

# Mayor's Snapshot

March 27, 2020

Latest news and updates from Mayor Bob Severns



## Stay Home. Stay Healthy.

### Do:

- Stay home as much as possible.
- Go out for essential needs, such as grocery or medical care.
- Get outside, but avoid groups and stay six feet away from others
- Call, e-mail and connect online with friends and family.

### Don't:

- Gather in groups for any purpose, at home or outside.
- Buy more than you need when shopping. Save some for your neighbors.

Source: Washington State Joint Information Center

## We Got This Oak Harbor!

On March 26, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee's [proclamation](#) took effect for a statewide order that requires everyone in Washington to stay home and stay healthy. The proclamation includes a list of [essential businesses](#) that can stay open. Governor Inslee's website includes a [form](#) to clarify if a business meets the requirements for "essential business."

The proclamation states that it is still safe for people to go outside as long as they remain at least six feet from each other. Grocery stores, doctors' offices and other essential businesses will remain open. People can still participate in activities such as bike rides, gardening, and dog walking – as long as they follow social distancing rules.

City staff established protocols for staff to continue to serve the public during these changing times. Oak Harbor Police Department (OHPD) Chief Kevin Dresker sent out a [message](#) to the community about how OHPD is responding to the proclamation. Thank you to our staff for their commitment to serving the residents of this community.

Updates will continue to be posted to the City's [COVID-19 Info](#) website and our [Facebook](#) page.

Thank you for continuing to follow Governor Inslee's order and staying safe at home.

## Health Screening Survey for Visitors to City Buildings

We are asking all visitors, vendors, staff, and elected officials to complete this survey before entering any City facilities. Note, check with the City department you are meeting with due to limited access restrictions in place at this time.

## Support Local Businesses

During COVID-19, you can still support local businesses with takeout or delivery orders. [Oak Harbor Main Street](#) has a list of businesses to support.



## Financial Relief Options

In response to COVID-19, here are some options to assist you:

- City of Oak Harbor Utility Billing is working with customers who contact them to reduce the stress from unemployment by providing payment options/plans and assistance with

late fees or penalties, please call them at 360-279-4530, for assistance

- City staff is working on proclamations to present to Council for additional assistance
- Oak Harbor Public Schools [meals program](#) is an available resource for students
- Puget Sound Energy's [Response to COVID-19](#) website provides information on how they are assisting customers with their bills during this time
- Governor Inslee provided a 30-day moratorium on the evictions of residential tenants
- The [Washington State Department of Employment Security](#) modified rules to make applying for unemployment easier due to the impact of COVID-19

## Whidbey Ave. Grinding and Patching Project

Public Works crews continue to work on the grinding and patching project on Whidbey Ave. between NW Jib St. and NW Fairhaven Dr. This project is part of general road maintenance and not a part of the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) funds that voters approved. The City is excited to begin TBD work this summer and has already identified overlay projects for the dollars that voters approved. This project will continue during the Governor's Order to "Stay Home. Stay Healthy." because road construction projects are considered essential during this time.

Learn more about TBD on the City's [website](#).



## March Council Workshop

The Council Workshop took place on March 25, 2020. City staff and elected officials attended the meeting via teleconference. The agenda included:

- Council authorizing the Mayor to sign the Rural County Economic Development Grant
- Island County Comprehensive Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan moving forward
- Utility Rate Analysis Presentation with an additional presentation at the next Council Workshop on April 22 at 5 p.m.
- City Administrator's Report

The workshop is available for viewing on [YouTube](#).

The next Council meeting will take place on April 7 at 6 p.m. and be available to watch LIVE on Cable Channel 10 or [YouTube](#). The agenda is available [online](#) with links to submit public comments electronically. Public comment is also available over the phone by calling 360-279-4504 (after 5 p.m. on the day of the meeting).

## Whidbey Island Marathon Postponed to September 13

It is official, the City has postponed the Whidbey Island Marathon. The new date for the Whidbey Island Marathon is September 13, 2020. Look for information from the event organizers in your mailbox soon. Follow updates for the marathon at [www.runwhidbey.com](http://www.runwhidbey.com) or on [Facebook](#).



### Mayor Bob Severns

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