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Jonathan F. Dalton
Mayor

Robert Shelton
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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

While our City administration remains acutely focused on providing essential public health and safety services as cost effectively as possible, we have begun attending to matters associated with the reopening of many businesses in our community starting Monday, May 18th.

- Back to Business

As you are undoubtedly aware, the St. Louis County Executive recently announced that the so-called "Stay at Home" order in place as part of our State and region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic would be lifted, allowing local businesses, including restaurants, salons and other retailers to reopen beginning this Monday while maintaining certain distancing and other precautions. I am pleased to report our business community has been extremely responsible during this difficult time, and I am confident they will be cautious to protect their customers and employees during the back-to-business phase. City staff has maintained contact with our Chamber of Commerce and other businesses to provide assistance, including reopening guidelines and financial assistance programs provided by the County, State and Federal government.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is to the Town and Country economy, and the quality services we enjoy, to support our local businesses. Sales tax revenue makes up 50% of our budget and restaurants and small businesses, which have been extremely impacted, are a large part of that equation. City staff continues to reduce expenses where possible without impacting critical services or jeopardizing City infrastructure. Early projections estimate a revenue shortfall as much as \$2 million. We will continue to monitor these numbers and provide updates. We are in the process of updating these projections based on sales tax data from March sales and a detailed review of other revenues. We also realize that life will not go back to normal immediately. While most business may be reopening in June, we know the return will be slow and purposefully cautious. The long-term health of our citizens and economy is paramount.

- Mayor's for Meals Food Drive a Success

As Vice Chairman of the Metro Mayors organization, I was pleased to join with 21 other local mayors this past Saturday as Town and Country served as a community host site for the Mayor's for Meals food drive on the beautiful grounds of Town Square. We were thrilled to collect tons of non-perishable food, personal hygiene products and pet food for the St. Louis Area FoodBank, (who are celebrating 45 years of providing meals to local families in need). My sincere appreciation to the elected officials, staff, resident volunteers, boy scouts, businesses and organizations who pitched in to support this regional effort to assist those impacted by this devastating pandemic, including donations for our four-legged friends at the Town and Country drop off. We were aided by the manpower and equipment from the Missouri National Guard 1231st Transportation Command and can't say enough about their support. I was also honored to join our police officers and City Hall staff as they made a generous contribution to the Mari de Villa food drive earlier in the week.

Not only are these events an opportunity for us to do our part to help those in need, last Saturday was a shining example of what makes Town and Country such an incredible place to call home. As we safely gathered to catch up with old friends and get to know new ones, I was reminded why we all love this community. I could see the smiles behind the masks as car after car pulled up, as the young volunteers anxiously separated the donations, and as box after box was loaded into the National Guard truck. While at the drive, I witnessed a Blacksmith Grove business owner come out to make a cash donation, a bicyclist stop by to say he would be back with food, and a group of ladies meeting up to celebrate a birthday amongst friends. I was warmly reminded that this is a community that comes together during both the toughest and the best of times, and nobody does it better than Town and Country.

To see photos of the event click [HERE](#).

- Parks Update

As you know, all Town and Country parks and trails are open, but to protect our collective health interests, the playgrounds and restrooms remain closed under St. Louis County orders. During your enjoyment of our beautiful amenities, we ask that everyone maintain safe distancing and follow the one way trail markers, and hopefully everything will be completely open soon. All programs that can maintain social distancing and proper sanitation will continue this summer. Those include yoga, tennis lessons, art classes, horse learning and Project Unplugged classes. St. Louis County announced this week that all County parks will reopen on Monday the 18th with the exception that restrooms, indoor facilities, sports courts, shelters, exercise stations, playgrounds, skate parks and Creve Coeur Soccer Park will remain closed.

- COVID-19 Cases

While the number of new cases in our region is thankfully on the decline, it is important to maintain social distancing, wear your mask out in public and practice good hygiene so we can continue this progress in fighting the pandemic.

We track data on a daily basis, and the following is provided to us from the four major health systems (BJC HealthCare, Mercy, SSM Health, and St. Luke's Hospital) that are part of the pandemic task force.

As of May 12:

- New hospital admissions (data lagged two days) decreased – from 32 yesterday to 31 today.
- The seven-day moving average of hospital admissions (data lagged two days) stayed the same at 27.
- The seven-day moving average of hospitalizations decreased – from 526 yesterday to 511 today.
- Inpatient hospitalizations decreased – from 513 yesterday to 488 today.
- The number of patients in the ICUs has decreased – from 125 yesterday to 121 today.
- The number of patients on ventilators has decreased – from 93 yesterday to 84 today.
- Across the system hospitals, 39 COVID-19 patients were discharged yesterday, bringing the cumulative number of COVID-19 patients discharged to 1,784.

Updated St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force data can be found [HERE](#).

More updates to come and, as always, please stay safe out there. Best wishes to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Smith' or similar, written in a cursive style.

[Click here to view Part I](#)-published May 4, 2020

[Click here to view Part II](#)-published May 8, 2020