

Mayor's Column
By Mayor Nancy Bauder

Hello Leavenworth Citizens,

To me, going the extra mile means exceeding expectations, not just meeting them. This past year, the Leavenworth City Commission, staff, businesses, citizens, our military residents and services and our community nonprofits exceeded expectations in providing safety and health to our community. I'm proud of how our community pulled together during this time, and are doing so still.

In Summer 2020, I proposed a mask ordinance as the only line of defense against COVID, until the vaccines became available. By November, the Commission voted to enact a temporary, emergency ordinance, which helped bring the cases down dramatically, especially after the vaccines came out this spring.

In mid-May, we were down to 7 new community cases of COVID in Leavenworth County and just one in the City of Leavenworth. It felt so good to be able to spend precious time together again with friends and family. Unfortunately, as of writing this, we had more than 250 new cases in the county and more than 100 in the City. The majority of those are unvaccinated. Getting the vaccine is the responsible, caring thing you can do for yourself, your families, your coworkers and the community. I hope you will help us put an end to this pandemic. Vaccines are free and available at the Leavenworth County Health Department, 500 Eisenhower, or find a vaccine site near you at vaccines.gov.

With our commissioners, City Manager Paul Kramer, and staff, we work to ensure that Leavenworth continues to be a great place to live, work and grow a family.

Some current City projects include:

- Culver's Restaurant has been issued permits to begin building on Eisenhower Road. Once construction is underway, the development team will work with the City to develop the balance of the site. The entire site is about 12 acres, so along with the Culver's, there will be more than 10 acres of new development along that corridor.
- The City and Price Chopper worked through a development agreement on a \$12 million project, which includes a total interior and exterior renovation, and keeps this regional brand in our community. The project is moving along, with expected completion before the end of the year.
- The 7th and Metropolitan street development plans to have all three of its tenants -- Taco Bell, Guidepost Montessori School and 7-Eleven full-service gas station -- open by the end of the month. There will be a fourth tenant in the development. The \$7.1 million project not only included the redevelopment of the site, but removed extreme blight caused by a former motel on this site.
- The City has issued a full building permit for a new \$1.2 million building in the Gary Carlson Business Park. Modern Advanced Printing Solutions (MAPS Inc.) is moving to the City of Leavenworth from Lenexa to construct a new building. The company plans 20-25 jobs and is scheduled to start construction this year.
- We hope to announce a few new residential developments in the fourth quarter of the year. The projects include single-family developments and townhouse/maintenance-provided projects.
- The City also has numerous street/infrastructure projects going on.

We are always looking for ideas to improve our City, if you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact our City offices or me with your ideas. Together we can make Leavenworth better.