Dear Ephraim City Residents,

I have thought a lot about you over the last month. I have been concerned about your physical as well as your emotional health. One thing that I know about you, and that is you are resilient. It takes a resiliency to endure isolation and social distancing. So far, as of the date of this letter to you, the pandemic has not come to Ephraim. We cannot let down our guard. We have to be careful and be very vigilant about washing our hands, 6 ft social distancing, washing frequently-used hard surfaces, and not traveling out of the county if we can help it. Together we are going to get through this.

As I see it, we will have to fundamentally change some of the things that we do, some things that we have taken for granted. Until a vaccine for COVID-19 is developed, our interactions with others will need to be slightly rearranged so that, most of all, we can protect the vulnerable in our neighborhoods, at work, and especially in our families. Together we are going to get through this.

In the month of May, we will see a return to some normalcy. Businesses will begin to operate more normally, there will probably be an opportunity to return to some of our favorite restaurants, traveling to state parks (which are open) will be such a pleasure, and the State will begin to reverse some of the recommended restrictions that are in place. Our economy will begin to recover, but it will be a slow process. Again, as we see these things happening, we will need to take personal responsibility for staying safe with regard to COVID-19 protocols. In the late fall, when this virus could be very active again, we may need to do a reboot of some of the restrictions that we have seen in the last 6 weeks. Hopefully not, but this is a possibility.

Continued on page 2
We are planning for and hoping that our Recreation programs can get underway sometime during the summer. Be looking for additional information on the City website. I also hope that you visit our local businesses. All of them, including our restaurants need our support at this critical time. Most of the restaurants in Ephraim are open for take-out. Take a break and have someone else do the cooking. I have visited with many of our business leaders throughout Ephraim in the last 6 weeks. They are struggling. Now is a time to support them as much as possible.

As the weather warms up there has been a tendency, especially with our youth, to begin riding motorcycles, ATVs, and four wheelers around town. Our police department has been very concerned with some of the activity that has been witnessed--lack of helmets, speeding, reckless behavior, not following designated ATV street accesses. We do not want anyone getting harmed. It is pretty understandable that people want to get out and enjoy our beautiful mountains and weather. We just do not want a tragedy to occur. So, please, let’s be reminded that there are ATV routes through Ephraim, and we need to use those; there are safety protocols, speed limits and age limits for operating ATVs. Please be observant of these things and remind your children to be governed by ordinances, laws, and safety protocols.

In terms of spring clean-up: There will be a large dumpster just to the south of the Fire Station near Canyon View Park. Please do not put any old tires, batteries, car oil or construction waste into this dumpster. It is to be used for yard waste only.

What a beautiful place that we live in! Ephraim residents have so much heart and love for one another. This last month I have witnessed such grace and compassion from our community. We said goodbye to Jabin Taylor in April. What a great young man. I have known Jabin since he was nearly two years old. I have watched him grow up into a great young man. He knew how to love people, and for it, others loved him. He was full of life and lived life to its fullest. I will miss him; I will miss seeing him on a weekly basis. A tremendous outpouring of love was given to the Taylors as they experienced this very hard loss. Let us continue to support them and support anyone around us that we are aware of that has cause to mourn, a reason to worry or who are in circumstances of loneliness. This is a particular time when we need to watch out for one another and be observant enough to detect signs of stress, loneliness, or anxiety at home and with our neighbors and friends. Ephraim is a loving community. We care for one another.

My best to you all,

John Scott
Ephraim City Mayor

There will be a large dumpster just to the south of the Fire Station near Canyon View Park. Please do not put any old tires, batteries, car oil or construction waste into this dumpster. It is to be used for yard waste only.
Hello to all. Walking around Ephraim, I am amazed at this beautiful place we call home. I hope we can all appreciate this wonderful city.

We only have one light, we are nestled next to beautiful mountains, we have crisp, clean, clear air, and beautiful blue skies. The traffic is minimal, and our town is clean, and most importantly, friendly. We have great schools for our children with kind, knowledgeable and patient teachers. Even during this pandemic, I’ve seen and heard how patient and loving these teachers are with the kids as they maneuver through and around the on-line version of school.

Our children are our most precious resource, and I’m grateful for wonderful teachers here in our valley that help our children gain important knowledge.

Also, I’m grateful for those businesses that are sacrificing to stay afloat. I love the customer service you get in a rural town, and I think we have wonderful business owners. Please, let’s help them by giving them our business, even if it’s a call and curb-side service, they are our lifeblood. Next time you go into Walmart, or any business, please let them know that we appreciate their hard work, and we are here to support them. Please let’s be patient and grateful, even if some of the shelves are empty, let’s smile and let them know we are appreciative.

Also, let’s remember our City workers and staff who are keeping our services and infrastructure afloat. Our workers are working overtime to help us, and they go the extra mile to keep us comfortable. Thanks city workers! Also, a big shout out to our Police, Fire, and Ambulance departments. We are blessed to have watchful and conscientious workers in all of our departments.

