



224 N. CRAFT HWY. - CHICKASAW, ALABAMA
251-452-6450

ADDRESS REPLY TO: P.O. BOX 11307 - CHICKASAW, AL 36671

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Dear citizens of Chickasaw,

Today, I am announcing a series of steps the City of Chickasaw is taking as part of its rapid response to the COVID-19 virus.

Yesterday the city has declared a Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency in the City of Chickasaw which was approved by resolution by the Chickasaw City Council. This resolution is necessary so we can continue our preparations and rapid response to COVID-19. We want to protect our citizens at all cost necessary.

The swiftness with which this situation has emerged globally is stunning; in less than two months we have gone from no known cases of infection to a global pandemic that is disrupting the way we live and our society functions. This sudden change is unsettling for everyone, and our caring and compassion for each other and those we serve is critical as we navigate the new challenges that will arise in the coming weeks.

Our response to COVID-19 has evolved quickly. As it continues to evolve, I am committed to working with our councilmembers and leadership teams to care for our residents, businesses and employees through this crisis.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Take care of yourself and your family. Wash your hands frequently and avoid gatherings.

Take care of your neighbor. Check on that isolated elderly neighbor or newly unemployed family. Can you help with a meal or child care?

Help your community. Please don't hoard food and household supplies. Consider donating your extra items to your local food bank so they can feed the children and the elderly. Call your favorite restaurant and ask for a carry-out or a delivery, and one more for your neighbor!

We are asking our Local grocery stores to allow our elderly and disabled residents the first hour of shopping in the mornings. This can help us assure their safety and stability.

This is a swiftly changing situation and we will all need to be flexible, patient and understanding as we adapt our operations to meet the demands of our environment. There are no easy answers. We'll recover and emerge stronger because of the relationships, partnerships, and the kindness we're showing now.

Social distancing and good hygiene remain the most effective methods to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The City is encouraging citizens to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people and to maintain the six-foot personal space barrier as advised by the CDC.

We do have a curfew for students and teens under the age of 18. This curfew is from 11pm until 6am. We are asking that parents please follow these guidelines.

City Government

Chickasaw City Hall closed starting Monday, March 16, 2020 through Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Residents are encouraged to access City services via the City's website at www.cityofchickasaw.org if possible. There is an online payment option for garbage and sewer bills located on the website, with a phone number to use to pay by phone. The drop box at city hall for anyone wanting to drop off payments. First responders including Chickasaw Police Officers and Chickasaw Fire Rescue are continuing to respond to any and all calls for service. Garbage and trash service are continuing schedule.

You may still contact City Hall at 251-452-6450 if you have any questions. We are doing our best to monitor the phones.

All essential employees are reporting to work on their regular schedules at this time. The City has suspended all non-essential travel for city employees.

The City has planned for all nonessential employees to work remotely or under flexible work hours, should that become necessary.

The City activities scheduled will be rescheduled when deemed appropriate.

The City is in active contact with administrators for Mobile County Emergency Management Agency. The City is activating its participation in the Joint Information Center in coordination with the Mobile County EMA.

Small Business

The City's foremost concern is protecting the health and safety of our citizens. However, the City is also taking steps to minimize the economic harm caused by COVID-19.

The City encourages citizens to shop locally in support of small businesses while practicing social distancing.

Chickasaw Police Department

The Chickasaw Police Department remains fully active and responding to any and all calls for service.

Due to the COVID-19 virus concerns, the Chickasaw Police Department is taking precautionary measures for the health and safety of the community. Citizens are urged to continue to call the City of Saraland Dispatch to report any and all crimes or complaints and complete an incident report by phone, if possible.

Response to certain crimes will require the presence of an officer but calls that are considered low priority such as minor offenses and misdemeanor crimes will be taken over the telephone.

The Saraland Dispatch number is 251-675-5331.

Chickasaw Fire Department

The Chickasaw Fire Department remains fully active and responding to any and all calls for service.

For emergency or life-threatening situations, including shortness of breath or inability to catch your breath, please call 9-1-1.

It is imperative that we keep our firemen in service by minimizing unnecessary contact, so they may be available to respond to life-threatening situations.

Public Services

All city services, including trash and garbage pickup, are operating on a normal schedule.

If your garbage or trash service is missed, we ask that you contact us via the City of Chickasaw website at www.cityofchickasaw.org via the contact forum. These

complaints will be forwarded to the appropriate department and taken care of immediately.

Chickasaw Parks and Recreation

The City closed all events for the month of March 2020.

City events will return once an official determination has been made on the safety of hosting city events.

Courts

The Alabama Supreme Court entered an administrative order suspending all in person proceedings in all state and local courts beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 through April 16, 2020. With limited exceptions applicable to Chickasaw Municipal Court.

Those needing to pay tickets, fines, and/or costs can do so online at www.chickasawtickets.com or mail a money order or cashier's check to Chickasaw Municipal Court Payment Window, 224 N. Craft Hwy., Chickasaw, AL 36611.

Sincerely,



Byron Pittman

Mayor