

Dear Fellow Galenians –

I want to thank you for your cooperation, kindness and patience as we make our way through this challenging time. The character of our community should make everyone proud. I watch as people put aside the fear and stress of our situation and get on with their lives to the best of their ability.

It is one thing to say that we are all in this together, but it is far more complex when you look at the individual sacrifices made by our citizens. Our medical personnel have to put plans and procedures in place to deal with a health crisis the scope of which simply cannot be determined. Our police have to continue to patrol our community and come to the aid of our folks without themselves becoming the conduit to spreading this highly contagious disease. Our fire department must answer the call of duty when their pagers sound. Our city employees and all departments must keep the city operating on a daily basis. Our essential businesses that are forced to operate daily in an environment that is turned upside down. Our other business owners who are forced to deal with a huge drop in revenue while putting plans in place to come out of this in the best condition possible without knowing when that will occur. I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you. I offer a special thank you to Blaum Brothers for converting their operations to making hand sanitizer.

Most importantly, we citizens are being asked to significantly change our lives. We should limit our travel to the essentials, stay physically apart from our friends and neighbors, cancel our trips and travel plans and generally stay at home. Many people are asked to work from home or not work at all. School is being taught online or not at all. Lots of folks cannot see their family members for an indefinite period of time. Weddings, family reunions and funerals are all being postponed. Conferences, concerts and gatherings of all varieties are being cancelled. Church services are not happening. The sacrifice by each and every one of you is no small thing.

Keep doing what you are doing with as much strength and conviction as you can generate. When you get sick and tired of the isolation, call a friend or loved one and reinvigorate your spirit. When you get overcome by fear, push it aside and replace it with a productive emotion like generosity. When you need help, ask for it. When others need help, give it to them. That more than anything defines who Galena is.

This time counts. It is as much a part of your life as the happiest of times. Make the best of it. Get that project done that has been sitting there for three years. Read that book that has sat on the table collecting dust without being opened. Reach out to people you have not seen or talked to in some time. Get that exercise program started (the recreation path has never seen more traffic). Put yourself in the best possible position to excel in all areas of your life when this is over. Your alternative is to take a difficult situation and make it worse. Why would you do that?

This crisis will pass. Nearly all of us will get the opportunity to look back on it and evaluate how our nation, our state and our town conducted itself during a scary and confusing time. More importantly, we will get the chance to evaluate our own character at a time when it counts the most. Conduct yourself now in a manner that makes you proud of yourself later.

I want to thank all of you for the sacrifices you are making and the contributions you are offering to this extraordinary community. Please continue to take every opportunity to let the world around us see that we are unified, we are committed, and we love each other. The strength of our character has never been more on display. We will do whatever it takes to use what we learn during this crises to make a brighter future for all of us.

Please be safe and stay healthy.


Mayor Terry Renner