



THE CITY OF
MANCHESTER
MISSOURI

May 11, 2020

Manchester neighbors and friends,

We hope you are healthy and coping with our more restricted life here. With some recent easing of our restrictions, we acknowledge the difficulties we face remain significant. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the way we live our lives from our work and leisure activities to the financial readjusting that some of us are facing. Manchester is facing the same challenges that all other Cities are facing today as we seek ways to balance safety and health requirements for residents and, as important, adjust to a sharp drop in our sales tax revenue.

This letter outlines changes, closures and cancellations to the City's usual summer schedule. The Board of Aldermen has made tough decisions based on recommendations from the both of us and the Parks Director. In most years, our wonderful summer programs and activities create more cost than revenue. In an ordinary year, that's not a problem. The value of "amenities" makes us a healthier and happier community.

This year, with a looming budget shortfall, the City has opted to focus on maintaining essential services and our staff. Adding in the safety, spacing and crowd size considerations, our summer calendar became difficult to plan for, as well as being costly. The Board of Aldermen's decisions are smart.

Here are summer closures and cancellations:

The Manchester Aquatic Center – The City has chosen to close the Aquatic Center for the 2020 summer season, which includes cancelling the Manchester Stingrays swim team, swim lesson programs, and all aquatic exercise classes.

Fourth of July Celebration – The scheduled evening concert and fireworks show for the City's Fourth of July Celebration have both been cancelled.

Summer Concert & Movie Series – Both summer series have been cancelled. This also includes the cancellation of the Manchester Community Band concert series.

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Additional events – The City has also chosen to cancel ArtsFest and Tons of Trucks

The following events are still being planned based on compliance with social distancing and sanitization recommendations, as well as gathering limits from St. Louis County:

Summer Camp – Continuing with summer camps is believed to be possible, but will require gathering limits, structured groups, planned gathering zones, and alternatives to swimming.

Classes – The City plans to offer summer classes including sports, fitness, arts, and senior programming after undergoing significant modification.

For the most up-to-date information call, or visit the Manchester Parks, Recreation, & Arts website and Facebook page.

Web: www.manchestermo.gov/parks

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ManchesterParksRecArts/>

Parks Office Phone: 636-391-6326, ext. 400

We want to acknowledge that essential services will not be affected by our budget shortfall, which we believe is manageable. The virus' fiscal impact will continue through the remainder of this year and, we suspect, will play a factor in the 2021 budget. If there is any good news here, it's that the City has, over the last few years, built up reserves for "a rainy day". Friends, the rainy day is here. After making cuts to non-essential programming and activities, our reserves will be more than adequate to carry us through this difficult year.

We close this letter encouraging everyone to be careful, cautious and hopeful. Our Police, Public Works, Parks and Administrative staff are doing superb work despite limitations. Enjoy this year! What we are giving up this year will be back next year.

We are optimistic!



Mike Clement, Mayor
mclement@manchestermo.gov
314-680-9278



Larry Perney, City Administrator
lperney@manchestermo.gov
636-227-1385, ext. 110

P.S. Allow us, in these difficult days, to encourage you to vote on the Sewer Lateral (Prop S) proposal on the June 2 ballot. If passed, the sewer lateral fee will rise from \$28/yr. to \$50/yr. As Manchester's homes age, there are more sewer lateral repairs. In recent years, program expenses have exceeded program income. This fund needs the additional fees to remain sustainable.