

Thursday, May 28, 2020

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City Manager

Good Morning!

For the last two months the City of Kearney as an employer and a business has taken proactive and decisive action to keep everyone safe while balancing the needs of the public and our employees. Faced with one of the biggest challenges in recent history, city employees and citizens have stood tall through compliance, patience and cooperation. Our measured and proportional response to this pandemic coupled with citizens own actions including social distancing and the efforts of our local businesses to comply with directed health measures, have made a huge difference.

Also, the support and guidance provided by CHI Good Samaritan and Kearney Regional Hospital staff has been extremely valuable and much appreciated. Further, the tireless effort and direction provided by our City Physician Dr. Robert Messbarger, has been invaluable.

So, to everyone, Thank You!

As we move forward in opening up access to many city facilities on June 8th we will continue to monitor appropriate health measures, best practices as well as continue to seek input from the medical community. We encourage citizens who are visiting City offices that have re-open to wear a mask while in the building.

Finance

- Will be installing glass barrier at front counter to protect customers and employees.
- Encourage customers to make utility payments as follows:
 - Online – go to cityofkearney.org, click on online payments, and create a user profile.
 - Telephone – call toll free number 844-244-2312.
 - Bank-draft – go to [city of Kearney.org](http://cityofkearney.org), click on “How do I”, click on “Pay”, and download Utilities Bank Collection Authorization Form. You will receive a \$10.00

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one-time enrollment credit and a \$1.00 monthly credit if you enroll in bank-draft and sign up to receive your monthly bill electronically.

- Drop Box – drop payment off in drop box located in parking lot north of City Hall or in drop box located in west entry lobby at City Hall.
- Mail – mail payment to City Hall.
- Note – there is no extra charge to customers for making online, bank-draft, or telephone payments.
- In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the City of Kearney temporarily suspended utility disconnections for nonpayment of utility bills beginning in March. The suspension of disconnections for nonpayment allowed customers to defer utility payments to a later date. As of June 1, 2020, the suspension of utility disconnections for the nonpayment of utility bills will end. If customers are unable to pay their bill, they are urged to call the City of Kearney Finance Department at 308-233-3221 or 308-233-3240 to set up a payment plan for the balance of the account that is in arrears.

Airport

- SkyWest is operating one flight daily Monday -Sunday with a stop in North Platte outbound and inbound legs. Daily departure time 9:10 a.m. with a 9:30 p.m. arrival.
- SkyWest will soon be using ESS (Electro Static System) to clean the aircraft between flights.
- SkyWest Airline requires passengers to wear masks during flights, if passengers do not have a mask the airline will provide them.

Library

- Book drop is open. Books will be set aside in “quarantine” for 72 hours and then be checked-in and put away.
- The Library will re-open on June 15.
- Curbside service at the library will resume on June 2, 2020.
 - Patrons may place items on hold via phone at (308) 233-3282, website, and the mykpl app.
 - Once items have been pulled you will be notified by text, email or phone (whatever you have chosen).
 - Patrons should call the library at (308) 233-3256 when they arrive outside the west doors.
 - Items may be picked up Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Service is limited to up to 20 items at a time.

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- Be prepared to show us your library card or photo I.D. when picking up items.
 - Returns or fine payments will not be part of curbside pick-up service. Late fees are being suspended until the library reopens.
 - Please do not use this service if you think you are sick.
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Utilities

Water Operations-

- Residential and commercial inside meter change outs will resume on June 8, 2020 with employees wearing personal protective equipment.
- Water system maintenance and repairs will resume normal activities to complete needed projects to keep system in operational working condition.

Utilities Administration Office-

- Office will be open to walk in customers beginning on June 8, 2020. If other assistance is needed, customers are asked to call 308-233-3268
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Development Services

- Building Inspectors will continue to use their discretion for inspections. If they can be completed by real-time video chat and/or pictures, they will be.
 - **All** building permits will need to be applied for online. If you need assistance please call one of our Permit Techs.
 - Planning Commission submittals will need to be submitted online, to our City Planner, for the June Planning Commission meeting. Once our office is reopened we will go back to paper submittals.
 - Payment Options: by mail, City Hall dropbox, by phone, and online through Citizenseve.
 - If you have questions, please call a Permit Technician at 233-3234.
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City Clerk

- All public meetings will continue meeting through virtual means throughout June 30, 2020.
- Suspended until further notice the pastoral invocations and presentations of the Pledge of Allegiance with the local boy and girl scout troops.
- Special Designated Licenses (SDLs) are being reviewed and if approved, shall be subject to comply with any directed health measures in effect at the time of the event. Nebraska Liquor Control Commission has reiterated that in regards to outdoor movies and other events in which the attendees would consume alcohol at events while in their parked vehicle are not allowed and cannot be waived on the SDL license.

