

Cooper, other leaders urge mask wearing in campaign

It's not too much to ask: Wear a mask.

St. Tammany Parish President Mike Cooper has launched a "Mask Ask" campaign and enlisted the help of local mayors,

NEWS ROUNDUP staff reports

community leaders and businesses to help continue spreading the word about the importance of wearing a mask to mini-

mize the spread of COVID-19.

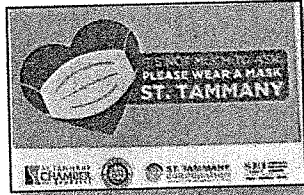
As part of that initiative, he partnered with the St. Tammany Corp. and the St. Tammany Chamber to produce a limited number of signs for local business to display. The signs are intended to better help the public understand why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend masking to slow spread of the novel coronavirus.

The signs, free for any business to pick up, encourages residents to take personal responsibility: "It's not much to ask — wear a mask."

In addition, Cooper has produced television public service announcements, asking residents to "Slow the Pace — Cover Your Face," as well as PSAs for radio.

"People tell me all the time they want to help local businesses recover. Here's an easy way we all can help. Wear a mask when you're in local businesses and restaurants so you don't unknowingly spread COVID-19," Cooper said. "This way, we can keep businesses and restaurants open.

"We want a healthy community where our citizens feel safe going out. We want to move forward — none of us wants to go back to Phase 1. I've said it before — we each have the choice to either detract from our progress or to contribute to our recovery. Let's all choose to move toward recovery. So, it's not much to ask — wear a mask."



Chris Masingill, CEO of St. Tammany Corp, called it an easy partnership to get behind.

"Let's work together to do the small things — like wear a mask and physically distance — so we can move our community and our economy forward," he said "We all want to see recovery, and we will if we all work together to make it happen."

Lacey Osborne, CEO of the St. Tammany Chamber, agreed.

"Our leadership is promoting social responsibility to end the spread of COVID-19. This is a parish-wide appeal. Every one of us, at every age and stage of life, want to move through to the other side of this pandemic. ... The mask mandate is critical to stop the spread, as well as to rebuild our economy," she said.

Pick up signs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the following locations:

- Tammany Parish Government at 21490 Koop Drive, Building A; (985) 898-5243.

- St. Tammany Corp., 21489 Koop Drive, Suite 7; (985) 809-7874.

- St. Tammany Chamber offices in Slidell at 2220 Carey St. or in Covington at 610 Hollycrest Boulevard; (985) 892-3216.

Businesses wanting to have signs delivered, call (985) 809-1411 to arrange.

Changes to Board of Adjustment meetings

Due to early voting for the Municipal General Election, the Board of Adjustments meeting that had been scheduled for Aug. 4 will now be held ahead of the group's Sept. 1 meeting.

The August agenda will be heard at the start of the meeting, and the September meeting

agenda will follow.

Also, the Parish Council meeting scheduled for Aug. 6 was postponed to Aug. 20 due to a publishing error giving required public notice of the meeting. That rescheduled meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at Parish Council Chambers.

The Council's Agenda Review and Finance committees will meet on Aug. 26 beginning at 6 p.m. at Parish Council Chambers. A special meeting of the Council will follow at approximately 7 p.m. on Aug. 26 to hear planning and zoning appeals.

These meetings are open to the public, but seating may be restricted due to COVID-19 capacity guidelines. Attendees will be required to wear a face mask or covering and will be required to submit to a temperature check before entering the Council Chambers.

Meeting on rezoning set

A special public meeting of the St. Tammany Parish Zoning Commission has also been scheduled to allow discussion of rezoning of just over 100 acres on Louisiana 36 in Lacombe for a construction and debris landfill.

The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 19 at the Castine Center, and is being held at the request of the petitioner, B. Clark Heebe, on behalf of C & W Brigade, LLC.