City Focuses on Safety, Well-Being, and Continuity of Services During COVID-19 Crisis

Editor’s Note: This special issue of City Edition provides information and resources to help residents and businesses during the COVID-19 public health crisis, now and in the future. Included are information and stories of hope in our city to help you during this challenging time. Some of the content is in both English and Spanish. Thank you for doing your part to help family, friends and neighbors. We will get through this together.

COVID-19 has been one of the most difficult challenges in the history of the City of Westminster and our world because it impacts each person and every industry. In these challenging times, we are each focused on the health and safety of our residents. The city’s top priorities are your well-being and the social and economic resilience of our community,” said City Manager Don Tripp. “We want our community to know that while uncertainty about what’s next is often times the most difficult aspect of a situation like this, the city and departments are working every day to plan, respond and serve.

The city has assembled several department and cross-department teams, is working with dozens of regional and state partners, has held four livestream community and business operations updates, and has posted videos talking about resources for residents and businesses, has adopted virtual work practices for some employees, and adjusted emergency and utility working environments to adopt new protocols while maintaining its focus on the continuity of services.

City Council
City Council has expressed its confidence about the city’s operations (see page 3), approved a WestyRISE Business Grant for small businesses, and held a livestream event with Mayor Herb Atchison, Tripp and Economic Development Director John Hall to provide residents and businesses with information and insight.

City Council has been meeting regularly and virtually with Department Heads to discuss city operations updates. Council has also posted videos talking about resources for businesses, food assistance programs and the roles of the city, county and state during this public health crisis. Find them on the city’s YouTube channel at www.YouTube.com/ WestminsterCO.

COVID-19 Emergency Planning
The city has created and launched an emergency recovery plan that was put into effect at the beginning of the public health crisis. City staff are also in communication with and collaborating with state offices and community partners to identify initiatives to address a number of areas, including human services, food banks and programs, supply chains, and housing.

Emergency Services and Utilities
Emergency medical services, public safety, safe drinking water and the infrastructure to support household needs and critical business functions are continuing. City staff have adapted their work to ensure continuity of services, ensure employees are following state guidelines, and protect the health and safety of residents.

WestyRISE Business Grant
The city launched a COVID-19 economic recovery plan that includes additional services for businesses, a focus on economic resilience, help for workforce and employment, and the quality of place (including housing). Response to the $1.5 million small business relief fund, WestyRISE Business Grant, was overwhelming with the city receiving more than 400 applications in the first two days. Applications are not being accepted at this time as the city is verifying the applications received and distributing funds.

Innovation
The city has built a robust innovation initiative over the last six months with cross-department teams of more than 100 staff working on a variety of cost-saving and value-generating efforts. In light of COVID-19, many of these efforts have changed to support the economic and social resilience of our community. Additional information on these efforts will be shared as they develop.

Content Delivered in Multiple Languages
For residents who are non-English speaking, the city’s web site can be translated into Spanish and other languages. When you call the city’s main number at 303-658-2400, you can request accommodation in a language other than English. Resources and information are also available in both English and Spanish at 303-706-3112. You may also email the city at covid19@cityofwestminster.us with questions related to COVID-19, including interpretation services.

Additional Resources
City’s web site: www.cityofwestminster.us Business services at the Economic Development Department’s web site: WestminsterEconomicDevelopment.org COVID-19 information: www.cityofwestminster.us/ COVID-19, which includes employment resources, meal information for students and families, mental health resources and utility assistance.

Each of us is doing our part and we appreciate all of the members of the Westminster community helping one another and finding new ways to work through this challenging time,” said Tripp. “Westminster’s businesses are also in need of our help during this tough time, so, if you can, we encourage you to continue to patronize local restaurants, grocery stores and other essential businesses.”

