

THE CORNING FRIDAY NOTES

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FROM: KRISTINA MILLER, CITY MANAGER
DATE: MAY 1, 2020



CITY MANAGER:

Business Assistance:

The Federal Government appropriated another round of funding to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), which businesses are having a hard time accessing. Most Banks are not accepting PPP applications because they are afraid of being overextended in the program. The EIDL can be accessed by visiting www.sba.gov.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program is also available now for the self-employed. There have been no system shutdowns yet due to the onslaught of filings. The PUA is also retroactive.

Governor Gavin Newsom has begun to loosen up the order by allowing voluntary surgeries. Jurisdictions have the ability to be more strict than the Governor's order, but not less strict. I understand this is very frustrating. Governor Newsom gave the impression he would recognize regionalism when deciding to loosen local conditions. He indicated in making those determinations testing, human resource capacity and surge capacity will be taken into consideration. There has been no loosening of the order to date, other than to allow voluntary surgeries.

The County Public Health Officer issued a Reopening Plan for Businesses to use once the Governor has released the stay at home order. In the Governor's presentation on April 28th he indicated he expects to be in Stage 2 in weeks not months. Stage 2 includes retail through curbside pickup, manufacturing, offices (when telework is not possible) and the reopening of more public spaces. Stage 3 was reported to be implemented in months not weeks to include personal care (gyms, spas, hair and nail salons). Stage 4 includes large venue events. Schools were announced to possibly be reopened in the July/August timeframe.

The Governor also announced a program today where eligible seniors can have three meals a day delivered to their homes. The program must be initiated locally but allows local restaurants to be paid \$16 for breakfast, \$17 for lunch, and \$28 for dinner to make and deliver the meals. The meals must follow nutrition guidelines. The State will reimburse local jurisdictions 75% of local jurisdictions 25% share of cost through FEMA. This amounts to a 6.25% cost to the City along with a significant amount of reporting. I will be exploring the need, benefits, and drawbacks of such a program. It would generate sales tax and help restaurants remain open and possibly hire back employees.

\$82,000 is allocated to the City of Corning through the CARES ACT for COVID-related response efforts. The funds must be applied for through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and can be used for:

- 1) Expand or convert a building to be used to isolate the positive'
- 2) Housing facilities for persons experiencing homelessness' and
- 3) Economic Development

The applications will be due around June 1st. The City can use the funds to retool our businesses for e-commerce, utility expenses for those impacted, or rent/mortgage assistance that does not have to be repaid. The Business Recovery Task Force (coordinated by the Job Training Center and 3CORE) is meeting to survey businesses to best identify their needs.

COVID-19 Testing:

The Governor's goal is 152 tests per day per 100,000 people. The County of Tehama has been designated as a testing desert. As such, the State will begin operating a testing location in

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Red Bluff on May 4th, whereby first responders and health care providers will be the first priority to be tested. They will be able to test ~130 people per day. You will not need to be symptomatic to be tested. Appointments for testing will begin to be scheduled within the next week. The testing location will be moved at some point to Corning. Corning residents may schedule an appointment in Red Bluff. As soon as I have the contact information for scheduling a test, I will make it available. This is good news. If we can document we have a low infection rate (even with ramped up testing), surge capacity, and adequate human resource capacity, the Governor will be more inclined to lessen the order.

Stanford University is also testing our infection rate from sewage received at our wastewater treatment plant. As soon as the results become available, I will present them.

I met with Rick Fitzpatrick, Corning Elementary School Superintendent, about improving internet access for students in light of the need for distance learning. Currently only 60% of their students have access to the internet on something other than a cell phone. Mr. Fitzpatrick is in receipt of funding to increase internet access in the community for school-related purposes. The Schools internet access is proposed to be extended in a few areas around town but will still be filtered and a connection to the school network will be required. They can also monitor IP addresses.

The City will need to make a decision about City Pool operations for this summer within the next few weeks. We have received lifeguard applications, but delayed interviews due to pandemic.

City Staff are working with the High School District to recognize our graduating seniors via banners on City poles. The concept is still in the works, please stay tuned.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

ATP Project Updates:

The City has received grant funding for two ATP – Safe Routes to Schools Projects. The Olive View School Project and the West Street School Project. Both projects will consist of the installation of new sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and crosswalks to close gaps in the existing sidewalk infrastructure adjacent to the Schools. In addition to improvements adjacent to the School, the West Street School Project also includes installing a flashing pedestrian signal at the un-signalized intersection of Solano Street and Hoag Street adjacent to Les Schwab Tires.

The City has requested the first phase of funding through Caltrans to complete the Environmental Studies & Permits and the Preliminary Engineering for both projects. The California Transportation Commission approved this request at their March meeting. Once the approval is processed through Caltrans the City will receive the authorization to move forward with the use of the funds.

City Staff has also been preparing Request for Qualifications (RFQ) documents for design professionals for both projects. It is anticipated that these RFQ's will be brought to City Council for authorization to proceed with advertising mid-May so that we can start the design process for the projects within the grant guidelines.

City Pool:

The accessible pool lift for the City Pool was delivered on Thursday. Staff will install the mounting brackets on the pool deck prior to the pool opening. The new lift can easily be stored out of the weather when the swim season is over and the pool is not in use.

Utility Leaks/Repairs:

Two water line leaks in El Verano Avenue and in the alley off of Peach Street have been repaired. Both leaks were in service lines between the water main line and the meter box.

Animal Shelter Building:

Public Works Staff have continued with the demolition of the animal shelter block building as time allows.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Patrol:

In addition to responding to 112 calls for service, a total of 9 officer reports were taken and there were 21 officer-initiated incidents, including 2 traffic stops. Officers made 2 misdemeanor and 0 felony arrests. Officers issued 3 citations, of which; 2 were misdemeanors and 1 was parking during the period of April 23, 2020 through April 29, 2020.

Training:

Officers continue to participate in POST Portal Training and Lexipol Daily Training Bulletins. Other POST On-line Training continues for Patrol and Dispatch personnel.

Notice:

For the health and safety of our Citizens, Officers, Dispatchers and staff our lobby will remain closed due to COVID 19. Please use the intercom system at the lobby door if you need our assistance.

**“Today is not just another day. It’s a new opportunity another chance, a new beginning.
Embrace it.”**

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Corning Volunteer Fire Department Call Volume:

The Corning Volunteer Fire Department responded to 15 calls for service last week, they consisted of: 13 medicals and 2 public service calls.

Orland, Capay, and Butte City Volunteer Fire Departments Call Volume:

The combined total of dispatched incidents for these Departments were 9 calls for service last week. These consisted off: 1 medical, 2 traffic collisions, 5 fires, and 1 hazardous condition.

Weed Abatement:

The weather is heating up and things are drying out. Fire season is coming so please clean your properties of tall grass and weeds.

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.” Abraham Lincoln