

Mayor Brown's Six COVID-19 OBSERVATIONS

(I could add many more)



GALLATIN

#1 Things Can Change Quickly

The Great Depression spanned 10 years while the coronavirus has only been here a few months. I believe the practice of social distancing and being mindful of those at higher risk will be a lasting change for all of us.

#2 We Need Essential Workers

Gallatin loves our healthcare workers as well as our emergency personnel. The unsung heroes are the convenience-store workers, grocery store employees, and every business employee that changed how you do things while taking safety precautions for your family and everyone else. That is #GallatinStrong.

#3 Gallatin's Businesses Care About our Community

Like a voluntary Defense Production Act, several Gallatin individuals and businesses took the initiative to produce personal protective equipment when it was needed the most. Kudos to RCTENN LLC, ARCOSA Inc., Carrington Specialty Products, Marcus Reed, Heather and Heidi, Mary Gauerke and Lucy's Love Blankets to name just a few!



MAYOR
PAIGE BROWN

#4 We Love our Local Businesses

Love goes both ways when it comes to our local businesses. It's been great to see patrons showing support with takeout and curbside service, live online shopping on Facebook, generous tips and even donations to your favorite establishments (Larry Peak's check for Mama's Kitchen and Filly's staff was amazing).

#5 Our Chamber Rocks

Our chamber started the call early for us to support our local businesses with their website "Open in Gallatin," a lifeline for those needing business. The chamber was also a champion in using live feeds on social media to share COVID-19 and other positive information.

#6 We Really Are Volunteers

It wasn't long after the Gallatin Area Chamber of Commerce announced "Pandemic Pals" that they amassed 250 volunteers to help high-risk citizens. Now they are reaching out to seniors with "Pan Pen Pals" to give our older population some old-school attention while visitation isn't allowed.

Dear Gallatin Residents,

It's been a tough several weeks for most of you. Thank you for all that you've done and are doing as we navigate this totally new challenge. While people say COVID-19 knows no boundaries, Gallatin has been more adversely affected than many places in Tennessee. Chances are, if you live here you know someone who has contracted the virus or has died from COVID-19, and that's been hard on our community. I think the best way to find our way forward from this difficult and heartbreaking time is to spread as much kindness and hope as we possibly can to each other. We really need that now and in the days ahead.

There's going to come a time where we'll have a grand re-opening of our city and celebrate being with each other again. With that, I believe we're going to have a brand new appreciation for each other and our wonderful community.

In city government, we're still here trying to get things done and take care of people. I've been working on the 2020-21 budget, which will definitely be impacted by the virus. Gallatin is very fortunate to have a healthy reserve for times like these and I'm confident that we'll balance the budget without touching our rainy-day fund. Our city is poised for a stellar rebound once this crisis is over.

Now is the time to encourage everyone to be smart, to be safe and to set a good example. Let's champion the great efforts and sacrifices in our community and be ready to support our businesses as they are able to reopen their doors and serve you again. Gallatin is going to be stronger and even better on the other side of this difficult time.

Please reach out to us if you need something or have suggestions or observations. Our office number is 615-451-5961 and my e-mail is paige.brown@gallatintn.gov.