



City of South Haven

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May 8, 2020

To my fellow residents:

As the weather gets warmer and the Governor continues to allow more workers to return to their jobs, we eagerly look forward to calmer days ahead. We're ready for residents and visitors to again safely grab a bite to eat, shop at local businesses, enjoy the beach and take in South Haven's natural beauty. As I've said time and time again, thank you for your patience and continued cooperation during these uncertain times.

On Thursday, Gov. Whitmer gave the green light to allow manufacturing to resume. This is a critical industry in our state, and on Monday, hundreds of thousands of factories will again begin to build the products we need. The Governor extended the Stay Home order through May 28, noting while Michigan has come a long way in the last two months, COVID-19 infections and death remain high – so she is continuing to be aggressive. The same restrictions on lodging and short-term rentals remain in place. You have all been strong during the past seven weeks – let's continue that while our phased-in return continues. As the Governor reminds us, this process will be a dial, not a switch. We all need to be patient a little longer.

As we set our sights on summer, we have been in close contact with local business owners, who are eager to reopen their doors safely to residents, visitors and employees. Thank you to everyone who has supported local retail, restaurants and lodging by shopping online, using curbside pickup, buying gift cards and ordering takeout. Once doors officially reopen, our local businesses will be taking new precautions to allow shoppers and diners to safely visit once again. As a reminder, please remember to stay six feet apart from others, wear a mask when you are in public and use proper sanitation practices when visiting your favorite shops and dining establishments. As always, if you are sick, stay home!

As our businesses begin to reopen, please consider shopping local whenever possible. The fact of the matter is local businesses are going to need local residents to help them get back on their feet. Before purchasing an item online, consider visiting South Haven websites to see if a local merchant has the product. When shopping for groceries, check for produce grown by local farmers. Let's remember that our local businesses have always been there for us. Let's be there for them.

Again, I extend my gratitude to everyone who has helped keep South Haven a safe and healthy place to live, work and recreate in. I'm overwhelmed by stories of residents going above and beyond to help their fellow neighbors and businesses – they speak volumes about the positive morale and pride we have for our community. In the meantime, let's keep dreaming of summer, which is around the corner. I cannot wait to enjoy the calmer days ahead with you.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Smith".

Scott Smith
Mayor, City of South Haven