

Dear Residents,

On behalf of the Park Forest Mayor and Board of Trustees, I'd like to thank each of you for the way you've responded to the COVID-19 pandemic over the last few months as we together have weathered a very difficult and trying time. In particular, the patience that you've exhibited in staying at home for extended periods, and the social distancing and wearing of masks that you've been mindful to do when in public, have helped our community do its part to help control the spread of a very dangerous and deadly virus.

For the village's part, the health and safety of our residents and our employees has been of paramount importance. All public facilities have remained closed and virtually all programming and events in Park Forest cancelled since March 19. These measures, as extreme and unprecedented as they may be, have been important to doing our part to help flatten the curve of the coronavirus' spread. While the village has continued to provide Park Foresters with the essential services that you rely on, Staff has also continued to offer scaled back non-essential services that our employees can provide from home. This work includes processing more than 4,300 vehicle stickers via on-line payment or mailed in applications, nearly 60 transfer stamps for the purchase/sale of homes and the issuance of nearly 80 building permits.

In the coming months, Village leaders anticipate seeing some easing of restrictions and more opening up of our country's economy. With so many businesses struggling across the country, record unemployment, and many others furloughed, there is understandable concern for how and when mounting bills will get paid. But what a reopening of our economy will look like—in Park Forest and nationally—will depend largely on public safety. Should infection numbers tick back up after restrictions are eased, it is likely we could revert back to a stay-at-home approach.

As the summer approaches, Park Forest Officials will continue to follow the lead of the State of Illinois on how best to move forward. According to Governor JB Pritzker's new five stage Restore Illinois plan of reopening, our state is currently at stage two. It is very likely that our region will not reach the later stages of the reopening plan until later this summer or into the fall. This means that this summer, at minimum, recreational and community engagement programming in Park Forest could look very different from what residents have come to expect. A number of summer programming schedules have already been canceled, including the Police Department's Police Athletic and Activity Center (PAAC), the Park Forest Aqua Center's 2020 swim season and summer camps for the youth of our community. The Main Street Nights concert series and the 4th of July festivities may also be canceled or substantially altered from what has been the norm. The Park Forest Main Street Market will take place each Saturday morning beginning on June 6th; however, it will be significantly different than years past due to public health mandates by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

In closing, the Mayor and Board of Trustees wish everyone well and ask for your continued efforts in staying sheltered and safe. If you need to be out and about for essential business, please take care to wear a protective mask. As Park Foresters work together for the public health of everyone, we can get through this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Tom Mick
Village Manager





Department of Recreation, Parks & Community Health
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Due to the evolving and updated guidelines relative to the COVID 19 pandemic, The Village of Park Forest, Department of Recreation, Parks and Community Health will not be publishing its Recreation, Parks & Community Health 2020 Summer brochure.

Although, given the current situation it is difficult to establish firm dates for programs and events, the Department is working towards organizing online programs and activities as well as planning for the resumption of “in person” programs when the stay-at-home order is lifted and people can assemble in groups again. Please continue to watch the village’s website for updates, announcements, and information on programs offerings.

Thank you all for your continued support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Robert Gunther, Director
Recreation, Parks & Community Health

Helpful links:

Recreation, Parks & Community Health Website

<https://www.villageofparkforest.com/301/Recreation-Parks-Community-Health>

Recreation, Parks & Community Health Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/pfrecandparks>

VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST

WHEN WE SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS... WE GROW TOGETHER



Do the sustainable thing.
Shop Park Forest First.



*Check website for list of Park Forest Businesses open during COVID-19
www.villageofparkforest.com/covid19*

When shopping during COVID-19, please protect your family and the business by wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth, stay at least six feet apart both inside and outside of the store, try having one member of the family shop, and when possible, avoid using cash.