

A Message to the Community

FROM PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERS

MARCH 27, 2020

We want to express our thanks and appreciation for the community response and support over this past week.

City and county governments and community business and civic leaders continue to plan for and take decisive actions needed to reduce the spread of the coronavirus in our community.

As a community, it is important to recognize that the actions we take today will impact us two weeks from now, and will have a significant impact on the community spread and rates of infection far into the future.

Leadership and subject matter experts are using all means available to collect and analyze the national and local data available and apply that to our community to make decisions that can protect our community now and in the near future as we make preparation to ensure we may have the ability to provide care for those in need.

Through listening to experts and using data to guide our decision-making, our community has taken aggressive, yet appropriate measures to attempt to slow the spread of illness. In spite of these efforts, we project that there will be significant demand on our health care system. It is of critical importance that we all take the steps necessary to further suppress the curve and limit the spread of this virus throughout the community.

We are working together across jurisdictions on planning to move our community into more action, while also taking into consideration the impact to the stability of our local business community.

As community leaders, we believe our citizens are committed to helping each other through this. No proclamation or ordinance can bind a heart, but voluntarily, we truly believe our residents are seeking, as President Lincoln said in another national crisis over 150 years ago, "The better angels of our nature."



As community leaders, we encourage you as citizens, businesses, and institutions to voluntarily and publicly show your commitment to each other by completing the Help Ozarks Pledge:

1. We will practice physical distancing and good hygiene in my daily life to protect the health of community members.
2. I will practice social supports and check daily on at least one person or family especially vulnerable to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis.
3. I will volunteer my time or give other resources to help those in need as best I can during and after the COVID-19 crisis.
4. In business, I will put people over profits; I will not take advantage to increase prices, create a false sense of scarcity of products, or deny patrons necessary services or shelter.
5. In business, I will engage creative methods as best I can to help our associates and our community thrive and protect their livelihoods.
6. As a patron, I will buy local through the alternative ways businesses are offering their goods and services.
7. In all my actions, I will work to support the greater good of the Greater Ozarks.
8. I will ask others to join me in the **#HelpOzarksPledge**

You can access information at [HelpOzarks.Springfieldmo.Gov](https://www.helpozarks.springfieldmo.gov). to both make the pledge, and see who else has joined you in the commitment.

We are proud to live in a community that cares for each other, and demonstrates what it means to be a neighbor in good times, but especially when storm clouds gather. We don't know what tomorrow will bring, or the next week, or the next. But we do know that by working together and helping each other, we can get through this better than most.

We hope you will join us by taking the Help Ozarks Pledge.





Participating Organizations

City of Springfield	People Centric Consulting Group
City Utilities	Moventra LLC
Community Foundation of the Ozarks	WON Communications
Community Partnership of the Ozarks	Life360 Intercultural Church
CoxHealth	Quality Clean Janitorial Services
Evangel University	League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri
Greene County	Greater Springfield Board of REALTORS®
Mercy	Signs Now
Minorities in Business	Preferred Family Healthcare
Missouri State University	MIDxMIDWST
The Network	The Elder Law Group
OTC	Mostly Serious
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce	Council of Churches of the Ozarks
Springfield-Greene County Health Department	Associates in Sign Language
Springfield-Greene County Library	Old Missouri Bank
Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management	Campaignium
Springfield Public Schools	Barton County Community Foundation
United Way of the Ozarks	Drury University
417 Magazine	The Junior League of Springfield, MO
Ozarks Independent	Springfield Regional Arts Council
City of Nixa	Ujima Language and Literacy
Nixa Utilities	SFC Bank
Nixa Chamber of Commerce	Legacy Bank and Trust
Nixa Public Schools	empower: abilities
Burrell Behavioral Health	Faith Voices of Southwest Missouri
Guaranty Bank	Betty and Bobby Allison Ozarks Counseling Center
Convention & Visitors Bureau	Jordan Valley Community Health Center
BKD	
Ozarks Area Community Action Center	
Maaco Collision Repair - North & South Locations	

To learn more about what you can do to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, visit health.springfieldmo.gov/coronavirus. To learn more about what is happening in our community, visit HelpOzarks.Springfieldmo.gov.