

Rieve L. Randall

If I Were Mayor

To help Silverton recover from COVID-19, if I were mayor I would start by letting citizens know that I am there for them. Whether it's grieving with them or helping find them a job lost to the Pandemic, I would do my part to give them comfort after this challenging time. I understand that being elected mayor is similar to the position of President in some aspects of the job. I would not have the power to do whatever I wanted, and instead would bring my ideas to the council. Just as a community works together, Silverton's political leaders need to listen to each other and make decisions that take into consideration all factors to make a difference.

Sometimes the only thing that we can do is to be there for someone, or in this case, a community. Silverton has always been good when it comes to events. The Oregon Gardens, for example, can brighten up a situation and bring joy to people. The Fine Arts Festival has been a place where people could go to express themselves and enjoy each other's company. Sadly group gatherings and events have been cancelled. People have been forced into their homes and told to keep social distancing. This is not a good thing, and there really isn't anything we can do about it.

As mayor, I would promote something productive and fun during these times. Just because we have to be 6 feet apart doesn't mean that we can't be a community. I would try to create a website where people could share their ideas. People could interact and share advice such as movies they liked, books they enjoyed, etc., all to bring us closer as a community. I would ask the council for their input and look to other cities in the nation for ideas on creative interaction.

Once COVID-19 has been dealt with and events and activities put back on track, the time to react is too late. We know that this will end at some point, but just because we don't know when isn't an excuse to be lazy! I would send daily updates on the virus in Marion County to educate people on what is happening and what they could do to help. I would also Greatly support social distancing and other important steps suggested by the federal government as a means of safety. As mayor, it is my highest responsibility to keep the citizens of Silverton safe. I can do this with help from the people. Newspapers, websites, social media; all should be promoting social distancing in as many ways as possible.

Comfort, Comfort, Comfort! I cannot stress enough the importance of comforting citizens in any way we can. I have heard people that say this is the end of the world. Because no one has told them otherwise, that's all they know! I would gingerly and calmly tell citizens that it will be alright and, again, that we are there for them.

People will surely be shaken up after COVID-19 has passed. Families will have struggled, jobs surely will have been lost, and uncertainty will have plagued all people on a global scale. Fortunately, we have the chance to turn that around; to focus on the positives. Families will be reunited, people will (as has been shown throughout our nation) work on good deeds and send help towards the people who need it most, and we will still be Silverton. We will still have our caring people and joyous places. We must remind Silverton that while this virus can take away our access to parks and our usual social interactions, there is so much more that we will keep and share together. We have our fresh air and our connections to each other; Our care for one another no matter the hardship, the way that we encourage our family, friends, and strangers alike. Even how we love our neighbors, digital or not, to the point where we don't even need to use words to express how much we care. Lastly, no one can take away us. Nothing can

discourage our people who stuck through it and persevered and showed COVID-19 that we are a family who won't give up. We are still the City of the Falls.