

City Manager Report

April 21, 2020



COVID-19 Updates from the City of Newcastle

- **City Hall Closed:** Newcastle City Hall is closed to the public through at least Monday, May 4. The date follows the extension of Gov. Inslee's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order. During that time, Newcastle City Hall is closed to in-person services and most staff are working from home. Staff are available by phone and email to provide assistance and answer questions during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).
- **Other Closures:** Per Gov. Inslee, all school buildings will stay closed for the remainder of the school year. The Coal Creek Family YMCA and the Newcastle Library remain closed to the public.
- **Spring Recycling Event:** The City's annual Spring Recycling Collection Event set for April 18 was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We hope to reschedule it for later this summer, but will follow Public Health guidance on whether or not it is safe to do so.
- **Summer Events:** Staff is still evaluating the feasibility of hosting summer events. A decision on 4th of July and the Summer Concerts will be made before the end of the month but most likely be cancelled. We will hold out as long as possible before deciding about Newcastle Days.
- **Parks and Trails:** Parks and trails remain open, but the public should adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times. High-traffic areas such as picnic shelters, sports courts and playgrounds are closed at all Newcastle parks. The Lake Boren Park restrooms are also closed.
- **2020 Revised Forecast:** Staff is working on an updated 2020 revenue and expenditure forecast to help predict the potential impacts of COVID-19. The revised forecast will be presented to the Finance Committee on April 23 and then shared with the full Council.
- **COVID Dashboard:** King County Public Health updates its outbreak summary by City daily. As of April 15, there were 19 positive COVID results in Newcastle and zero deaths. You can see the updates at kingcounty.gov/covid.
- **Newcastle Cares:** Aegis Gardens, the Coal Creek Family YMCA and the City of Newcastle are partnering to help citizens in need during this COVID-19 outbreak. We're uniting to connect vulnerable Newcastle residents with resources and volunteers who want to help. The YMCA is checking up on all of its senior members, while our partners at Aegis Gardens will focus on non-YMCA members of our community who reach out to them. If you are a senior, or know

of a senior family member or neighbor in the Newcastle community, who might need help with tasks such as grocery shopping, meal delivery or any other type of assistance, please submit their name and contact information to Aegis Gardens (information on our website bit.ly/newcastlecares). Aegis can assist seniors with things such as grocery runs, meal drops and connect them with resources like therapists and support groups. Once we have a better idea of how we can help our neighbors, if necessary, we'll put out another call to our community, asking able volunteers to safely lend a hand where they can. We've already received several messages from people who would like to help the community. We have more volunteers than those who need help at the moment.

- **Newcastle Cares | Essentials Drive:** We've also teamed up with Aegis and the Y to host an essentials donation drive for our community's seniors. We're collecting things such as toilet paper, non-perishable foods and more, then Aegis will distribute items to those in need from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Stan Head Cultural Center on April 22. More information on our website at bit.ly/newcastlecares.
- **Newcastle To Go:** The Newcastle To Go [website](#) is launched and we continue to update it as restaurants make changes to their operations. It is vitally important that we support these businesses. We continue to promote the website and restaurants every week. Mayor Newing is making it a point to get takeout/delivery at least once a week and share a picture with us to encourage the community to do the same.
- **Newcastle Market:** We've partnered with the Chamber to add a new section to the Newcastle To Go website that will feature non-restaurant businesses. This will give residents a chance to learn how to support other Newcastle enterprises while they're closed. Development on this site is ongoing, but it should launch soon.
- **Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant Program:** Gov. Inslee announced a grant program to support small businesses affected by COVID-19. The response was so overwhelming, the applications were closed about a week after it was opened. This fund is extremely limited, and whether or not a business receives it will ultimately lie with the state. However, cities will play a role in helping to verify completeness and minimum state qualifications for our community's applicants, as well as recommending applications back to the state. Staff will likely work with the Chamber on this project.
- **Virtual Community Art Showcase:** We can all use a bit of uplifting imagery in our lives right now. That's why we're launching a Virtual Community Arts Showcase. Have fun and show us your creativity! Share your artwork in any medium reflecting the theme Newcastle Cares and we'll showcase them on our social media accounts. Learn more at newcastlewa.gov/art.