

Town of Plymouth

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A LETTER FROM MAYOR VERSHUMN"SHAWN" HAWKINS REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

As Mayor, my goal is to ensure our residents, business communities, and town staff is well-informed and are as safe as possible. I want to take a moment to share with you the actions we are taking to address the serious health risk that the COVID-19 presents to our community.

First, I want to thank our first responders, medical providers, and everyone that is on the frontlines in making sure our community is safe and healthy. I also want to thank our town staffs, who continue to demonstrate the highest degree of professionalism in delivering the services that our residents rely on.

At this time, Plymouth has no confirmed cases of COVID-19 virus. By taking personal responsibility, utilizing common sense and following proactive measures, we can minimize its impact on ourselves and the community. Using an abundance of caution for ourselves, families and coworkers, we can protect our immune-compromised community, our elderly and our infants.

In light of the recent COVID-19 outbreak, Governor Roy Cooper has issued a State of Emergency for North Carolina. The Town of Plymouth is taking an abundance of caution as well. Taking proactive and preventative measures to protect residents, the Town of Plymouth is:

- Closing Town Hall and all other town of Plymouth facilities; all facilities will be closed to the public for 30 days starting Wednesday, March 18, 2020.
- City services will continue from 9am-4pm until further notice, but access to city buildings may be limited. The public is encouraged to contact the appropriate office via phone as much as possible.
- Disconnection of water service will halt for the next 60 days. It is very important that we make Plymouth residents and businesses have proper access to running water. However, I want to make it clear that all water bills will have to be paid. (Drop box or phone payments will be available)
- Suspending travel for all town employees for the next 60 days.



Where traffic ends and adventure begins!

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- Examining sick leave and telework policies for absenteeism.
 - Closing all public facilities to events (prescheduled events should work with Public Works department and or Museum Coordinators to reschedule events for a later date)
 - Postponing all Parks and Recreation activities.

Officials are working closely with the Washington County Commission, Washington County Schools, Plymouth Housing Authority, Emergency Management, and North Carolina Department of Public Health.

Each of us plays a role in keeping our town healthy. Please continue to implement safe hygiene practices: avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unclean hands; wash hands thoroughly and frequently for at least 20 seconds using soap and warm water; clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (i.e. phones, countertops, door knobs, light switches); practice social distancing; stay home if you are sick, unless you are seeking medical care.

I will continue to keep you updated as things change.

Let's remain calm, work together for everyone's health and enjoy living in Plymouth.

Respectfully, Mayor Vershumn "Shawn" Hawkins