Resources and stories in Spanish on pages 6-8.
City Realigns Staff Duties and Creates Emergency Operations Center in Response to COVID-19

Prior to regional or statewide Stay at Home orders, the city activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The Incident Command of the EOC’s efforts is led by Public Works and Utilities Director Max Kirschbaum. The EOC identified its emergency support functions that align with the county, state and federal agencies that will be active during the COVID-19 emergency and through recovery.

Planning began in February when initial reports of COVID-19 were reported in the United States. The focus of the city’s EOC is:

- Maintain essential city services including public safety, and public health
- Maintain essential city business operations including water and sewer services
- Support public health response (including medical surge)
- Support human services response
- Assess economic damages and participate in recovery programs
- Provide useful information and education to the public

“An alignment of staff enables a common language and coordination of effort across our city,” said Innovation and Communications Community Planning Manager Ryan Hegreness.

City employees are working through challenges, proving their dedication to service and taking on a variety of roles outside their normal scope of duties.

Parks, Recreation and Library Department employees have been redeployed outside their usual work hours and locations supporting a variety of COVID-19 needs including Parks and Fire Department services, food bank operations, open spaces support, and guest services and other duties.

The citywide facility shut down has allowed Building Maintenance and Operations staff the opportunity to complete annual preventative maintenance and other scheduled services for our community. Certain offices and locations require closure or interruption to guests and staff.

Police Department Emphasizes Commitment

The Information Technology Department has deployed additional tools that allow residents and businesses to access the city and elected officials, while also facilitating employees to work remotely.

All city departments are contributing to the emergency operations, focusing on resiliency and preparing our community for recovery.

“This is an unparalleled time for us. We know that residents and businesses are depending on us for city services,” said Read. “We are committed to service, upholding public trust, and working with community partners and all levels of government to maintain critical services and provide resources.”

Westminster Fire Department Creates Additional Procedures During COVID-19 Crisis

“The city’s Fire Department continues its priorities as an all-hazard fire department with nearly 150 personnel responding to an average of more than 12,000 calls a year. During the COVID-19 public health crisis, the department continues its response for all hazards with some adjusted and new procedures.

“Our personnel in the Fire Department have been trained to handle infectious diseases,” said Fire Chief Doug Hall. “We are working with fire chiefs across the region, along with local and federal agencies to safeguard the health and well-being of the department and our community.”

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The Community Development Department has consolidated numerous business project needs, commercial needs, permit applications and much more to our eTRAKiT platform,” said Operations and Community Preservation Manager Aric Ozolzberg. “We are open to business,” supportive of ongoing economic activities and a continual resource for our community.

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Even during the COVID-19 public health crisis, the Police Department’s goal continues to be to provide the highest level of law enforcement services.

“We recognize this is an uncertain time for our citizens,” said Chief of Police Tim Carlson. “We want to reassure our residents that we are committed to providing this community with exceptional service.”

The department’s mission, goals and commitment to the community define what safety means, even in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.

“We modified our focus some and have adopted the following objectives to ensure the public remains safe in Westminster,” said Carlson. Those objectives include:

- Continue to provide a high level of service to the community by ensuring public safety
- Maintain public order without compromise
- Respond personally to any life safety issues without delay
- Identify and implement staffing and deployment procedures which balance work-force health and service obligations
- Maintain high visibility of uniformed officers in the community
- Continue to provide thorough and complete services to crime victims, particularly persons experiencing any crime of violence
- Maintain processes and resources to thoroughly investigate cases

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Still continuing are building inspections and capital investment project construction. The department is utilizing technology to conduct certain inspections, virtual planning, engineering meetings, and virtual planning commission meetings. Also, the city posts a COVID-19 emergency operations, focusing on resiliency and preparing our community for recovery.

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City Council Connects with Community During COVID-19 Crisis

Westminster’s City Council has been working alongside staff, business and community leaders to address the many needs of the community. To pass along information and engage with the community, they held a live-stream event on April 8. The event included councillors, City Manager Don Trupp and Director of Economic Development John Hall. It provided information, insight and perspectives to help during and after the COVID-19 public health crisis.

