



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MADISON HEIGHTS CANCELS ALL OF CITY'S SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS, EVENTS THROUGH LABOR DAY, DUE TO COVID-19

In addition to recreational sports and camps, this also shuts down the Memorial Day Parade and Festival in the Park events

MADISON HEIGHTS, Mich. — May 7, 2020 — In accordance with recommendations by federal, state and county health agencies, the city of Madison Heights is announcing the cancellation of all events and recreation programs through Labor Day in order to protect public health during the COVID-19 virus outbreak.

"After much consideration, we have decided to cancel all recreation programs and special events for the summer because the registration periods, planning, and social distancing requirements make it unfeasible to host these events this year. This will include all summer recreation programming as well as the Memorial Day Parade, Festival in the Park, and summer camps," said Mayor Brian Hartwell.

"This is a painful decision to make as we cherish the community involvement that the city's programming provides to our residents. We understand that our residents will be dismayed by this decision, and that it will have far-reaching impact on our neighbors," said City Manager Melissa Marsh.

This decision is meant to protect the Madison Heights community from further spread of COVID-19. Madison Heights currently has confirmed 204 cases and 28 deaths among its residents; and decided against allowing any activities that could expand those numbers further this summer. For participants who have already paid for any summer programs, refunds will be provided.

Rather than taking a week-by-week approach, the city decided to give residents as much lead time as possible to make alternate plans for the summer months. With the collective health and safety of the entire community as our top priorities, it was deemed better to halt programming for a little while longer instead of dramatically altering every offering to meet distancing and sanitizing recommendations.

"Madison Heights residents are part of a tight-knit community and will remain so long after COVID-19 is gone. The city looks forward to a return to a more connected life once the COVID pandemic is under control. Our program-rich offerings will return once we are certain the most vulnerable of us are protected, and we believe a vigorous approach now will lead to renewed freedoms later," Hartwell said.

The city will send out new information and activity details as they become available, and encourages residents to remain connected virtually.

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