! You can respond online, by phone, or by mail.

It is critical that every Ephraim resident respond to the census in order to ensure funding for: School lunches. Plans for highways. Support for firefighters and families in need. Census results affect your community every day.

2020census.gov

The time is now. Help shape your future, and your community’s future, by responding to the 2020 Census.

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