City of Ojai Update – March 18th, 2020

A video version of this update is available at https://youtu.be/cWcT6h71ILk. Yesterday, the County Health Officer released an order effective at 12:01 a.m. on March 18 that orders three key requirements:

- Requires individuals 75 or older to shelter in place,
- Requires all food facilities to only offer food via pickup, drive through or delivery, and
- Requires that businesses such as movie theaters, live performance venues, bowling alleys, gyms, fitness centers, aquatic centers, bars and nightclubs to close through April 1, 2020.

The City is working with local businesses to try to ensure residents have access to needed items during this time, and to support local businesses. I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to be safe while also continuing to support local businesses.

Here’s a couple things we’re doing to try to encourage this:

- We’ve been in contact with local grocery stores about special hours for seniors and sensitive people.
  1. Starting Friday, Westridge will be implementing special hours from 6 – 8 a.m.
  2. Vons has implemented special hours from 7 – 9 a.m.
  3. We’ve also heard that some groups are popping up offering help getting items, such as “Ojai Shopping Cart,”
- We’ve reached out to restaurants and created some pickup zones to help residents quickly and safely get access to take out.

  - Ojai Pizza - (805) 646-7878 - 11:00 a.m. to 9 p.m.
  - Ojai Coffee Roasting - (805) 646-4478 - 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - Bonnie Lu’s - (805) 646-0207 - ($20 Minimum) - 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
  - Jersey Mikes - (805) 640-9070 - 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
  - Ojai Rotie - (805) 798-9227 - 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
  - Sea Fresh - (805) 646-7747 - Noon to 7:30 p.m.
  - Hakane Sushi - (805) 640-3070 - 11:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
  - Ca’ Marco - (805) 640-1048
  - Osteria Monte Grappa - (805) 640-6767 - 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
  - Food Harmonics - (805) 798-9253 - 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  - Agave Maria’s - (805) 646-6353 - 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
  - Ojai Café Emporium - (805) 646-2723 - 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We’ve added a list of these restaurants to our website and we’ll try to keep it up to date. Additionally, we have some information we want to make sure to provide to residents, in case you haven’t heard. Some of this was included in a recent update:

- Southern California Edison and So Cal Gas are suspending service disconnections for nonpayment and waiving late fees. Contact Edison or Socal Gas for more info.
The State’s Employment Development Department has announced financial support services for workers whose employment is impacted due to coronavirus. Visit EDD.CA.GOV for more info.

Ojai Unified School District is providing meals to children from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. You can stop by and pick up a brown bag lunch and breakfast for the following day, or check out sanitized computers or library books. All meals are free for all children, even if they do not attend OUSD.

We’ve had a lot of questions about whether donations are needed. We have been in contact with some charities who have noted a need for non-perishable food donations and household goods like laundry soap, bath soap, shampoo for delivery to home-bound seniors. Donations are accepted at the Little House, 111 West Santa Ana Street, Ojai.

The City has enacted a renter’s eviction moratorium, which states that no landlord shall evict a residential tenant in Ojai during this local emergency if the tenant is able to show an inability to pay rent due to circumstances related to COVID-19. Tenants will have up to 6 months following expiration of the emergency to repay any back due rent.

The City continues to add handwashing stations as they become available. We’re also increasing sanitization of trolleys, bathrooms and other essential services. And we’re keeping public bathrooms open 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

Last, earlier today, the City shifted to telephone and email services to help prevent the spread of disease. We are rolling out tools on our website to help residents get any services needed by telephone or email. City staff will be onsite, and we’re here to help, but for the Community’s safety, we will be available remotely to avoid potential spread.

As the first new tool to help provide services remotely, we will be rolling out a program to receive city alerts via text shortly. By sending the Keyword: OJAICA1 to 91896, you’ll be signed up to receive alerts from the City. The program works similarly to VCAAlert, but will be from the City of Ojai.

We’ll keep announcing more tools and programs in coming days.

Last, just to remind everyone:
The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, such as Novel Coronavirus:

- Practice social distance, and maintain a distance of 6 feet from others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and practice social distancing.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Stay Safe! - James Vega, City Manager