



Dear Fairplay Friends, Community and Business Owners

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and secure. I will start by saying what a challenging time it has been. It goes without saying that we are living in a time of daily uncertainty that most of us have never experienced. I consider myself very fortunate to have a personal connection with most of the people that live in and around Fairplay. I also realize how important it is for us to all have some sense of normalcy in our lives as well. While the Town Board and I have been active with the Town Staff in educating ourselves regarding this current health crisis and learning how to best deal with the fluid nature concerning this pandemic, I have learned quite a lot about the people that make up our community that I would like to share with you:

What I Have Learned

- *I have learned that our community has enormous resolve, strength, dedication and will to survive.*
- *I have learned the real meaning of community and caring for one another.*
- *I have learned how we can set aside our differences for the common good of our community.*
- *I have learned how much Love is present in our midst and how that Love translates into actions that defy any foe and promote a core of strength from which everyone is welcome to draw.*
- *I have learned that our businesses are made of strong people who care for our community.*
- *I have learned how our businesses do what they do as much for their community as they do for themselves.*
- *I have learned that our generations have been united and how those generations have opened their hearts to one another as we move further into this abyss.*
- *I have learned how singular positive thoughts and words can be manifested in ways that reach out to those who need them the most.*
- *I have learned that having compassion for one another is no longer a phrase or term, but an action.*
- *I have learned that there are others who care and share and invite others to do so as well.*
- *I have learned that the many diverse personalities in and around Fairplay are what make us so unique, and powerful, and successful.*
- *I have learned that, while we all may look at things differently, we all have our sights on the same goal.*
- *I have learned that our Families and Friends are what will carry us through these hard times and difficulties.*
- *I have learned that the less fortunate in our community are in good hands.*
- *Most of all, I have learned the value of friends, family, community and Love; Love for one and all and how that Love can heal. It is that Love that will carry us through. It is that Love that will heal our hearts. It is that Love that will defeat this foe that we all fight. It is that Love that will make us whole.*

Please know that your Town government is here to help as well. We continue to provide your essential services and are also doing our best to regularly update our citizens on the constantly changing conditions at the local, state and federal level.

Please note that your utility bill is lower than normal – that is because this month, you are not being billed for wastewater services. In an effort to help our citizens and business owners during this trying economic time, the Town Board has waived one month of sanitary sewer service.

I offer many thanks to everyone in the community who is stepping up during these difficult times:

- First, and foremost, I thank the tireless commitment of our front-line health workers, first responders and other essential service providers for their continued effort to care for us and keep us safe.
- I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for doing your part to help us battle the virus. Our residents and businesses are being diligent in staying home as much as possible and following the guidance of public health officials in practicing social distancing to prevent exposure and the spread of the disease. It will help contain the spread and get us through this.
- Citizens are selflessly responding to the needs of others, checking up on vulnerable family members and neighbors.
- Businesses and retail workers are working hard to make goods and services available to us. Please treat them with the utmost respect – their jobs are especially difficult right now.

- As we adjust to a new daily routine, it warms my heart to see so many of our residents and business owners find creative ways to help in our community, things like making face masks and hand sanitizer are two great examples.
- I am grateful to residents and organizations that, despite new social distancing guidelines, have found innovative ways to continue to serve our community. Our school district continues providing meals to kids who are now home bound and in partnership with the South Park Food Bank is helping make sure families and individuals in the community will not go hungry. Just because our daily life has changed, these organizations and others have the same, or even increased, financial needs. Please consider donating to the South Park Food Bank or any one of our other non-profits that are helping those in need in the Fairplay Community.

The Town of Fairplay is doing its part in responding to this emergency.

- Fairplay is working closely with the health department in implementing orders that will help keep us safe.
- The Town is providing regular updates on our social media sites and through our electronic mail system. I encourage you to check for updates at www.covid19.colorado.gov.
- The Stay at Home order continues to be implemented. The Town is working with businesses and communicating with the public on providing guidance in our effort to abide by the order, yet let residents engage in permissible activities.
- The Town has issued an emergency order that will help facilitate the use of Town resources in responding to this crisis.
- Our Police Department and Public Works Department are on the job, keeping our community safe and maintaining the Town's infrastructure.
- While Town Hall is presently closed to the public, staff continues to work to serve the resident's needs, practicing social distancing guidance including having staff members work from home as can be accommodated.

In addition to grocery shopping, or medical care, there are other essential services that are available to us during the time of Stay at Home and other social distancing orders. Among them are:

- The great outdoors! We live in an enviable place full of natural beauty. What a great opportunity for residents to get out to take a walk, do some exercise, or simply get outdoors and enjoy our beautiful vistas. I encourage you to take advantage of this, and please, follow the social distancing guidelines.
- Most of our restaurants are open for carry-out service and many of our other businesses are open online – please support our local businesses in any way you can.
- For updates on our business community – follow us on Facebook at Town of Fairplay, Colorado.

I assure you the Town of Fairplay will do all it can to keep the community safe and to respond to your needs. I encourage you to remain strong and to continue to help each other during these challenging times. Our faith will help guide us. We will get through this together. I look forward for our citizens to be able to resume the vibrancy of their lives and to enjoy the things that are most important to them, including living in our great community.

Thank you, stay safe and stay home!

Town of Fairplay Mayor Frank Just