The live-stream can be viewed at livestream.com/loclyzmedia/citycouncil-townhall. The event attracted approximately 15,000 members of the city and wider community and connected city efforts with community questions.

Mayor Herb Atchison emphasized the city’s important dedication to continuity of services, pre-planning through the years to ensure the city was as prepared as possible, and important communication with local, regional, state and federal partners. “We know that this will end,” Atchison said. “Our biggest challenge is knowing how soon, and that’s why city staff, myself and the rest of the City Council monitor information every day to protect this community.”

Livestream highlights:

- Councillors are hearing “both encouraging and heart-breaking” information from both residents and business owners and are making themselves available to hear from the entire community.
- The city’s Police and Fire Departments are determined and committed to serving the citizens of this community. They have adopted procedures with new Personal Protective Equipment and community interaction guidelines.
- Key partners include Adams County, Jefferson County, Tri-County Health and Westminster’s Chamber of Commerce which all have several programs designed for residents and businesses.
- Councillors acknowledged the school systems and colleges for shifting their focus and delivery of education to continue teaching students in this digital focused environment.
- There are many food and housing resources available including Growing Home, Hunger Free Colorado and the Food Bank of the Rockies.
- 90% of Westminster businesses have fewer than 50 employees, so councillors are proud of the WestRise Business Grant as a way to support them.
- Residents are encouraged to “shop and do business local.”
- “We will come out of this with a shift in focus from ‘me’ to ‘we,’” suggested Mayor Pro Tem Seitz, who joined other councillors encouraging people to be proud of the city, offer kindness and patience, and participate in community service.
- Tripp concluded by thanking residents, councillors, other elected officials, staff members, and all members of our resident community.

City Council Expresses Confidence in Staff During Public Health Crisis

The City Council issued the following letter on March 17:

Dear Westminster Community,

As we all work mitigate impacts from COVID-19, we want you to know that your safety and well-being and that of others throughout our community is the primary focus of City Council and the staff of the City of Westminster.

We are working diligently to ensure that the city is a community that works together, for one another, and with each person in mind, especially during difficult times.

The city, along with federal, state and local governments, has taken significant steps to address the impacts of COVID-19. On Thursday, March 12, the City issued a Declaration of Emergency to provide the City Manager and staff temporary authority to take actions necessary to ensure continuity of city operations and the expenditure of funds (within set limits and with notification to City Council) to mitigate the impacts of this crisis on the city and our residents.

The City Manager, Department Heads and staff are continually monitoring this situation to determine how to best mitigate impacts of this public health crisis so we can ensure that city services and resources continue without interruption and the safety and health of our residents is prioritized. This means that while some of our resources such as recreation and library programming and events have been temporarily suspended, police, fire and public health services will continue without disruption.

We have been conducting Council and public meetings online and we encourage you to listen in via the city’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/WestminsterCO. City staff have developed methods for continually updating information through multiple communication channels and to hear your questions and concerns. Departments are open for business, and while some staff may be working virtually, they will respond to your calls or needs in a timely manner.

We encourage you to follow the advisories for self-care and social distancing provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Tri-County Health.

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covid-19 for updates and links to resources.

This is an unprecedented time for our city and those across our nation and world. We have complete confidence in the capability of city management, department heads, and staff to appropriately and effectively act in the best interests of our city. We continue to believe firmly in the Westminster community and in our commitment to ensure we work through these difficult times on your behalf.

Westminster City Council
Herb Atchison – Mayor
Anita Seitz – Mayor Pro Tem
David DeMott – Councillor
Rich Seymour – Councillor
Kathryn Skelly – Councillor
Lindsey Smith – Councillor
Jon Voelz – Councillor
WestyRISE: All About Economic Recovery

While the COVID-19 public health crisis impacts all corners of the state, the responsibility of the city is to provide the information, guidance and tools that will help Westminster continue to be the vibrant community we all know it to be.

