

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 8/13/2020

"City of Sylvania COVID-19 Update"

Our Sylvania community's journey through this COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve as Governor DeWine and the State of Ohio coordinate our efforts to allow our businesses, education and other activities to safely continue. Here are the latest updates as we look ahead:

The City of Sylvania continues to provide essential police, fire, water, sewer, trash and recycling services. Both our service workers and our police are following normal operation schedules. City Hall is open, but all office functions are available and encouraged to be via telephone or internet. The Sylvania Municipal Court is also open and operating.

The Unlimited Spring Pick-up by Republic Services took place the week of July 27th through July 31st. The amount of materials picked up exceeded all earlier years, and took an extra day the following week to complete.

Sylvania City Council meetings will continue to be live streamed on YouTube for the public to watch. Some City Council members are choosing to join the meetings via Zoom. City Council meetings remain open to the public.

City revenues are lower because of the many business slowdowns. We are monitoring our financial situation, but no reduction in City services or employment is currently being planned. We continue to coordinate with Lucas County and the State of Ohio to maintain all services and to receive all federal and state emergency funding available.

The City of Sylvania temporarily closed Maplewood Avenue between Main Street and Richard Becker Place for about a month to provide more area for safe outside public gathering space downtown. The Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) was reopened and expanded to include the mini-park at Main and Maplewood. Additional outdoor seating areas have been added, including the new parklets installed by the Red Bird Arts District on Main Street.

The Farmers Market is being held this year on Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the First United Methodist Church at 7000 Erie Street. The new location provides more space and continues to be a success and a popular activity.

The LPGA Marathon Golf Tournament was successfully held August 6th through August 9th at Sylvania Highland Meadows Golf Club. It was just the second tournament of the LPGA Season, this year with a \$1,700,000.00 prize purse. Due to the pandemic, it was held without spectators, which unfortunately reduced the economic impact for local businesses.

Here are some Lucas County pandemic statistics provided to me during weekly local mayor conference calls. Lucas County has the 4th highest infection rate in the state, 154.5 cases per 100,000 of population, and continues to be designated a red county due to seven indicators including the high 10% positivity rate of test results compared to about 5% statewide. There have been 38,703 virus tests given in Lucas County, and unfortunately 313 deaths. The average age of infected persons is going down, now about 42 years old. Hospital occupancy is now about 2/3 of what it was at the pandemic peak in the spring, however, it is going back up again, as is ventilator use, and is being carefully monitored.

We all need to be careful and safe as we continue to live our lives. Physical distancing, the use of a face covering, frequent hand washing and surface disinfecting helps protect the health of others, not just ourselves. Monitor and help those in need in your neighborhoods. Best wishes to all here in Sylvania! Be healthy! Be safe!

