



March 23, 2020

To our business community:

Things continue to be incredibly fluid these days, however, businesspeople are resilient and seem to consistently find a way to adjust to unexpected circumstances. This will be no different. We will get through this and we will all become wiser and stronger for the experience.

With the expected “stay-at-home” order from Governor Gretchen Whitmer, the Livonia Chamber of Commerce’s office will be closed to regular activity for the duration of the order. The staff will still respond to emails, social media posts and phone calls. We will be able to answer phone calls to the chamber office (734.427.2122) during business hours to hear your questions and ideas.

We aim to set up virtual networking events with Zoom, beginning at 8 a.m. Wednesday with the originally scheduled “Donuts with Dan” gathering. Be patient with us with possible glitches as we learn to use the technology and engage people with it.

Any non-medical company with a reserve stash of facemasks can donate them to local hospitals and health-care providers through the Livonia Chamber of Commerce. Contact me at dwest@livonia.org to arrange to collect your much-needed donation.

In the coming days, the chamber will be analyzing and providing information on e-mail on the state and federal business assistance programs.

Continue to support our local businesses by buying carry out meals from our member restaurants, purchase gift certificates for others, or order a delivery for your parents, grandparents, or older neighbors who are staying quarantined.

It is an anxious time for all of us; however, some people are having a more difficult time processing all that is going on. The Livonia Chamber is working with our member professionals to provide resources to help better handle the stress and anxiety of these times. In the coming days, we will distribute a guide so you can better support your staff and family with their anxiety.

One way to deal with anxiety is to use your resources to connect with people. Take time to make phone calls and video chats with your business contacts. Just call to see how they are doing. Let people know you are thinking about them without any expectations. It will be good for your mental health now, and it supports building your relationship with these people for the future. Remember: *People do business with people; they don't do business with companies!*

Stay safe – and we will get through this!

All the best,

Dan West
President/CEO
Livonia Chamber of Commerce