

All cities within our county have come together to strategize a plan to help feed those individuals who have lost their food sources during this time. I would like to thank Chris Shockley and his staff at the Field of Dreams Activity Center for helping coordinate the distribution of all the food in Jefferson County. Since our activity center closed, we have been preparing and getting ready to stage the weekly food boxes out of the activity center. New Market Fire Department, Jefferson City employees, White Pine town employees, and Dandridge town employees are all working to make this possible for our County residents. I would like to thank all churches and Jefferson County who have provided food and other supplies to help our residents. I would also like to thank the county government for working to appropriate \$10,000 for food to be purchased through Second Harvest. A big thank you goes out to John Thompson and the Dandridge Ministerial Association for having enough food on hand so that this week's food can go out to our residents in the county. I would like to thank Bush Brothers and Scott Schroeder for allowing Bush's Cafe to cook all of the daily hot meals for our residents who are in need. I would like to thank Chip Oury at the Newport Bargain Barn for helping the community by providing food containers. The town of Dandridge was able to get a pallet this past Friday and deliver them to Bush's cafe for our residents. Bush's has also provided 1,000 pounds of dried beans to help with the residents who will be receiving the food boxes. I would also like to thank Joe Gibson at Walmart for their participation in helping feed our community. During this time, the corporation of all the individuals above and all city and county officials has been outstanding. The top priority has been to take care of our citizens to the best of our ability.

As far as the town of Dandridge goes, we have split up our work force in the water department and public works department. This was done to ensure that if one individual were to test positive for Covid-19, we could continue to provide services to the town. Also, the town met on March 14th to discuss the new budget which will go into effect July 1st. Since this meeting, our town administrator, Matt Rudder, has been working on a completely new budget which would allow the town to provide basic services to our residents for the coming year. Dandridge is blessed to have over 2 million dollars in our general fund account which will allow the town to operate on basic service if necessary in the coming budget year. Our fire department and our police department have been working with EMS and other agencies in our county to plan on medical responses when and if they are needed. Mayor Potts and all city mayors have been in contact on a daily basis with the Governor and his office, planning for the entire state and our local communities.

I want to thank the citizens of our community for staying home as much as possible to protect everyone in our community. I would like to thank every business that has modified the operations of their business to protect the consumer, as well as their employees. I would especially like to thank the Dandridge Hardware for being very proactive. After conversation with the town, they have elected to serve their customers by phone orders and curbside service. I would like to encourage other businesses to follow this model if your business would allow. I urge residents of Dandridge and Jefferson County to continue to try to stay a minimum of 6 feet away from other individuals, refrain from public gatherings, and refrain from non-essential travel. This will help us get through this crisis much quicker and with less risk to our community's health.

Sincerely,
Genge Gantte