

Our County  
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County Mayor

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If you have read my series of weekly articles for any amount of time you know of my admiration of great and notable quotes. A previously recognized quote that I find immensely valuable originated within the United States Navy special division known as the “Navy Seals”. They are credited with the development of the phrase “Two is one, and one is none.” These words and this practice have helped them, and countless numbers of other professionals not only prepare for future events but also survive when others have not been as prepared.

How can this process developed by the Military apply to our civilian lives? I am glad that you asked! Everyone needs an alternate plan, source of communication, or method of verifying safety to be able to successfully protect their family, friends, and others that they are responsible for. “Two is one, and one is none” is a way of remembering to apply the successful role of a backup system in ALL things. Most of us have a mobile phone number now and can readily, and quickly, reach our family members at ANY time. But what if an emergency happens and either the carrier or the device no longer works. Please do not wait until the time of an emergency to find out that if you only have “one” way of communicating, and it is taken away, that you have “none”. A second path of getting a message to your loved ones, a second location to meet at, and a second way of verifying that a change of plans is indeed a truthful message, are vital in increasing safety.

The month of August is designated as “Back to School - Children and Youth Preparedness” month by the US Department of Homeland Security. By visiting [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) you will have access to a myriad of examples on how to best be prepared for keeping your family, friends, and community safe. A few of their recommendations are how to not only know the emergency plans of schools but also PRACTICE them with your family. Best practices on how to, according to age group, help children memorize emergency contacts and have them written down in a secure place.

Our local school systems have done an admirable job in developing a workable plan to not only “return to school” but also on how to continue school safely and effectively. In doing so they have prepared a detailed map to follow going forward, complete with changes in the course if needed to address changes in our local environment. These policies were developed after months of consultation and preparation and have been communicated to parents & our community by various means. I urge each parent to visit the respective webpages of the local public school systems that your child, children, or grandchildren, attends and then not only read but also comprehend what is their plan for going forward. You may even want to either print, or at least “bookmark” these pages for further reference, or updates if needed.

To help us get through these difficult times, I want to remind everyone to please remember to follow the 4 guidelines. Wash your hands often or use sanitizer, remember the 6 ft rule, avoid large gatherings and yes, please wear a mask when in public. We are all in this together!

To each person who strives to provide and protect their family please know that you are ALL appreciated. To those who take the time to prepare for themselves, and then also for others, please know that you are also appreciated and admired. To those all across Bradley County who strive to “protect and serve” those among our community each day, in all types of situations, please know that you are appreciated and revered. I remain thankful for all who seek to provide and to protect those within our community and their extensive preparations are just another reason that Bradley County truly is Tennessee at its best!