

THE CORNING FRIDAY NOTES

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FROM: KRISTINA MILLER, CITY MANAGER
DATE: MAY 22, 2020



CITY MANAGER:

COVID-19:

The County Variance Plan to reopen faster than the rest of the State was approved on Wednesday May 13th. You can find the Plan at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Local-Variance-Attestations.aspx>

This allows the County and the City of Corning to more quickly move through Stage 2. Currently all businesses in stage 2 can reopen with approved Reopening Plans. These businesses included retail, manufacturers and logistics to support retail, childcare, office-based business (telework is still strongly encouraged), car washes, pet grooming, landscape gardening, outdoor museums, open gallery spaces and other public spaces with modifications, dine in restaurants, and schools with modifications. Businesses that have not already done so should submit their Reopening Plans (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCCOVIDbizplans>) immediately. Businesses still not approved to open include: personal services such as nail salons, tattoo parlors, hair salons, gyms and fitness studios, entertainment venues, indoor museums, zoos, libraries, community centers including public pools, playgrounds, and picnic areas, limited- capacity religious services, nightclubs, festivals, theme parks, hotels for leisure and tourism, and higher education. Governor Gavin Newsom recently hinted that we may be able to move into Stage 3 within the next few weeks.

A testing location in Corning at the High School is open. Both asymptomatic and symptomatic people are encouraged to test. They want to test as many people as possible. You must have an appointment. You can schedule an appointment by visiting: <https://lhi.care/start>. Thus far we have tested just over 1,000 individuals with 998 being negative. We have had two positive cases; unfortunately, one of which is deceased.

Stanford University is also testing our infection rate from sewage received at our wastewater treatment plant. These results will not be immediately available. The City is engaging another firm, Biobot, to provide similar testing for the month of May. As soon as the data is available, I will present it.

City Hall Reopening:

I am working to reopen City Hall to the public. A plexi-glass barrier will be installed at the front counter by Thursday May 28th. Our Reopening Plan was approved by Tehama County Public Health on May 19th. Among increased disinfection, workspaces were reconfigured where necessary to provide physical distancing. City Staff will be required to read the Reopening Plan prior to reopening. A more detailed training on the new protocols will be provided the first day back. Disinfection supplies and PPE have been purchased. Signage is being installed. The use of shared equipment will be minimized and where necessary with increased disinfection. Employees will be voluntarily asked to take their temperature before and during each workday. It is incredibly important to provide a safe place for both customers and employees. Again, we want to ensure the reopening is successful.

Revenue Losses as a Result of the Pandemic:

Transient Occupancy Taxes (hotel taxes) are anticipated to drop from a high in FY 2018/19 of \$618,000 to \$325,000 in FY 2020/21 due to reductions in occupancy from the Pandemic and Camp Fire workers leaving the area. Planner I, Christina Meeds made contact with local hotel management who reported at least a 50% decrease in business due to the Pandemic. Sales Tax receipts (excluding Measure A) is projected by Hinderliter, de Llamas and Associates (HdL) to be \$2,670,000 in FY 2020/21. This is down \$462,000 from sales tax received in FY 2018/19. The City anticipates receiving \$2,900,000 in FY 2019/2020, which is down \$200,000 from what was

THE CITY OF CORNING IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

projected at mid-year. Transactions and Use Tax (Measure A) is projected by HdL to come in at \$1,045,000 in FY 2020/21. This is down from a high of \$1,168,000 in Measure A taxes received in FY 2018/19. HdL estimates are based on assumptions that government subsidies will be enough to carry most businesses through these challenging times and there will not be a second shelter-in-place order in the Fall. The City will receive its 2nd quarter sales tax receipts at the end of August. At that time we will have a more solid estimate of where the City stands fiscally. I will present a budget update in the September-October timeframe. The City is fortunate to have a significant amount of General Fund reserves to help carry the City through these challenging times.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Public Works Crewmembers:

Public Works Crewmembers will start back on summer hours of operation starting Tuesday May 26, 2020. Their workday will begin at 6:00 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The Meter Reader/Maintenance Worker will continue his working hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Summer hours will end the first workday after Labor Day Weekend.

Yost Park Playground:

Public Works Staff has removed the existing pea gravel and has been coordinating the installation of the play equipment with volunteers. It is anticipated that Evan Johnson Construction will start the concrete frontage improvements late this week or early next week.

Front Counter Protection:

Staff has authorized QRC Incorporated to make the plexiglass sneeze guards for the City Hall front counter. The installation of the sneeze guards will take place by midweek next week.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Patrol:

In addition to responding to 146 calls for service, a total of 31 officer reports were taken and there were 68 officer-initiated incidents, including 36 traffic stops. Officers made 12 misdemeanor and 0 felony arrests. Officers issued 11 citations, of which; 11 were misdemeanors during the period of May 13, 2020 through May 20, 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.

“A beautiful day begins with a beautiful mindset.”

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Corning Volunteer Fire Department Call Volume:

The Corning Volunteer Fire Department responded to 19 calls for service last week, they consisted of: 2 fires, 15 medicals and 2 public service call.

Orland, Capay, Artois, Bayliss, Glenn Codora, Ord Bend and Butte City Volunteer Fire Departments Call Volume:

Orland, Capay, Artois, Bayliss, Glenn Codora, Ord Bend and Butte City Volunteer Fire Departments were dispatched to 18 calls for service last week, they consisted of; 10 medicals, 1 fire, 2 traffic collisions and 5 public service.

Training:

Training for the Corning Volunteer Fire Department consisted of 16 members participating in pump operations from hydrant to Engine 14 to Engine 12 and using the master stream on 12.

“A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have” – Thomas Jefferson