

March 16, 2020

Morgan Chairman declares state of emergency

Morgan County Commission Chairman Ray Long has declared a state of emergency for the county to deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

Long announced today that the courthouse will be closed to the public beginning Tuesday, March 17th until further notice.

The action comes on the heels of an outbreak of the coronavirus in Montgomery and North Alabama.

In addition to the courthouse, all county parks will be closed to the general public for practice or any type of event; and offsite facilities including, satellite offices for tags and property tax, animal control and archives.

“Our concern is for the safety of the public and our employees,” Long said. We want to encourage people not to get in crowds if they can help it, and to stay clean, washing and sanitizing hands.”

The commission will hold a special meeting Wednesday, March 18th at 9 a.m., and the public is still invited to attend this meeting but they will be escorted by security guards to the meeting.

The public has the same right to attend future commission meetings that will be held during the closure.

Although the facilities will be closed to the public, employees will continue to work in the various offices including tag/license and property tax offices.

“We would ask those who need to renew tags to consider the online or mail options,” Long said.

License Commissioner Sharon Maxwell said the state has agreed to extend March tag renewals through April 15th.

The closure includes the state license examiners’ office, also.

The county’s eight senior citizen centers were closed Monday until further notice. Senior citizens are allowed to go to the centers and pickup daily meals, but they cannot stay. Also, Commission on Aging staff will continue to deliver meals to homebound residents.

Environmental Services will continue its operation as usual on scheduled garbage pickup routes.

Also, all travel for county officials and employees has been canceled.

“We will keep the public informed through our social media venues and through the media. We know these are drastic measures, but we must take these steps to lower the risk of the coronavirus spreading,” Long said.

If residents have questions about an online transaction or operation they may call the respective office.

Instructions for tag renewal, registration:

Mail: Please make check or money order payable to Commissioner of License Sharon Maxwell and send with renewal notice which must be signed.

Online: Please find web code on renewal notice or use the registered owner’s driver’s license number and renew at [www.altagrenewals.com/morgan](http://www.altagrenewals.com/morgan).

Newly purchased vehicle registration: You may register online at [www.EasyTagAL.com](http://www.EasyTagAL.com) Feature is only available to customers who purchase a vehicle from a dealership in the state of Alabama. To do so the customer must scan the title application, bill of sale, proof of the vehicle’s insurance and a driver’s license. If two owners are listed the customer must scan both owners’ driver’s license.

\*There is no online provision for registration for vehicles purchased from an individual or from an out-of-state dealership.