



April 7, 2020

It goes without saying the last month has been extremely challenging, at best. We're experiencing so much uncertainty as we learn how to navigate our lives around COVID-19. Coronavirus dictates daily conversations. 'Staying home' has new meaning. And 'social distancing' and 'essential' have become part of our vernacular, even for our youngest residents. These are unprecedented times. Some of you may be sick, others scared, and a likely majority stressed. As I listen to the news headlines, I heard one mental health expert suggest we *'choose peace over panic'*. It resonated with me and reminds me about all the things we are blessed to have here in Frisco.

Your health, safety and welfare are our top priorities. Our city staff is working around the clock to help us all adjust to our temporary yet *'new normal'*.

Our Frisco Public Library continues to provide Storytime to toddlers or homework help to teens, all online or through social media. Parks and Recreation is challenging us to 'Play Differently' with a virtual egg hunt, a virtual 5K and a coloring adventure featuring 'Flat Walnut the Squirrel' (instead of Stanley). Though some of our facilities are closed, our parks and trails remain open so you can get fresh air, as long as you keep your distance. Working with our IT team, our building and health inspectors, planners and permit techs, continue to keep *Progress in Motion*. They're doing some inspections virtually and reviewing some plans online. Our public works team is keeping the water running and managing our trash and recycling collection. Street repairs and improvements continue as scheduled. Our first responders still here for us 24/7, though they are taking extra precautions to ensure your safety and theirs to 'slow the spread'.

Speaking of police and firefighters, our community is so very generous. Businesses are donating masks, gloves, gowns, cleaning products and hand sanitizers to help. Even our most valued partner, the Frisco Independent School District, is letting our first responders borrow UV equipment to enhance our cleaning protocols for eyewear. Other businesses have treated our first responders to meals and snacks, too. We thank you so much for your generosity!

I love driving through neighborhoods and seeing signs and messages of hope like chalked sidewalks and fences. Main Street storefronts remind us to 'Keep Your Head Up'. You're making sure shelves at Frisco Family Services aren't bare. And Police Chief David Shilson is challenging us to donate blood. If you're able to, please continue to patronize our restaurants using take-out and meals-to-go. Take advantage of this forced slow down to check on your neighbors, especially our seniors and vulnerable residents. Offer to help them shop or keep them company with a call, note or facetime.

But we still need to do our part by following [CDC guidelines](#) which include staying home, social distancing, and washing our hands often. We have more information and resources at [FriscoTexas.gov/coronavirus](#). We will get through this together. Along the way, let's remember to *'spread kindness, not the virus'*. **Stay healthy!**

Mayor Jeff Cheney