Dear Ephraim City Residents,

Hello! I hope you are having a great summer. It’s ending fast. Soon school will begin again and fall will be upon us with moderating temperatures, cool mornings, and pleasantly warm days. I have always looked forward to this time of the year. I am a teacher. I look forward to returning to the classroom at this time of the year. This fall will be different, but the basic elements of resuming teaching will be much the same. That’s part of my message to you. So many things will be the same this fall, only a few things will be a little different. It’s important to concentrate on what is the same in our life despite the cautions that we must have regarding health and life in the face of the current pandemic.

Although I do not work there, as the Mayor I have spent many hours in meetings with Snow College officials in preparation for bringing back our student population that will begin returning on August 20th. Snow College has solicited input from Ephraim City about bringing back its student population. I am very impressed with their sensitivity and precautions that they are building into the resumption of school this fall. Masks will be required on campus. Social distancing will be expected. Caution about hand hygiene will be taught and admonished. If there are any sick students that are on or off campus, they will be isolated and kept in their dorm or apartments for the quarantine period. Faculty and staff and others, in a cautionary way, will minister to their needs as they recover. I am fully confident that Snow College will do all in their power to be a good neighbor to our community. Obviously, as you are aware, the virus is already here in Ephraim. We dodged the bullet until early in June when we had our first cases. I personally know of several of our residents who have had it. All of them have recovered nicely, observing the proper protocols with regard to social isolation during their bout with the virus. I have also had family members and friends outside our community who have contracted the virus and their recovery has been smooth.

Now, having said these things, we MUST remain vigilant. A couple of days ago I had a very enlightening conversation with Nate Selin, who is the director of our six-county health region. What was so instructive was his observation that in our region, he is finding that transmission is occurring when people feel a “little” sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that sick, but who choose to go to work, or go out into the public anyway thinking that their condition is not that
serious, thinking maybe they have a little common cold. They don’t know that they have COVID-19, just a little runny nose, just a few body aches, maybe a slight fever.

We are in an era where we cannot do that any longer. If you feel ill in any way, please stay home. Please wear a mask when you are in public. This seems to be a sticking point with some who do not want their rights to be infringed upon. I get that. However, more and more studies are concluding that wearing a mask may be one of the largest single disrupters of the transmission of the disease that we have. Doctors have worn masks while performing surgeries for more than a century. Is that because masks don’t really work in spreading germs and disease? No, they are one of the effective means of curtailing the spread of disease in our arsenal that we have to fight this pandemic. There are also other things in that arsenal: social distancing, washing hands frequently, sanitizing frequently used hard surfaces with cleansers. These are simple things. I see so many of you remaining vigilant, thank you.

If one of the functions of government leaders is to protect its citizens, then this is what I am urging you to do to protect yourselves. We’re going to get through this together. We are Ephraim strong, and as a community we just have this innate desire to protect our neighbors. Really, this is all about protecting the vulnerable in our community. Most who contract the virus in our community will recover. However, some who have underlying conditions, sadly, will not. We want to work hard to protect our friends, our neighbors, our relatives.

May you have a wonderful rest of your summer. We have miles and miles to travel together in this journey. Likely, this fall, there will be ups and downs with this virus, but we are going to get through this together. Ephraim has always had a spirit of cooperation and unity and with those twin virtues we can handle the hard stuff with grace and a sense of optimism. This is how our forefathers got through hard times—the settling of Fort Ephraim, the Blackhawk War, the great pandemic of 1918-1919, two World Wars, a Great Depression, droughts, economic turmoil, floods and more. These same qualities are going to get us through whatever challenge we might face in the future.

Sincerely,

John G. Scott
Ephraim City Mayor

Chalk it Up to Music
Snow College Department of Music

All community members are invited to color the town at the CHALK IT UP TO MUSIC street art event on Saturday, August 29, 2020. The event is designed to raise funds for students in the Snow College Department of Music and will take place on campus near the bell tower from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Artists of all levels—from stick figure to Monet—are welcome.

Register for your concrete canvas at Eventbrite (ChalkItUpToMusic.eventbrite.com) and have a chance to win $500 in prizes. Each artist block is $10. Admission is FREE for art enthusiasts and curious bystanders who want to enjoy the art and listen to live outdoor musical performances throughout the day.

Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020

Time: 7:00 a.m. check-in
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. street painting

Location: Snow College near the bell tower

Cost: $10 to chalk it up
FREE to view and listen to outdoor music performances throughout the day

Registration: (ChalkItUpToMusic.eventbrite.com)
Scandinavian Summer + Online Workshop Wednesday

Each Wednesday at 3:30 pm, Granary Arts will be posting a new video workshop on their Facebook page that will guide you through a fun, creative, Scandinavian themed project that you can do at home!

Deliver your completed project/s to the Ephraim City Hall or Granary Arts to receive a prize! Artworks will be put on display at Ephraim City Hall this Fall. We are accepting all Scandinavian Summer projects from June - August. There is no cap on the number of submissions per family/child – The more the better! Drop off your artwork by August 31, 2020. #granaryartskids

August Workshops:

- Paper "Stained Glass"
- Exploring Positive and Negative Space with Paper Cutouts
- Textured Fish
- Tissue Paper Flowers

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!

Visit us in Person: Granary Arts is open to the public. We kindly ask that all guests follow the Governor's "yellow phase" guidelines and wear face coverings, practice social distancing measures, and hygiene standards.

For locations, links and more information visit granaryarts.org

Granary Arts
As time passes we can all see and feel the daily need for clean water. The Council and City staff are working tirelessly hours maintaining and developing more water locations. Our new wells are coming on line and being used to supplement the flow of our many springs. The City will continue to develop water sources while keeping our balanced city budget. We do not expect water restrictions this year as long as all of us conserve our use of water.

If you have been reading our City website, you have seen the proposed future development of the south and west parts of town called “Ephraim Crossing.” This plan is what developers want us to consider over the next two to six years. The Council and Mayor, along with City Staff and planning boards, have given the green light to move ahead on this plan. Plans are on the City website and will not give the City any burden to the yearly budget. You can follow the development of your city and the use of land as small steps are taken to move forward with responsible ideas.

The Community Senior Center has made some changes as of July 1, 2020. After many years of work and service to the City, Carolyn Tidwell has stepped down as Administrator of our Community/Senior Center. A very big “thank you” to Carolyn and her staff for their service and management of the center. Also Chuck and Eileen Jeffs have been released with a big vote of thanks for being President and Vice President of the board.

I want to thank the members of the City and all the boards, staff workers and crews that work tirelessly on a daily basis. The City would not run as smoothly as it does without total cooperation and help.

If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact a member of the Council. We welcome all comments and Suggestions.