



March 23, 2020

Dear Fellow Elon Residents:

We find ourselves in truly unsettled and unprecedented times. There is concern over the spread of the coronavirus, uncertainty over jobs and paychecks, and a general worry over how we are going to get through this period of social isolation. I share those concerns and worries.

I also share a profound sense of hope and confidence. Hope that this pandemic will play out quickly, and confidence that people will follow the advice of the State and Federal governments: stay home as much as possible; wash your hands frequently; maintain at least six feet of separation from others; and keep surfaces clean. I know there is a lot of work going on to try and find more effective treatments for this virus, and that the best we, as individuals can do, is to follow the advice and restrictions necessary to reduce the spread, and help keep our systems up and running to address the problem.

Locally, we are implementing measures to help achieve these goals. First, this past Friday, I signed a Declaration of Emergency, authorizing the Town Manager to take certain steps to help ensure the health of our employees and our residents, which include:

1. Implementing changes to our working staff, having some work from home, and having others on-call from home.
2. Instituted a ban on all gatherings of more than 10 people, conforming to the recommendations of the White House and the CDC.
3. Waiving late fees on parking and utility bills, and deferring water shut offs until June.

In addition, Town staff are undertaking more routine and extensive cleaning of public areas in our town offices. The public door at the Police Station has been closed, with personal requests for service being conveyed via an outside phone. I am encouraging all residents to change how they interact with the Town, by calling rather than coming into Town Hall and paying bills via our outside drop box, US Mail, or on-line. These steps will reduce interactions, and reduce the chance of you passing anything to our staff, or picking up anything in our lobby.

There may be additional changes in the days and weeks ahead. But rest assured that we are doing everything we can to ensure the ongoing operations of the Town, the sound management of our public resources, and the safety of the public. Some of these measures may seem 'too much' or 'not normal', but these are different times, and they require different steps.

Please consider signing up for ElonConnect via the Town's web page, [www.townofelon.com](http://www.townofelon.com), for up-to-date notices from the Town as this situation unfolds.

On behalf of the Board of Aldermen and all town employees, stay safe.

*Jerry Tolley*

Jerry Tolley, Mayor

