



## Statement from Mayor Weiss

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### Now is Our Moment

Life in our small town has changed abruptly with the COVID-19 threat. One thing that has not changed—and will not change—is Veneta’s remarkable capacity for compassion.

Easy examples of Veneta’s rare gift of care and concern for others existed well before COVID-19: The LOVE Project, the many faith-based community programs, Kiwanis, and Mid-Lane Cares just to name a few of the many volunteer groups who proudly call Veneta, “Home.”

The weeks and months ahead present us with the opportunity of our lifetimes to show what we, and Veneta, stand for: Small town concern for others and a strong can-do attitude.

Take this time to connect with those around you—six feet apart, of course!—and recognize that we’re in this together. We need each other to ease our stress with a casual conversation, a quick laugh, or a simple act of kindness. Take a leisurely walk or enjoy a bike ride and offer a friendly wave. You can do social distancing and still be sociable.

Take this time to help our local businesses weather this storm on behalf of their employees, who are our neighbors and friends. Take time to send thank you notes to our local first responders bravely doing what comes second-nature to them: Serving others. And take time to recognize that you have a role to play in helping the Veneta community adjust to this new “normal.” See if our local food pantry, LOVE Project, needs help. Contact the Red Cross to give blood. Help a neighbor with their yard, shop or prepare a meal for a nearby shut-in.

This is a unique time in our nation’s history and our personal histories. Be the change that is needed now to adjust to new ways of interacting, while keeping with our old ways of treating each other with care and compassion.

The City is here because of you and for you. We stand ready to embrace this challenge with you and come through it a stronger community. Take care of yourself, and one another.

Keith Weiss, Mayor