In order to provide cohesive and consistent messages about Westminster’s economic and social recovery efforts, we have developed WestyRISE.

WestyRISE is the only COVID-19 economic recovery program that specifically addresses the needs of the Westminster business community and our community at large.

Many companies and organizations have had to pivot as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis. The City of Westminster is no different. Forced to close public facilities, many city staff were left without work. However, through teamwork and resourcefulness, 25 Parks, Recreation and Libraries Department (PRL) employees were able to keep working and use their skills for a great cause while learning about the business side of the city.

The Economic Development Department created the Care Calls program to reach out to the thousands of businesses in the city that have been impacted by COVID-19. The PRL employees were trained as Care Calls ambassadors and were tasked with 15 daily calls, for approximately ten days. The calls were made to ensure that the city has current contact information to provide important results in the coming weeks, and inquire about any immediate needs they may have to be passed along to city staff for follow up.

The Care Calls ambassadors participated in a brief orientation and training session. Ambassadors called to listen, take notes and assure businesses that any concerns would be forwarded for resolution.

Library Clerk II Brian Frank from the College Hill Library shared his experience as a Care Calls ambassador.

“When I saw the Care Calls opportunity, I was drawn to it because I consider myself to be a helper and my sense of empathy kicked in. I tried to put myself in the business owner’s shoes and imagined how difficult this period must be for them. At the same time, I found that the thought of helping others by participating in this outreach opportunity reduced my stress levels that I was experiencing at the time. The top themes that we heard from the businesses are: loss of business/revenue, generating new business, maintaining current customers, trying to support their staff, and difficulties communicating with organizations during the loan process. I learned that the city rock! We truly have amazing people here. Not just staff, but people. We are caring and compassionate people who can achieve just about anything when we come together and work together with purpose.”

Business Creativity in a Time of Crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the way we approach life. From social distancing to fervent handwashing to wearing protective masks in public have become the new normal. But what about the impact it has had on the way we do business? Some businesses have been forced to shut down during Colorado’s Stay-At-Home order while others have been deemed essential. In both cases, businesses have had to shift how they provide goods and services to their clients. For example, countless Westminster restaurants have gone to curbside pickup and delivery as their new business model.

Westminster’s Economic Development Department asked businesses to share how they have adjusted their day-to-day operations during this public health crisis.

Business Owner Responses

Stephanie Rawson, Certified Fitness Trainer

“I’m still programming and helping clients stay as healthy as possible by exercising and moving their bodies with whatever equipment they have at home. I send it out by email and text, and ask for snippets of their exercises back for form check and for accountability. I also post my class workout on Facebook and Instagram for free every Sunday.”

Jessi Burg, Pears to Perennials Landscaping Company

“We are still offering services during the Stay-at-Home order, such as: video and on-site consulting services for clients who are starting or managing their own gardens and would like assistance, discounted garden designs for homeowners who would like to do their own installation, and photo and video-based plant identification services.”

Ed Beery, InTechgrity Automotive Excellence

“We are still open with revised procedures and hours. We are taking appointments, have altered our key handling, and implemented clean protocols for vehicle door handles, steering wheels, gear shifter and keys. We will get through this.”

Marilyn Johnson, Keller Williams Preferred Realty

“As a realtor, I am still open for business. To reduce the spread of COVID-19, I am conducting business online as much as possible. Showings are mostly virtual, with limited in-house visits as needed. Closings are done curbside, thanks to the ingenuity of our title companies. Real estate looks different, but is still open.”

Mike Krieger, Intelligent Office-Westminster

“We are answering phones for companies at no cost (up to 200 calls per month) and with no obligation. It is a great solution for anyone who may have had to furlough or lay off a receptionist or if they don’t want to answer phones with kids in the background. We can also receive packages and mail, and can also scan or forward mail, so that you don’t have to venture out.”

