

**Mayor Kurtz's SwiftReach for Dec 17, 2021**

HELLO, IT IS DECEMBER 17th. PLEASE STAND BY FOR A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – IT WILL REPEAT ONCE.

**GOOD. FRIDAY. EVENING, NEIGHBORS. THIS IS YOUR MAYOR GREG KURTZ.**

I STARTED MAKING THESE FRIDAY NIGHT CALLS TO RESIDENTS ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO WHEN COVID-19 WAS FIRST DETECTED.

IT SEEMED LIKE WE WERE MAKING PROGRESS BY WEARING MASKS, GETTING VACCINATED, AND SOCIAL DISTANCING.

BUT THIS WEEK, AREA HOSPITALS REPORTED AN ALL-TIME HIGH IN NUMBERS FOR COVID-19 **HOSPITALIZATIONS**. FEDERAL HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE WARNING THAT THE HEALTH CRISIS IS GETTING WORSE AND THE PANDEMIC WILL CONTINUE TO SURGE IN THE COMING WEEKS.

AS MAYOR, I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING OUR RESIDENTS AND OUR EMPLOYEES. THAT'S WHY EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ANYONE WHO VISITS CITY HALL OR HAS BUSINESS WITH CITY OFFICIALS WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN SICKENED WITH COVID OR DIED, COUNT YOURSELF AMONG THE LUCKY. ONE IN THREE AMERICANS KNOW A COVID VICTIM OR SURVIVOR.

FINALLY, A REMINDER THAT ON SATURDAY THE CITY WILL HOST A BRIEF **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA SERVICE** AT MAPLE SHADE CEMETERY STARTING AT NOON. EVERYONE IS BEING ASKED TO WEAR A MASK.

UNTIL NEXT WEEK, STAY WARM AND AS ALWAYS, GOD BLESS