

## March 25, 2020 Update

Please visit [www.cityofmlt.com/2060](http://www.cityofmlt.com/2060) for city information and resources on the COVID-19 public health emergency.

### What's New?

- **The City Council is holding a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2020** at 7:00 p.m. to consider an ordinance to allow for City Council and Planning Commission Remote Participation at Meetings via Audio or Video Conferencing. Due to the Governor's Proclamation 20-28 (see below), this meeting is *not* open to the public as the Governor has temporarily suspended portions of the Open Public Meetings Act to slow the spread of COVID-19. **This meeting will be streamed in audio as usual live or on demand** via Granicus at [www.cityofmlt.com/469](http://www.cityofmlt.com/469) then scroll down the page and click the linked agenda for March 26, 2020. If the ordinance is adopted, the city will implement new measures for teleconferencing at future meetings during this public health emergency.
- **[Governor's Proclamation 20-28](#)** (Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act, issued March 24, 2020.) The Governor has been issuing proclamations to help stem the spread of COVID-19 and this proclamation temporarily prohibits in-person contacts with the public that are required by the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) (RCW 42.30) and the Public Records Act (PRA) (RCW 42.56), suspending some statutory language that would require such contacts. This proclamation also temporarily suspends the PRA's requirements for agencies to respond to PRA requests for public records within five business days from receipt, and to maintain business hours for public inspection and copying of records for a minimum of 30 hours per week. It is effective from March 24, 2020 until midnight, April 23, 2020, unless extended beyond that date. Please read the proclamation for details and to see the list of citations to the specific OPMA and PRA statutes or portions of statutes that are temporarily suspended.
- **“Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order In Effect March 25, 2020 Until Midnight April 6, 2020, Unless Extended:**  
Starting Wednesday, March 25, 2020, most businesses will be closed statewide with the exception of [essential businesses](#) and key government

functions including the City of Mountlake Terrace. The State defines “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” as personnel who are needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors and additional sectors as the State Public Health Officer may designate as critical to protect health and well-being of all Washingtonians.

The Governor’s Proclamation does not prohibit working from home, operating a single owner business with no in-person, on-site public interaction, or restaurants and food services providing delivery or take-away services, so long as proper social distancing and sanitation measures are established and implemented.

Residents are permitted to leave home in order to meet their essential needs including traveling to grocery stores and food banks, pharmacies, gas stations, urgent or emergency medical care, caring for an elderly or sick family member, and traveling to work for essential staff as defined by state or local authorities. For more information on what’s open and closed, please visit the State’s [webpage](#). You can read the Governor’s announcement [here](#).

- **Additional measures taken by the city this week** to protect our community during this public health emergency include:
  - **(New on March 25)** The city requested and received permission from our utility billing contractor AFTS to waive the \$2.00 online transaction fee until April 23, 2020 pending further orders from the Governor. This waiver is to encourage the online transactions and slow the spread of COVID-19.
  - **(New on March 25)** Signage has been posted at Interim City Hall and the Police Station entrances to enter only if attending previously scheduled appointments, paying for utilities or meeting for specific permits due to the Governor’s Stay Home, Stay Healthy order. ***The city strongly discourages any public contact at this time unless absolutely necessary in order to protect our community and our staff.***
  - Closure of public playgrounds, park restrooms, gazebos, athletic fields, sports courts and the dog park (passive parks and trails are open as long as social distancing occurs).
  - Suspension of passport issuance.
  - Required appointments for certain development permit processes, call 425-744-6267 to make an appointment unless you are applying for driveway, fence, home occupations, re-roof, shed permits and conducting business that is exempt from the Governor’s Proclamation. If so, permit

- applications will be accepted at the permit counter without an appointment.
- Permits for single family residential re-roof, plumbing and mechanical are available for viewing and submittal online at [www.cityofmlt.com/177](http://www.cityofmlt.com/177).
  - Due to the Governor's "Stay at Home" order, the Recreation Pavilion's closure is extended two weeks until April 8 (unless extended). The Pavilion is providing childcare services to first responders and city staff as well as current Kids Krew and Junior Kids Krew customers who are exempt from the Governor's order. In addition, the Pavilion is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. this week for childcare registration only.
- **Drive-thru testing available by appointment** for high-risk Snohomish County residents with COVID-19 symptoms, including those who work in healthcare, public safety or critical infrastructure, now have another option for free testing. *Testing is by appointment only if you meet the criteria to be tested.* Visit [www.snohd.org/503](http://www.snohd.org/503) to learn more or sign up for an appointment.
  - Snohomish Health District has this new [webpage](#) to help control rumors about the Coronavirus.
  - Thanks to MLTNews.com for their work in creating [this list](#) of Mountlake Terrace **restaurants offering takeout or delivery service**. Please help our businesses stay open if you are able to. City Hall employees are placing a group lunch order each day to a different Mountlake Terrace restaurant to try and help our local businesses.

## Previous Information

- The city recognizes there is uncertainty at this time and realizes that some utility customers may be worried about paying their water bill. Therefore, in line with Governor Inslee's request of March 18, **the City of Mountlake Terrace will postpone shut offs of water service to customers for nonpayment through April 24.** This action may be extended in the future, and no late fees or penalties will apply during this time.

We encourage customers to continue to make their utility payments or to call Utility Billing at (425) 744-6214 to make payment arrangements if they are unable to pay at this time.

- Snohomish County has launched a COVID-19 **Emergency Sheltering Program** to help those most at risk of exposure to COVID-19. The funds will target those who are experiencing homelessness and are parents with children, veterans, or other vulnerable individuals. For more information, visit <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/72255/New-COVID-19-Emergency-Sheltering-Program-Launched-in-Snohomish-County?bidId=>.
- **Renters & Landlords:** In response to inquiries made to the city about this issue, "Under the Governor's March 18 order, landlords are barred from evicting someone who fails to pay rent on time. It's in effect for 30 days. Landlords are prohibited from issuing a 20-day notice for unlawful occupancy unless they can demonstrate it's necessary to ensure the health and safety of the tenant or others." Read article [here](#).
- Edmonds School District continues to provide **free bag breakfasts and lunches** at 21 distribution sites during their six-week closure. Check [here](#) for distribution sites/times.
- **Federal student loan payments have been suspended without penalty for at least 60 days.** Please visit the White House's [webpage](#) for more information on the briefing.
- **U.S. Tax Filing Deadline Extended to July 15, 2020** - All taxpayers and businesses will have until July 15, 2020 to file and make payments without interest or penalties.

### **Updates on Meetings and Events**

- April 8 Coffee with the City is cancelled
- April 11 Easter Egg Hunt is cancelled (by Cheeseburger Babies Foundation)
- April 11 April Pools Day is cancelled
- April 14 Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission meeting is cancelled