Dave Vanchina, Signs By Tomorrow

“In addition to all of our other services, Signs By Tomorrow will manufacture, distribute, and manage print communication including educational materials related to social distancing and COVID-19 for a variety of businesses deemed essential.”
Due to the COVID-19 state of emergency, the city is offering utility bill payment arrangements and assistance programs for those impacted financially by the public health crisis. Please contact the city at ub@cityofwestminster.us or 303-658-2405 to see if you qualify.

The responsibility to pay for utility services is still the obligation of the resident and/or the owner of the property, but the city is here to help during this difficult time.

The city’s existing Water Bill Assistance programs are also available to help make water and sewer bills more affordable for qualified customers. These programs are available to Westminster customers only.

COVID-19 program: This program provides assistance to residents financially impacted by the COVID-19 disease. No income qualifications required. Applicants must submit a letter or email on company letterhead from your employer stating that you lost your job due to COVID-19.

Bill Credit program: This program provides a $180 credit, applied as $15/month per 12-month period, on your residential water bill for those residents that meet the qualifying income guidelines. If you already qualify for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), then you will automatically qualify for this program.

Hardship program: Any resident who has short-term difficulties paying their water bill due to a temporary interruption of income, such as an injury or medical emergency, can apply for this program. If the water bill has not been paid for at least 35 days from the date of the bill, one-time credits on the water bill are available.

Conservation program: Receive up to two free high-efficiency toilets and free indoor water-use inspections for income-qualified homeowners. Homeowners who already qualify for LEAP, automatically qualify for this program.

Emergency and Essential Repair program: Available free of charge to income-qualified homeowners whose water meter reports a leak, this program helps fix leaks so homeowners can participate in the city’s other water assistance programs.

Visit www.CityofWestminster.us/COVID-19 to learn more and apply.
COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESOURCES

GOVERNMENT SERVICES
City of Westminster: www.cityofwestminster.us or 303-658-2400. Email the city with COVID-19 related questions at covid19@cityofwestminster.us.
211 Colorado: Multi-lingual resources, hotline: 211Colorado.org or 866-760-6489 or text your zip code to 898-211.
Tri-County Health Department (Including Adams County): www.tchd.org/818/Coronavirus-COVID-19

BUSINESS
Colorado Small Business Development Center Network: Assists with disaster loan applications, long term planning and more. www.coloradosbdc.org or 303-892-3840
Westminster Chamber of Commerce: Holds events, posts lists of open businesses and resources for small businesses. www.westminsterchamber.biz or 303-961-5975

FOOD ASSISTANCE
Food Bank of the Rockies: Food bank locations. foodbankoftherockies.org or 303-371-9200.
Growing Home: A food bank. growinghome.org or 303-426-0430.
Hunger Free Colorado: Help to apply for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), hungerfreecolorado.org or 720-382-2920.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH
Colorado Crisis Services: Hotline support for any mental health, substance use or emotional concern. coloradocrisisservices.org or 1-844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255.
Community Reach Center Behavioral Health Urgent Care: Mental health center offering telehealth sessions. Screening at the door or over the phone. communityreachcenter.org or 303-853-3500.
Seniors' Resource Center: Services for older adults and those with developmental disabilities. SRSCare.org or 303-238-8151

HOUSING
Almost Home: Shelter and utility assistance for families with children in Adams County. almosthomeonline.org or 303-659-6199
Colorado Legal Services: Free tenant legal help for qualifying residents of Adams County and Broomfield. coloradolegalservices.org or 303-837-1313.
Maker Housing Partners: Provides emergency rental and mortgage assistance. Makerhp.org or 303-227-2075

For a full list of resources, visit www.cityofwestminster.us/covid-19. The web page can be translated into any language by choosing "translate" at the top of the web page.
Westminster has a listen-only hotline in English and Spanish to provide important information and resources regarding COVID-19. Call 303-706-2112. You don't have to speak to anyone, and can leave a message. It is updated every Monday at 6 p.m.
Visit the city's website to sign up for a COVID-19 email newsletter with updated information and resources.

