



Statement from the Mayor

From Mayor Mike Moeller

Friday, April 3, 2020

Dear Maryland Heights Residents and Community Members,

As we continue to adjust to these challenging times and do our part to lower the rate of COVID-19 infection in our community, I want to thank you for your cooperation, patience and understanding. I know that it's been frustrating to have our family gatherings, routines, yard waste service and access to city facilities and programs disrupted, but with infection rates continuing to soar within our region and throughout the nation, it's essential that we remain committed to practicing social distancing and limiting exposure to the virus. That being said, I want to share with you the measures the City of Maryland Heights has put in place to contain COVID-19 in our community.

At the March 19 City Council meeting, the City Council passed an ordinance authorizing me to declare an emergency and issue executive orders as necessary to ensure swift and effective action in response to COVID-19. Today, April 3, I issued an order closing all of the City's parks (Vago, Eise, McKelvey Woods, Quiet Hollow and Parkwood) effective at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3 and continuing through April 22. This closure may be extended based on how this situation evolves over the next couple of weeks. Please stay tuned to our website, www.marylandheights.com, or our social media accounts for updates.

With the exception of our Police Department Lobby, the City has closed the Community Center (effective March 16) and the Government Center (effective March 20). Necessary meetings now occur digitally (with access instructions available on the website) and all regularly scheduled city meetings (City Council/Commissions), court dates and programs/classes have been canceled through April 30. Not only does this protect the public, but also our employees.

Despite facility closure to the public, we have continued to provide essential services such as building and occupancy permit review and inspections, sewer lateral repairs, business licensing, road and facility/parks maintenance and police protection. Our customer service team continues to take calls Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to answer questions, coordinate services and schedule inspections.

The Council greatly appreciates all of our employees and we have supplied those required to interact with the public with personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, sanitizers). To limit any possible outbreak of the virus among our staff, we have instructed non-essential personnel to stay home and made work from home arrangements when necessary. We continue to deeply clean our facilities through the use of a fogger that disinfects the air and surfaces by spraying a sanitizing solution that dries quickly, as well as cleaning common areas like bathrooms, coffee machines and door handles in more frequent intervals.



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Unfortunately and despite our efforts, we had an employee test positive for the virus last week. Our thoughts are with this individual as they continue to recuperate. After becoming aware of the situation, we sent this employee home and notified staff and members of the public who interacted with the employee in the weeks preceding symptom display so that the proper protocols could be followed.

Besides the temporary suspension of Parks and Recreation programming, most of our services have remained the same. An exception is the yard waste pickup service provided through our contract with Republic Services. Beginning April 6 and continuing until further notice, yard waste pickup in Maryland Heights is temporarily suspended. I want to assure our residents that this service change was due to staffing issues that Republic Services is currently experiencing due to COVID-19. While the pandemic will impact revenues and expenditures, this service change is not related to a budget issue. High quality services and the well-being of our community remain our top priority. The Council will navigate this situation with the utmost commitment maintaining service levels.

The next month or so will be difficult as we continue to deal with an ever-changing pandemic and the complications to daily life that it has created, but we are a strong community and we will get through this together. We need your continued cooperation and support to make the stay-home order issued last month by St. Louis County truly effective in limiting the spread of COVID-19. If the measures we've taken save even just one life, they are worth it. Our residents, employees and community members are too precious to take unnecessary risks. Please work with us so that can keep as many people safe and healthy as possible. If we are collectively sensible and careful about our actions, we can return to our regular routines, family gatherings and jobs sooner rather than later.

If you are experiencing symptoms, please stay home and contact your health care provider. You can also contact the St. Louis County COVID-19 Hotline 24/7 at (314) 615-2660. St. Louis County is providing information about the number and location of cases, best practices and executive orders at www.stlcorona.com. To receive text alerts when content is changed, you can subscribe by texting STLOUISCOALERT to 67283. For updates on how COVID-19 is impacting our community, please visit www.marylandheights.com/COVID19. If you have any questions or concerns for the City, please contact us at (314) 291-6550 during regular business hours or mhlife@marylandheights.com.

Take care and stay safe,

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