

A Message from Mayor Donna Whitener:

I understand that emotions are high during this time as the Coronavirus is controlling much of our daily lives. As a city, we want to keep our community informed with accurate and current information. As we receive information from Fannin Emergency Management and the Department of Public Health, we will be updating our city website and our Facebook page. The health, safety and general welfare of our community is our number one priority. Due to this virus being easily spread and the information available changing daily, we encourage all residents, especially those at high risk, to adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Department of Public Health <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>. Representatives from the City, County, Emergency Management Agency (EMA), and Department of Public Health have been working diligently with all local utility companies, businesses, and restaurants to enact proactive measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

I'm very pleased that we are all working together during this time of uncertainty and have already started implementing plans to put the safety of our community first. Various businesses have altered their normal day to day operations to limit the exposure to their customers as well as their employees. We have compiled a list of the changes/updates that we are aware of which we hope will be helpful to you. This is not an inclusive list and if you are concerned about a particular business, please reach out to them.

I'm certain that by working together we will come out of this challenge as a stronger, more unified, community! Stay safe.

Mayor Donna Whitener

Electric Companies:

1. Tri-State EMC 706-492-3251- Lobby closed/drive thru only
2. Blue Ridge Mountain EMC- lobby and drive thru closed
3. Amicalola EMC- lobby is closed

Pharmacies:

1. Blue Ridge Pharmacy 706-632-2244- open & offering delivery
2. CVS 706-632-8097- open & can get free delivery at CVS.com
3. Southern Drug 706-632-4448- open & free delivery to entire County; if anything will only close store but leave drive-thru open

Banks:

1. Bank of the Ozarks 706-258-4000- open
2. United Community Bank 706-632-6000- open

Telephone and Internet Companies:

1. Ellijay Telephone Company, Blue Ridge office 706-946-2271- lobby is closed, but drive-thru will remain open. Technicians doing business as usual. Free Wi-Fi hotspots located throughout Fannin, Gilmer & Pickens with locations and passwords on ETC website (go to Internet tab then Wi-Fi locations) and also located on the City's website on the Resident Tab.

Government Offices:

1. Blue Ridge City Hall 706-632-2091 Lobby closed, drive thru open
2. McCaysville City Hall 706-492-4921 Lobby closed, drive thru open
3. Fannin County Courthouse Limited access beyond guard line

Postal Services:

1. Blue Ridge Post Office 706-258-3337- open

Grocery Stores:

1. Ingles 706-632-8060- closing 1 hour early at 10:00, groceries are stocked but no toilet paper, hand sanitizer, etc. and meat and produce is low; no pharmacy delivery.
2. Food Lion 706-258-2223- normal hours 7-11 but grocery stock is low, meat & produce is ok but currently no chicken (expecting a truck tomorrow).

Dine-In Restaurants:

1. Contact the individual restaurants for specific details. Some safety precautions being taken are:
 - a. Extra sanitation and cleaning
 - b. Extra space in dining areas to provide social distancing
 - c. Hand sanitizing stations at entrances
 - d. Removal of buffet and food bar stations
 - e. Some will be implementing curbside pickup service

Fast Food Restaurants:

A. Drive Thru Operating Only:

1. Burger King
2. Taco Bell (Not Serving Breakfast)
3. Starbucks

B. Both Drive Thru and Lobby are Open- Lobby is open for Carry Out Only:

1. Wendy's
2. Arby's
3. Dairy Queen

C. Operations Normal but Implementing Extra Sanitizing

1. McDonald's (cleaning common touched surfaces every 30 minutes and every employee is to wash hands every hour)

Useful Links:

<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

<https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>

www.cityofblueridgega.gov