Because of restrictions and social distancing requirements from the governor, we will not be able to hold our beloved Scandinavian Festival that has brought so much life and joy into our city; however, we will be having some Scandinavian activities starting in May that our residents can participate in and still keep our safe distancing protocols. Please look for those fun activities that can help us celebrate our Scandinavian heritage. And one way or another, we are going to have fireworks!

I love this city, and am so glad to be a part of it. Please be kind to each other and especially those who are sacrificing to keep us safe and comfortable during this pandemic. Thanks to all of you for making this city so wonderful!

**Granary Arts**

Granary Arts will be closed until further notice, but we are still working behind the scenes to provide exhibition and workshop content online! Check in with us on Instagram, Facebook, or our website.

**Online Workshops:**

**New: Workshop Wednesday at Home!** Visit our website and subscribe to our workshop mailing list for virtual Workshop Wednesday projects and tutorials for kids and families! Be sure to share your creations with us with the hashtag #granaryartskids

**Virtual Exhibitions:**

As Granary Arts is committed to highlighting our artists and sharing their work with all of you, we invite you to experience our current exhibitions through virtual tours available on our website!

In partnership with Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Granary Arts presents, **Lawn Gnomes 2020**, a project that invites 15 artists throughout Sanpete to display artworks in their yards, balconies, and windows as a way of making art accessible and visible while maintaining social distancing practices. Art in the time of COVID has both challenges and opportunities. Our newest exhibition, **Lawn Gnomes 2020**, calls on artists, neighbors, makers, and thinkers of all kinds to transform their neighborhoods by installing their own public sculpture! While we’ve launched this project with 15 artists to start, the hope is that others will join in and add to the growing exhibition. The main idea is to think outside of the gallery walls, expand the role of the artist, and to call upon everyone in the community to innovate and to reimagine lawns as both private and public spaces. While we stay home, stay safe, and social distance, we can still continue to create and to think about new ways to engage our city and our neighbors.

For a list of exact locations where **Lawn Gnomes 2020** works can be viewed, please visit granaryarts.org.
For Ephraim City residents, the experience of COVID-19 has been widely varied. For some, it has meant a loss of work and income, fear and disruption of major life events, and has been incredibly difficult. For others I have spoken with, it has merely meant they spend a little more time at home. Wherever you find yourself on this range of possibility, each of us has been impacted in some way. For Ephraim City and our employees, these three things are key: keep doing good work, focus on current state and regional directives, and look to the future.

I want to let you know that work continues to go forward, even though City Hall has been closed to visitors for a while now. If you need us, please call 435-283-4631 or you can drop items like payments in the drop box on the east side of the parking lot behind City Hall.

Ephraim City employees still go to work every day, even if that means that they are taking calls on their personal phones and working from their computer at home. For many of our employees, working from home isn’t a possibility and they continue to work hard on behalf of Ephraim residents with projects that have been in motion for months. Despite COVID-19, applications still need to be approved, and business needs to continue.

I have been closely monitoring everything from our State and local officials regarding COVID-19. I’ve had conference calls or video meetings with the Governor and Lt. Governor and the COVID-19 Task Force, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Economic Development Corporation of Utah, consistent updates from Nathan Selin of the Central Utah Health Department (CentralUtahPublicHealth.org), and many conversations with local business owners. For some businesses, this has been devastating, for others, business has never been better. Please continue to support our local businesses in any way you can.

As identified in Governor Herbert’s plan, “Utah Leads Together” the month of May will mark the beginning of a transition for us from the Urgent phase into a guarded phase of Stabilization. For a look at that document, please visit our website www.ephraimcity.org.

We have been encouraged to invite anyone showing any symptom of COVID-19 to be tested. We have a location conveniently available at the Intermountain Health Care clinic here in Ephraim. We can all continue to be careful about our physical interactions with others. Guarding our health and the health of others by maintaining an appropriate distance from those outside our household. These guidelines have been difficult for children who are discouraged from playing and interacting with other children as they are used to doing. We can further protect others by wearing appropriate masks when we go shopping and washing our hands regularly.

So far, we haven’t seen any documented cases of COVID-19 here in Ephraim. Many residents are wondering if we will. With the impact being felt by everyone at such drastically different levels, it is difficult to articulate a way forward that works for everyone. At the outset of this more than a month ago, we knew we would need creative flexibility and I have seen that from residents in so many ways! Businesses with new delivery options, curbside popcorn from the movie theaters, teachers teaching from a distance, parents finding a way forward and grandparents learning how to Zoom; it has all been incredible to watch. Now, I believe we will need patient persistence. We must patiently persist in doing the best we can with all our actions and decisions. I believe if we all keep doing the best we can and support one another in that pursuit, Ephraim will be better for it.

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.