COVID-19: RECURSOS COMUNITARIOS

SERVICIOS GUBERNAMENTALES
Ciudad de Westminster: www.cityofwestminster.us o 303-658-2400. Manda un email a covid19@cityofwestminster.us si tienes preguntas sobre COVID-19.
211 Colorado: Recursos en varios idiomas. 211Colorado.org o 866-760-6489 o manda un mensaje de texto con tu código postal al 898-211.
Centro para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC): www.cdc.gov.
Tri-County Health Department (Including Adams County): www.tchd.org/818/Coronavirus-COVID-19

NEGOCIOS
Cámara de Comercio de Westminster: Presenta eventos, mantiene una lista de negocios abiertos y recursos para pequeñas empresas. www.westminsterchamber.biz o 303-961-5975

ASISTENCIA ALIMENTARIA
Growing Home: Banco de comida local. growinghome.org o 303-426-0430.
Hunger Free Colorado: Asistencia para solicitar SNAP a asistencia nutricional suplemental. hungerfreecolorado.org o 720-382-2920.

SALUD/SALUD MENTAL
Colorado Crisis Services: Ayuda para salud mental, drogadicción o problemas emocionales. coloradocrisisservices.org o 1-844-493-8255 o manda el mensaje de texto "TALK" al 38255.
Community Reach Center Behavioral Health Urgent Care: Ayuda para salud mental. Consultas virtuales, ayuda en la puerta o por teléfono. communityreachcenter.org o 303-853-3500.
Seniors' Resource Center: Servicios para adultos mayores y personas con capacidades diferentes. SRSCare.org o 303-238-8151

VIVIENDA
Almost Home: Refugio para familias con niños en el Condado Adams. almosthomeonline.org o 303-659-6199
Colorado Legal Services: Ayuda legal gratuita para inquilinos en los condados Adams y Broomfield. coloradolegalservices.org o 303-837-1313.
Maker Housing Partners: Asistencia de emergencia para pagar hipoteca. Makerhp.org o 303-227-2075

Para una lista completa de recursos, visita www.cityofwestminster.us. Esta página se puede traducir a muchos idiomas. Solo usa la barra de traducción arriba de la página.
Westminster tiene una línea de atención al ciudadano para ofrecer recursos e información durante COVID-19. Llama al 303-706-3123. Escucha las mensajes pregrabados y puede dejar un mensaje de voz. Esta línea se actualiza cada lunes a las 6 p.m.
Visita la página de Westminster y su suscribete para recibir un boletín semanal informativo sobre COVID-19 con recursos e información actualizados.

Conectate:
La Ciudad se Enfoca en Seguridad, Bienestar y Servicios durante Crisis Causada por Coronavirus


La pandemia causada por el coronavirus ha sido uno de los desafíos más fuertes que la Ciudad de Westminster ha experimentado por que impacta a cada persona y cada industria. En estos tiempos difíciles, estamos enfocados en la salud y seguridad de nuestros residentes. Las prioridades de la ciudad son el bienestar de la gente y la recuperación económica de la comunidad", dijo el Gestor Municipal Don Tripp. “Queremos que nuestra comunidad sepa que aunque hay incertidumbre, los departamentos de la ciudad están trabajando todos los días para responder y servir.

La ciudad visitó varios equipos de diferentes departamentos trabajando con docenas de colaboradores a nivel regional y estatal. La ciudad también ha presentado foros virtuales en vivo, así como programas de alcance para negocios y sigue brindando recursos para residentes y negocios. Para cierto personal de la ciudad, esto trajo el cambio de trabajar remotamente y para otros que trabajan en servicios de emergencia en obras públicas, los cambios han venido en la forma en que trabajan, manteniendo y adaptando las normas estatales, mientras siguen brindando servicios esenciales.

