A note from Calabasas Mayor Alicia Weintraub

CITY of CALABASAS

If somebody told you on New Year's Eve, as we watched the ball drop in Times Square, that on April 1, we would be going through a worldwide pandemic with more than one million cases of a strange virus and 50,000 deaths, we would have thought it a cruel and bizarre April Fool's joke ... but here we are.

I wanted to take a moment again to talk about where we are and what we are doing as a city to deal with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This is the end of another long week and what makes it more difficult is not knowing how many more difficult weeks are ahead of us. But public health experts say one thing is certain - social distancing works. Here in Los Angeles County, there have been thousands of cases of this virus during a time when most of us have been in our homes. Can you imagine the number of cases if there had been no social distancing - if the Lakers, Clippers, Kings and Dodgers were still playing to big crowds; if big concerts had continued; had beaches not closed. It is too early to tell if we have turned the corner - in fact, the latest models by the state put the peak near the end of April - but we know "the corner" is coming. In other words, we are getting there, but we are not there yet. With social distancing, we are keeping our friends and relatives safe.

In Calabasas, the City staff and elected officials are doing everything possible to keep you safe and deliver the vital services you need. City Hall may be closed but staff are still working - many of them remotely. At the City, one thing we take very seriously is transparency and keeping you informed. Our City's website is full of important information and listings of all the local, state and federal resources for businesses and employees needing financial support. Also, you can find information on video programming and classes that were once held at parks and the Senior Center that are now online and appearing on the City's TV channel, CTV3. We also put out a lot of information through our social media sites: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor.

It is sad to hear the news that LVUSD students will not be going back to class this school year. Class is now the kitchen table, the living room, or a desk in the bedroom. I know we all long for our children to be with their friends and teachers, and that day will come.

Since trails, parks and school fields are still closed, people are out walking in their neighborhoods a lot more. Pedestrians AND drivers both need to be careful and watch out for each other.

If your trip outside takes you to the supermarket, County health guidelines are now urging you to wear some sort of facial covering. It does not have to be a fancy medical-quality mask, just something to cover your mouth and nose - a simple scarf or a handmade mask can do the trick.

Above all, remember we are all in this together. If you or a loved one are in need of assistance with groceries or medications, please contact City Hall. We are here to serve you and your city leadership and staff honor that commitment every day.

I am truly honored to be your Mayor.

Alicia