

A Message To The Community

The City of Mountlake Terrace thanks our community for its strength and positive attitude during this COVID-19 public health emergency. It has been a trying time filled with stress and anxiety and we would like to reassure you that together, we will weather this emergency. We are so appreciative of the many caring efforts that are happening from neighbor to neighbor, friend to friend, and even among those who have never met. These connections are critically important during this time and demonstrate the altruistic values that people in Mountlake Terrace exhibit every day.

The past few months have been challenging in terms of isolating at home, working in stressful environments, teaching/studying/communicating online, caring for children and the elderly, worrying about family, losing jobs, paying bills, and many other changes we have experienced.

One of the positive outcomes of the COVID-19 emergency is the establishment of “KEEP MLT STRONG”, an informal partnership of Mountlake Terrace organizations dedicated to keeping the Mountlake Terrace community strong through the coronavirus pandemic and beyond. Many of the individuals leading this effort are Mountlake Terrace residents who are concerned about the needs of the people who live and work here.

Partners of KEEP MLT STRONG include the Mountlake Terrace Community Foundation as the lead agency as well as Calvary Fellowship Church, Concern for Neighbors Food Bank, Mountlake Terrace Business Association, Mountlake Terrace Library, *MLTNews.com*, *resilientMLT.com*, *nextMLT.com*, and the City of Mountlake Terrace. Through their website, www.KEEPMLTSTRONG.com, you may ask for help or volunteer to help others. They have also established a COVID-19 Relief Fund that is managed by the Mountlake Terrace Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization where you can make tax-deductible donations that will help people right here in our community. In addition, their website has a number of resources listed for those needing assistance.

Dozens of other efforts have really made a positive difference. Some examples include residents making face masks and accessories, churches and non-profits providing basic needs, people shopping for others, donations of food/supplies/money, residents cooking meals for others, stores and businesses making changes to keep us safe, uplifting messages posted

online or written in chalk, teddy bears in windows, waves, emails and telephone calls. Some of these acts of kindness may seem small but each of them are important to help us get through each day.

If you are able, please consider doing what you can to help the people in our community. By working together, we can make Mountlake Terrace stronger and more viable when this emergency passes. Ways you can help include volunteering at the food banks or donating food, checking on neighbors (especially the vulnerable population) to find out their needs and help them find resources, contributing to a COVID-19 relief fund, shopping locally (services, grocery, etc) and ordering from our eating and drinking establishments that have been hit hard by this crisis. In order to retain our businesses, please purchase from them when you are able to and continue to do so even after things improve. It will likely take many months and perhaps years to fully recover but together, we will recover as we did after the last recession.

Like our residents and businesses, the city will also suffer financial impacts of COVID-19 and we are tightening our belts and preparing for a downturn in the economy. We are evaluating what those impacts are and adjusting accordingly. We are also looking at ways we can help and are working with community partners such as “KEEP MLT STRONG” to try and make a positive difference.

The city is guided by financial policies that prioritize city services for times just like this. As we assess our situation, our services are prioritized in the following order: 1) **Public Life, Health and Safety** (police, fire, emergency medical services, building inspections, traffic control, water, sewer, storm drainage service and infrastructure maintenance); 2) **Legal Mandates** (accounting/auditing/financial reporting and land-use planning); 3) **City Facilities and Property** (maintenance of park land, buildings, streets, right of way, and equipment); 4) **Recreational, Athletic, Aquatic and Youth Programs**; 5) **Pursue Council and Community Goals**. Any needed reductions will adhere to these policies and priorities.

We appreciate every single effort that helps us bounce back from this very difficult time. Thank you for standing strong... together!



See COVID-19 Community Resources on Pages 4-5