



September 14, 2020

The loss of communities neighboring Springfield is difficult to comprehend. We are heartbroken for the communities of Blue River and Vida and others living within the Holiday Farm Fire's path. We cannot express enough how deeply sorry we are for your loss.

In times of incredible tragedy and loss, words are very rarely enough. Many in our community and beyond are finding ways where words fail. Businesses are providing meals, offering equipment and land, and hosting fundraisers for fire response efforts. Community members are also making financial donations to support fire response efforts, they're opening up their homes to those evacuating, and donating goods and materials in such significant proportions that a "pause" has been placed on accepting more at this time. Organizers continue to sort through these generous donations and will help identify any additional items that may still be needed.

Thank you to the Springfield community and for all who have been rallying to support local fire response efforts. Your kindness matters.

This is undoubtedly a challenging time for us all, even those outside of areas directly experiencing fires. We have family affected, friends affected, coworkers affected, and neighbors affected.

This hits home regardless of where you live in this great state.

This is a time to be heavy hearted. It's also a time to remember the good in one another. We're seeing examples of the spirit of community everywhere we look.

For those struggling to make sense of things, you are not alone. Please reach out to friends, family or local mental health care providers if you need support. We also came across some excellent advice from Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District Chief Christiana "Rainbow" Plew. She says in part to please hold the ones you love, be present, be patient, be safe, and be kind.

The weeks ahead will be difficult. However, your kindness and support of one another makes all the difference. Thank you.

Councilor VanGordon, Ward 1

Councilor Moe, Ward 2

Councilor Moore, Ward 3

Councilor Stoehr, Ward 4

Councilor Woodrow, Ward 5

Councilor Pishioneri, Ward 6