Concejo Municipal

El Concejo Municipal ha expresado su confianza en el funcionamiento de la ciudad y aprobó el subsidio para negocios WestyRISE. Con las pequeñas empresas en mente que están pasando por dificultades, la ciudad presentó un foro virtual en vivo con información y recursos presentado con el alcalde Herb Atchison, el gestor Tripp y el director de desarrollo económico John Hall. El Concejo se reúne virtualmente con los residentes, se enfoca en ayudar a la fuerza laboral y la calidad de vida. Se recibieron más de 400 solicitudes para los 15 millones de dólares en fondos destinados a este subsidio. Debido a la demanda, no se aceptan solicitudes y se está en proceso de verificar las solicitudes aceptadas.

Innovación

La ciudad tiene una iniciativa de innovación que, desde hace seis meses, incluye a diferentes equipos con más de 100 empleados trabajando en diferentes proyectos que generan valor y reducirán costos. Durante la pandemia de COVD-19, estos equipos se enfocan en la capacidad de recuperación de la comunidad y la economía. Más detalles se compartirán conforme se vayan desarrollando.

Contenido en múltiples idiomas

Para los residentes que hablen otro idioma que no sea inglés, la página web de la ciudad se puede traducir a varios idiomas incluyendo vietnamita, Hmong, laosiano, ruso entre otros. Si marcas al número principal de la ciudad, 303-658-2400, puedes requerir información en tu idioma.

La ciudad también tiene un foro virtual en vivo, donde habla sobre recursos para negocios, programas de asistencia alimenticia y las funciones de la ciudad, el condado y el estado durante esta crisis.

Planificación de Emergencia durante COVID-19

La ciudad ha creado y lanzado un plan de emergencia que se aplicó al inicio de esta crisis. La ciudad está en comunicación con el estado y otros colaboradores para abordar temas como asistencia alimenticia y vivienda.

Servicios de emergencias y obras públicas

Los servicios de emergencia, seguridad pública, agua potable y la infraestructura para brindar estos servicios continuaron. La ciudad se asegura que todos los empleados sigan las recomendaciones.

Subsidio para Negocios WestyRISE

La ciudad lanzó un plan de recuperación económica que incluye servicios adicionales para negocios, se enfoca en ayudar a la fuerza laboral y la calidad de vida. Se recibieron más de 400 solicitudes para los 15 millones de dólares en fondos destinados a este subsidio. Debidio a la demanda, no se aceptan solicitudes y se está en proceso de verificar las solicitudes aceptadas.

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El Concejo Municipal Reitera Confianza en el Personal de la Ciudad durante Crisis de Salud Pública

El Concejo Municipal publicó la siguiente carta el 17 de marzo:

Querida Comunidad de Westminster,

A medida que nos preparamos para mitigar los impactos del coronavirus (COVID-19), queremos que sepan que la seguridad y salud de ustedes y de todas las personas en nuestra comunidad es la prioridad número uno para el Concejo Municipal de la Ciudad de Westminster. Estamos trabajando para asegurarnos que la ciudad se mantenga unida para cuidarnos unos a otros siempre, pero especialmente durante estos tiempos difíciles.

La ciudad, junto con agencias federales, estatales y otros gobiernos locales, ha tomado decisiones importantes para encarar los impactos del COVID-19. El jueves, 12 de marzo, la ciudad decretó una Declaración de Emergencia para darle autoridad temporal al Gestor Municipal y a cierto personal para que puedan tomar las acciones necesarias y asegurar la continuidad de los servicios que provee la ciudad, así como tomar decisiones en gastos públicos (esto con límites y notificación apropiada al Concejo Municipal) para mitigar los impactos de esta crisis en la ciudad y nuestros residentes.

El Gestor Municipal, los directores de los diferentes departamentos de la ciudad y el personal están monitoreando continuamente esta situación para determinar cómo mitigar los impactos de esta crisis de salud mundial y así poder seguir brindando los servicios públicos. Esto quiere decir que, aunque algunas actividades como programas de recreación y eventos culturales se han pospuesto temporalmente, los servicios básicos como la seguridad pública y el agua potable continuarán en interrupción.

