**Wayne County offices closing through March**

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That wise old saying is the reasoning behind my decision to close Wayne County Government offices through the end of this month. Employees will be here and ready to help when you call, email, or fax, but our buildings will be closed to the public.

This is absolutely no reason to worry more than you already do. As I’m writing this, there are no cases of Coronavirus outside Tennessee’s major population centers. It is very contagious, but so is the flu, which has a greater impact on people of all ages every year than Coronavirus has.

The list of precautions is very basic: Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. Catch coughs and sneezes in your arm or a tissue. Clean and disinfect high-touch items like cell phones often. Stay home if you are sick.

Reduce person-to-person contact and avoid crowds.

Because our offices are places where people gather and person-to-person contact occurs, we are reducing everyone’s risk by closing for this short period of time. I ask that you be patient, as this situation is entirely new for all of us. And remember, this too shall pass.

Please take time to read this information from our offices:

**WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT** – The Health Department will remain open during this period, but **Coronavirus testing should be sought through your physician or a walk-in clinic.** If you have questions about Coronavirus, please call the state’s toll-free number at 877-857-2945 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

You can find more information at the CDC website, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>, or the Tennessee Department of Health website,

<https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html>. Please check these sites for the most up-to-date and accurate information. Get the facts and help stop the spread of misinformation.

The Wayne County Health Department may be reached at 931-722-3292. Please be patient, as many people are calling.

**SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION** – The transfer station is open, so residents, businesses and municipalities can bring garbage and other materials for drop-off. The office is closed to the public. If you have questions, call 931-722-9616.

**SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT AND JAIL** – The lobby of the Sheriff’s Department is open. Please call 931-722-3615 if you have questions.

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE’s OFFICE** – If you have any questions, call my office at 931-722-3653. Any messages will be returned as soon as possible.

**COUNTY COURT CLERK** – Please use mail and internet as much as possible. If any business can be delayed until after March 31, we ask that you do so. If you have questions call 931-722-5544.

**PROPERTY ASSESSOR** – Business with the Property Assessor can be conducted by calling 931-722-5282.

**TRUSTEE** – Please conduct as much business as possible through the phone or email. Any questions please call 931-722-3269.

**REGISTER OF DEEDS** – Most business can be taken care of with a phone call. The primary number is 931-722-5518. If you need to record a document, your fully prepared deed or document (no blanks) can be mailed to Wayne County Register of Deeds100 Court Circle, Suite 205, Waynesboro, TN 38485. If you are unsure about the recording fees, please call.

**ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICE** – To send forms, including qualifying petitions, to the Election office, please mail to Wayne County Election Office, 100 Court Circle, Suite 201, Waynesboro, TN 38485. The qualifying deadline for the August 6, 2020 election is April 2, 2020 at 12 Noon. Call the office at 931-722-3517 with any questions.

**CIRCUIT COURT CLERK** –Fees can be mailed to P. O. Box 869, Waynesboro, TN 38485. Please be sure to include your name and any other identifying information with your payment. Call the office at 931-722-5519 if you have questions.

**CLERK & MASTER** – Call the office’s direct line, 931-722-5517, if you have questions.

**WAYNE COUNTY LIBRARY** – All Libraries in the County will be closed to the public. Any questions please call 931-722-5537.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** – The Wayne County Highway Department can be reached at 931-722-5556.

**EXTENSION SERVICE** – The Wayne County Extension Service is also closed to the public. If you have questions, please call 931-722-3229.

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE** – Please conduct as much business as possible by phone at 931-722-9219.

**SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT –** The office will be closed, if you have questions please call 931-722-3553.

Again, thanks for your patience during this time. We value all our residents, and want to do our part to keep everyone healthy. I pray for the quick end of this trying time and for your peace of mind.