

Good afternoon, Clintonville.

We felt it was important to reach out to the community again today. We probably have little information that you have not already heard repeated many times on the TV or the radio, but giving you a news update is not really my purpose today. We wanted to reach out and let you all know that even if you look to your left and see disorder and you look to your right and see empty streets, we are still here working as your local government, doing the best we can to protect and serve this community with every resource we can muster, no matter how modest.

As you have probably heard, testing has confirmed many COVID-19 cases in Madison and Milwaukee, several in Fond du Lac, and more recently, one in Appleton, two in Green Bay, and a spattering elsewhere across rural Northern Wisconsin over the last couple of days. You probably observe, as I do, that as COVID-19 testing expands, so do positive test results, which implies that the virus is probably spreading right along-side or just ahead of our testing capabilities. If you think about it, the virus and the testing are probably traveling along the same paths too, first to the big cities and transit hubs like Madison and Milwaukee, then the secondary cities, like Green Bay, Appleton, and La Crosse. It seems possible then, that next we will see it spread into the surrounding communities, cities like Shawano, like New London, and like us.

This tide is coming. It might be invisible, but we know it is there, and we know it is serious. With the virus may come economic hardship. We hear the alarm bells on the news and we can see it reflected on Main Street. We see businesses closing their doors, the restrictions by state mandate, and we personally feel how financially devastating this might become or we can see it on the faces of our neighbors and our friends. So now is the time to remember who we are. Now is our time to pull together. Any of us who are thinking that while others may suffer, my business, my family, I, can make it through this without change or sacrifice, may need to look to the community and remember that we are all in this together. Let's ask "How can I help?"

We may have lost focus over quiet years of relative ease and stability, become splintered and divided, but now is the time to strengthen our community spirit. Check on your neighbors. Keep each other fed, housed, informed, and in good spirits. Offer help, and if you are in need, please ask for help right away! Stick to the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Above all, remember who we are. The tide may be coming in, but if we stand together, we will ride this out. This too will pass.

Richard K. Beggs
Mayor, City of Clintonville