



May 2, 2020

After much deliberation and consideration, the City of Huntington Woods has decided to suspend all activities, meetings, and events through Labor Day. This includes deciding to not open the pool, to cancel camps, concerts, and recreational programs, and to forgo our annual July 4th festivities including the much-revered fireworks display.

This is a painful decision to make, especially considering the high level of engagement and programming the City of Huntington Woods typically provides. We know residents will be dismayed by this decision, and understand that it will have far-reaching impact on many.

We made this decision after determining that it is the best way to protect our community from further spread of COVID-19. We have already confirmed 22 cases and 1 death among our residents; we do not want to risk expanding those numbers further.

City administrators and commissioners debated whether to make decisions in stages, perhaps even one week at a time, in the off chance that we could resume normal programming sooner than the fall. However, we came to this ultimate conclusion because we want to give residents as much lead time as possible to make alternate plans for the summer months. If you've already paid for programs, your account will be refunded as soon as possible.

While we know this is disappointing news, we believe it is a necessary step to protect our community from further harm. We know that before long, we will return to the active, engaged life which draws so many to choose to live in Huntington Woods.

This is a robust, program-rich community where people are connected and interwoven, and as such, it is difficult to remain distanced from our neighbors and friends. We appreciate the way our community has come together to support the most vulnerable among us by taking these difficult steps since March, and we hope to see an end to this forced distancing and prolonged shutdown before long. We believe a vigorous approach now will lead to renewed freedoms later.

The collective safety and health of our entire community are the priorities driving these tough decisions. We'd rather halt programming for a little while longer than dramatically alter every offering to meet distancing and sanitizing recommendations.

Library staff have already introduced virtual programming for residents to enjoy, and Recreation Department staff are looking at opportunities to provide virtual activities as well. We will send out new information and activity offerings as they become available, and encourage residents to remain connected virtually through this uncertain time.

It is a pleasure to work with such a dedicated and connected community. We will get through this and emerge stronger, healthier, and more appreciative of all that Huntington Woods has to offer!

For residents who heard about the decision before this announcement was released, we apologize. Our intent was to send an official city announcement before it was public knowledge, but it was not finalized until late Friday night.