Tenemos juntas públicas virtuales, incluyendo las juntas del Concejo Municipal que ocurren cada semana, y les invitamos a que escuchen en el canal de YouTube de la ciudad en www.youtube.com/WestminsterCO. El personal de la ciudad continuará brindando información actualizada por varios medios, tanto para también poder escuchar y responder a sus preguntas y preocupaciones de una manera oportuna.

Les pedimos que sigan los consejos de higiene, cuidado personal y distanciamiento de Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC por sus siglas en inglés), el Departamento Estatal de Salud Pública e Ambiente (CDPHE) y el Departamento de Salud Tri-County. Para más recursos e información sobre COVID-19, visita la página www.cityofwestminster.us/covid-19.

En esta situación sin precedentes para nuestra ciudad, el país y todo el mundo, tenemos total confianza en la administración municipal, en los directores de los diferentes departamentos y en el personal de la ciudad para que actúen en el mejor interés de nuestra ciudad y nuestros residentes.

Creemos firmemente en nuestra comunidad y en nuestro compromiso de trabajar para cuidar a ustedes durante este tiempo tan difícil.

Westminster City Council
Herb Atchison - Alcalde
Anita Seitz - Alcaldesa
David DeMott - Concejal
Rich Seymour - Concejal
Kathryn Skuley - Concejal
Lindsay Smith - Concejal
Jon Voelz - Concejal

El Concejo Municipal se Mantiene Conectado con la Comunidad durante la Crisis de 2019-20

El Concejo Municipal trabaja con el personal municipal, negocios y líderes de la comunidad para solucionar las necesidades de la comunidad. Para mantenernos conectados, el concejo pre-sentó un foro virtual el 8 de abril para informar al público durante esta crisis causada por COVID-19. Este foro incluyó a todo el Concejo Municipal, al gestor municipal, Don Tripp y al director de desarrollo económico John Hall.

Puedes ver el foro en livestream.com/loclyzmedia/citycouncil-townhall. Este evento virtual reunió a 15,000 personas, contestando las preguntas importantes de la comunidad.

El alcalde Herb Atchison re-calca el compromiso que tiene la ciudad para seguir brindando servicios esenciales así como la colaboración con socios a nivel local, regional, estatal y federal. “Sabemos que esto pasara”, dijo el alcalde Atchison. “Nuestro desafío es saber que tan pronto se termine, y es por esto que el personal de la ciudad, yo, y el resto del Concejo Municipal, estamos al tanto de la información diaria para proteger a la comunidad”.

Resumen de foro virtual:
• Concejales han escuchado información positiva y negativa y están disponibles para escuchar de los residentes y negocios.
• Los departamentos de policía y bomberos seguirán sirviendo y ayudando en la comunidad. Han adoptado recomendaciones de protección durante cualquier interacción con la comunidad.
• Nuestros colaboradores, quienes tienen programas para residentes y negocios, incluyen a los condados Adams y Jefferson así como Tri-County Health y la Cámara de Comercio de Westminster.
• Concejales firmaron que las escuelas y universidades están retomando clases de manera virtual.
• Hay varios recursos para comida y vivienda que incluyen Growing Home, Hunger Free Colorado y Food Bank of the Rockies.
• El 90 por ciento de los negocios de Westminster tienen menos de 50 empleados, y el concejo apoya el subsidio para negocios WestyRISE.
• Se les recomendó a los residentes a apoyar negocios locales. “Saldremos de esto con una nueva mentalidad que quie la a todos”, dijo la alcaldesa Anita Seitz, quien, junto al concejo, alentó a los residentes a ser más amables y pacientes.
• El gestor Tripp le agradeció a los residentes, concejales y todos los que participaron, por su compromiso de salir adelante.