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- In regards to Special Event closures involving city-owned property in the month of June, there are no closures approved pertaining a special event application. (*NOT TRUE IF COMMUNITY OLYMPIC OCCURS*)
 - Developing online process for payments of annual liquor license renewals to become available in the coming months.
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Fire

- Fire Department lobby hours remain open 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM every day for burn permits.
 - Fire prevention activities such as station tours and truck visits will remain suspended until further notice.
 - Fire Department is continuing to use a call screening procedure for non-emergency calls for service.
 - Fire department personnel will continue to wear additional PPE as a precaution during emergency response.
 - Firework stands and sales will still be allowed this year
 - 2020 Fireworks Permit Applications can be picked up at Fire Station #1 during normal lobby hours. The permit applications must be returned by Thursday, June 18th.
 - Firework stand inspections will be conducted on Friday, June 26th from 8:00 AM – 5:00.
 - To schedule firework stand inspections call Fire Station #1 (308) 233-3226 prior to June 24th. Appointments will be made on a first come/first serve basis.
 - From June 28 through July 2 from 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM and July 3 and 4 from 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM.
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Police

- Public access to secure areas of the Law Enforcement Center including the Multi-Purpose Room remain suspended. All outside activities to include meetings, training, Citizens Police Academy etc. remain suspended until further notice.
- LEC lobby hours remain 0800 – Noon, Monday thru Friday until further notice.
- Officers continue to use telephone reporting for calls for service that do not require an immediate police response.
- 911 Communications Staff using call screening procedure. Callers will be asked if you or anyone you are living with have a fever, trouble breathing, a cough, under voluntary or

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mandatory quarantine for any reason. An affirmative answer will result in a telephone response or "Doorway Triage" by 1st Responders with PPE.

- Public use of Police to Citizen "P2C" is encouraged along with telephone reporting.
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Park & Recreation

Park restrooms – Plan to re-open on Monday, June 1

- Parks are getting a lot of use and restrooms are needed.
- Only the Lodge, Marina and Nature Barn restrooms will be open at Cottonmill Park.
- Cleaning schedule will include two or more times per day.

Playgrounds and splash pads – Target date to re-open is Monday, June 8

- Closed in the mornings between 7am-9am so cleaning can occur. We ask for everyone's cooperation with this.
- Wash hands before, sanitize hands during, wash hands when done, don't come if not feeling well, face coverings are encouraged, come back later if crowded or go try another playground or splash pad.
- Park water fountains will remain off. Remember to bring your own water.

Meadowlark Hills Golf Course – In addition to season pass and punch card holders, the course will open for those paying a daily green fee beginning Monday, June 8

- Some restrictions will remain: raised cup so flag removal is not needed, clubhouse limitations, cc/debit card payment only, etc.
- Hours off operation will be expanded.

Cottonmill Nature Barn – Will open on Saturday, June 13

- Special days and hours will be announced.

Swimming Pools, Cottonmill Swim Lake, and Marinas – Will remain closed until further notice

- Currently reviewing updated Directed Health Measures and related guidelines to determine feasibility.
- Final decision will need made by the second week of June in order to have a long of season to make it worth opening.

Rental Facilities – Outdoor amphitheaters available for wedding rentals that comply with Directed Health Measures. Other rental facilities remain closed until further notice.

Recreation Programs –

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- With current guidelines and related logistics, only a few programs are feasible at this time, including Adult Softball, Tennis, and Archery.
 - A limited number of programs will likely be offered, but could expand as directed health measures change.

Peterson Senior Activity Center –

- Plan to start curbside lunch pick-up again. Target date is Monday, June 8.
- A limited number of programs and some facility use will likely be offered in the upcoming weeks.
- Information will be sent to members through the newsletter, Facebook, robo-calls and through media.

Standard Personal Responsibility Practices in the Parks:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds prior to coming to a park, sanitize your hands during, avoid touching your face with your hands, maintain social distance when possible, wear a mask when possible, wash your hands again when you get home, change clothes, don't share equipment when possible, don't come or participate if you are not feeling well or if you have a fever, use park amenities at non-prime time hours to avoid crowds.