

## Our Community in the Times of COVID 5-11-20

“A man’s got to know his limitations.” Some of you old enough or with a thing for old movies may recognize the phrase. I have come to realize in my tenure as mayor and in the age of COVID-19 Dirty Harry’s axiom is no less true today than when it was spoken in the movie. Governors, Health Care Agencies, County Commissioners, School Officials and Mayors have tried for the past two months to regulate people’s actions and interactions; some have met with greater success than others in that regard. As elected or appointed officials I believe those efforts have largely been for the benefit of the whole. Nevertheless, there is some widespread anxiety and even outright rebellion and revolt against “official” orders. As simple as it is I have come to realize that my limitation is that I can only control me and no one else. The only way to save a community from the potential devastation manifested in COVID-19 is for each of us to choose to protect ourselves and in doing so the community saves itself.

As we gear up for Stage 2 of Rebound Idaho and more contact with one another I ask that you please practice personal hygiene and social distancing in an effort to help eliminate the need to self-isolate and stay at home as we move past this era. Many in our community are highly susceptible to the disease and have already been self-quarantined for two months and cut off from their neighbors, friends and even family if they are fortunate enough to have family. Many are elderly, afraid and alone. Some live right next to or just down and across the street from you.

With those isolated folks in mind Police Chief Wilkinson has come up with an idea that I think is so cool and another opportunity for us to come together and enrich ourselves as a community, Adopt-a-Grandparent. Beyond family members it has been our police officers and Sheriff’s deputies who have been making deliveries to these folks during the era of COVID, but those officers can’t provide for all the needs of the self-isolated. They need help with their yards and other routine chores. We believe that those services and help can be provided while maintaining distance and hygiene. I would ask that if you are able and willing you contact Chief Wilkinson at City Hall by using this number: 208-226-5922.

At the younger end of the spectrum we will be opening our City Parks and their playground equipment this week. That said they should be used with caution and high degree of thought to the personal hygiene of you and your children. The playground equipment will be sanitized once daily, but they will not remain sanitary for long. Please sanitize your children’s hands before, during and after they play on the equipment.

The public restrooms in the City Parks and a Willow Bay will also be open. They are clean, but again not sterilized. Use them with caution and proper personal hygiene and sanitation.

In a follow up to last week’s virtual Urban Renewal Agency open house another one is scheduled for this Thursday at 6:00 pm. The ZOOM meeting information follows. I am again asking for your vote supporting the Urban Renewal Agency next Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting ID 871 1229 8115

Meeting Password 835784

Invite Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87112298115?pwd=NGlrY1U0Q1VpWFQ4UHZBVGJtK1F2UT09>

While I ask for your supporting vote I know that mine is the only one I can be sure of. And, as I ask you to continue to practice personal hygiene and social distancing, again I know I am the only one I can control. I had a neighbor tell me the other day that American Falls is nothing like it used to be. That is very true; it has changed dramatically in the 30 years that my family and I have lived here. Yet, this is where each of us has chosen to call home. As it is our home I encourage each of us to care for it and one another. It will never be the same as past days, even after the age of COVID-19, but together we can continue to make American Falls the very best place to live. It is your choice. All I can do is ask you to consider it; that is my limitation.

Until next week...