

A message from the Mayor and the Incident Management Team



Dear Fellow Residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the COVID-19 pandemic and how it is affecting our community.

First, I want to thank you for complying with all health recommendations to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. Please continue to

- wash your hands,
- practice social distancing,
- limiting trips to the grocery and drug store and,
- wear masks.

To date, there have not been any COVID-19 cases in the 44286-zip code and that is attributable to your diligence to comply with these guidelines. But as you know, this can change at any time and predictions for the next two weeks may be difficult for us all. Please be assured that our Police, Dispatch and Fire Department staff are very well-prepared. I cannot express enough appreciation for their commitment to our community and their personal sacrifices on behalf of all of us. We are

blessed to have such outstanding first responders that have risen to this challenge.

To manage this crisis, I have assembled an incident management team comprised of Police Chief Mike Swanson, Fire Chief Phil McLean, Executive Assistant Debbie Bluso Rogers and myself. We meet regularly to implement adjustments for Dispatch, Police, Fire and Village operations based on the ever-changing health department and state agencies guidelines. The Village website and Facebook is our number one way to communicate updates.

In spite of these unprecedented times, Village business continues as we also comply to the health guidelines. Business is being handled remotely and, for those rare occurrences when that is impossible, employees are on-site adhering to all medical guidelines as well as taking their temperatures at the beginning and end of their shifts.

Regular Council Meetings are being resumed but will be held via ZOOM, a video and audio teleconference app. If you would like to attend, the information to join in the meeting can be found on the website.

We are still in need of donations for masks, gloves, and hand sanitizing lotion. Thank you to all who have previously donated. The outpouring of generosity is appreciated and includes many of our businesses and residents. A mere “thank you” does not seem sufficient during this challenge.

From Chiefs Swanson and McLean,

We are constantly monitoring this crisis as we continue to move forward.

The Richfield Police and Fire Department is at full staff and no essential services are being cut.

In line with the Governor's orders on gatherings, we are just asking for the communities continued compliances with these orders.

There has been plenty of information released regarding all the scams related to the pandemic. Many of these are PC and smartphone driven, so just be very cautious regarding any related texts, emails and phone calls. The most recent trends are people seeking donations and easy money for little or no efforts scams. This time of year, there are also many IRS related scams. Just be cautious and be sure to make the elderly population aware of these scams as unfortunately they are typically targeted in these scams.

As always, the Richfield Police and Fire Department are here to serve the community and do not hesitate to contact us for any type of assistance.

On behalf of all of us, thank you all, be safe, and stay healthy. We will get through this and we look forward to resuming many of our community events again.

Sincerely,

Michael Wheeler, Mayor and Director of Public Safety
Police Chief Mike Swanson
Fire Chief Phil McLean
Debbie Bluso Rogers