



Contact: Jonas Silver, Public Information Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Telephone: 919-217-2205

03/17/2020

Email: jonas.silver@knightdalenc.gov

KNIGHTDALE MAYOR DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

KNIGHTDALE – The Town of Knightdale declared a State of Emergency (SOE) on Tuesday March 17, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This declaration will help ensure Knightdale has access to the resources and flexibility it needs. The Knightdale SOE has been declared in addition to the county, state, and federal declarations and gives the municipality increased authority if needed. “As COVID-19 continues to impact Knightdale, please know that the Town is committed to delivering services while also taking necessary precautions to protect our staff and citizens. As such, I am issuing a Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency for Knightdale,” stated Mayor James Roberson. “This proclamation is being issued in an abundance of caution regarding this public health crisis. In addition to the executive order issued by Governor Roy Cooper prohibiting mass gatherings of 100 persons or more and closing public schools, the Town of Knightdale further orders the following town facilities closed to the public: Town Hall and the Departments of Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Programs. Citizens have the option to pay for town services online, over the phone, or may use the payment drop box located in front of Town Hall.”

While Knightdale’s facilities are closed, the work of the Town government continues. Critical services including police, fire, public works, curbside garbage and recycling pickup, and public safety-focused inspections will continue uninterrupted.

“This pandemic is uncharted territory for our region,” Mayor Roberson expressed. “It is vital that we protect our loved ones and neighbors. I encourage you to use good judgement. Practicing social distancing of at least 6 feet, thoroughly washing your hands, and using good respiratory hygiene are effective ways to prevent disease transmission. The Town’s safety precautions will change as this situation is fluid. Our goal as a community is to slow the spread of this disease”

Public Meetings

The Knightdale regular Town Council Meeting set for Wednesday March 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Chambers, has been canceled. All Town Advisory Board meetings have been canceled through the end of the month. For questions, call the Town Clerk at (919) 217-2225.

Knightdale Parks and Recreation:

All Senior Trips are suspended until further notice. We have suspended all youth and adult athletic programs until April 6, 2020. Facility rentals, both indoor and outdoor, are canceled until April 6. The Knightdale Recreation Center will remain closed, and all events at that venue (including classes) are canceled until April 6th. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt, scheduled for April 8, is canceled. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting for March 23, has been canceled

Knightdale Fire Department:

The Knightdale Fire Department will continue with routine and permit-related fire inspections at this time but will be suspending all public outreach and other non-emergency activities, effective immediately. The activities include: Car seat installations; visits to the Fire Station; Apparatus visits to educational facilities or mass gathering events.

Knightdale Police Department:

Many non-violent and misdemeanor reports can be made online with no waiting. If you are reporting Harassing Phone Calls, Damage to Property, Hit and Run, Lost Property, Damage to Vehicle, Identity Theft, Stolen Property, Theft from Vehicle, Credit Card Theft/Fraud, within the town limits and no suspect is known, please use the Knightdale Police Department Online Reporting System.

Effective immediately, many non-violent criminal reports will only be taken by telephone. These reports include, but are not limited to: misdemeanor theft, harassing communications, lost property, identity theft, computer/phone/mail scams. Reports can be made with a live Knightdale Police Department employee at: 919-217-2261.

Our office staff will be screening visitors through a Ring camera installed at the front door. Once we determine your needs, we will ensure the appropriate response by patrol or administrative personnel.

Our Dispatch Center is asking more questions to collect a wider range of information from callers to better prepare officers who are responding to calls. This is being done so officers can take more proactive steps; it will not affect officers' response to calls for service.

Officers may ask community members to meet them outside of homes and businesses where appropriate in order to practice social distancing.

Officers have been issued personal protective equipment, and they may be seen wearing gloves, face masks, protective eyewear and clothing. This is especially true in medical testing

environments and/or in environments known to have increased risk of illness. Officers may ask community members to wear surgical face masks if they are showing signs of illness.

The Knightdale Police Department attempts to utilize alternatives to arrest when possible, and we are working with the Wake County Sheriff's Office to screen arrestees and employees who may be entering the detention center facilities. This is to reduce the risk of introducing and/or spreading the virus in the detention center environment.

Our community outreach and scheduled community events have been suspended for the next month. Including the 2020 Spring Special Olympics Carnival and the remainder of the 2020 Citizens Police Academy have been canceled. The Public Safety Advisory Board March 12, 2020 has been canceled. We have temporarily suspended agency tours and ride-along programs. Please contact our Community Liaison Officer, Lt. Ginger Keel at 919-217-2265 for guidance if you have a scheduled event.

Knightdale Development Services:

The annual Arbor Day event, originally scheduled for April 3rd, will be rescheduled for the Fall of 2020. The Neighborhood Meeting that was scheduled for the evening of March 17, 2020, at the Knightdale Recreation Center, for the proposed mixed use project at 7630 Knightdale Boulevard has been postponed. The applicant will be rescheduling the meeting and notices to surrounding property owners will be resent at that time.

Knightdale Public Works

The Public Works Department will continue providing internal and external service, including the collection of yard debris/waste.

Sanitation

Knightdale is continuing regular collections of solid waste and recycling.

Other Services

Many services can be handled on our website, KnightdaleNC.gov. With our staff's shift to telework, some requests may take longer than usual, so the Town asks that citizens be patient during this change in operations.

For more information about local COVID-19 response, please visit:
knightdalenc.gov/alerts/cancellations-and-postponements-covid-19

###