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## CITY MANAGER

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### City of Beloit Announces Closures, Cancellations & Changes in Light of COVID-19 Outbreak - March 16 Update

**March 16, 2020** - The City of Beloit is implementing the following changes as we are limiting the potential exposure to COVID-19. We are doing this to prevent the spread of this virus to the most vulnerable residents in our community and our staff so that we can continue to provide core city services.

- **Municipal Court** is suspended for at least 60 days. There will be no in-person appearances and court appearances will be moved to a future date.
  - If individuals wish to make payments on forfeitures, please mail in a check or money order, use the deposit box at City Hall or call the court to make payment over the phone.
  - Individuals will be notified of their new court date by mail.
  - Individuals are encouraged to contact the Municipal Court at (608) 364-6613 with questions.
- **Transit** operations will be moved to an on-demand service only beginning Wednesday, March 18, with trip priorities going to doctor appointments, work, and assistance services. Transit staff will be reviewing the on-demand requests and may require flexibility in some trip schedules.
  - Individuals requesting services must call (608) 364-2870 one day in advance to schedule a trip. You must call between 8am and 3pm Monday through Friday for Tuesday-Saturday trips and between 9am and 3pm Saturday for Monday trips. Staff will take down your information and then after 3pm will confirm the details of your pickup. Passengers may book recurring rides. This service will be within the City of Beloit limits. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 6am to 5:20pm and Saturdays 9am to 3:35pm; we do not have service on Sunday. Pickup will be at bus stop locations. Drop offs will be made at the location.
  - Passengers who already use Rock County Specialized Transit will continue to use that service.

- The Beloit-Janesville Express (BJE) will operate as normally scheduled; however, you will need to make arrangements for transportation in Beloit once you complete that trip.
- Beloit Transit headquarters building will remain open to the public for purchase of passes/tokens.
- **We are no longer taking cash payments and City Hall access is limited to the first floor. The Public Works buildings at 2351 and 2400 Springbrook Court will not be taking payments.** Please call the following numbers to learn how you can make arrangements to avoid in-person contact:
  - Building & Planning: 608-364-6700
  - Municipal Court: 608-364-6613
  - Utility Payments: 608-364-6663
  - Voting, Licensing and General Information: 608-364-6680
- **Cancelled/postponed events:** We are now also cancelling or postponing the following events:
  - Municipal Golf Committee on March 18 - cancelled
  - Fries with Firefighters event at Culver's of Beloit on March 19 - cancelled
  - Easter Eggstravaganza on April 11 - cancelled
  - Spring Wine Walk on April 19 - postponed

### **City of Beloit Announces Closures, Cancellations & Changes in Light of COVID-19 Outbreak - March 13 Update**

**March 13, 2020** - In light of the COVID-19 outbreak in Wisconsin and Illinois, the City of Beloit is taking the following precautions to limit face-to-face activities and promote social distancing in order to help slow the spread of the COVID-19.

The City of Beloit has made these changes after reviewing information and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the Rock County Health Department.

- **All face-to-face and in-person visits to City Hall and other government buildings are highly discouraged.** We are looking to eliminate the potential exposure at city buildings to protect city staff and the general public. This will also help us maintain our ability to continue providing essential city services. [Please call the respective departments](#) in lieu of coming to a particular department to learn what alternate options there are to conduct business over the phone, email or fax.
- **Grinnell Hall Senior Center** will be closed to the public starting Monday, March 16, to prevent the spread of virus among our most vulnerable population. This closure is until further notice. Pre-packaged meals will be available drive-through style at Grinnell Hall to those who sign up through the Rock County nutrition program. Anyone who has questions about Grinnell Hall's closure can call at 608-364-2875. This closure applies to all programs that were scheduled at Grinnell Hall.

- **Beloit Public Library** will be closed starting Monday, March 16, and will remain closed until further notice. All Beloit Public Library programming has been cancelled.
- **Recycling Drop-Off Center** will be closed Saturday morning and will remain closed until further notice.
- **All Parks & Recreation** programs in March have been cancelled, including volleyball, pickleball, and the St. Patrick's Day pickleball tournament.
- **Event cancellation** for any event or program that is expected to have an attendance of 50 people or more. The City of Beloit is encouraging other organizations in the city to also cancel events of that magnitude.
- **Absentee voting** via mail is highly encouraged to avoid face-to-face contact at the polls on Election Day, which is April 7, 2020. If you haven't registered to vote yet, you can do online at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/> by March 18, 2020. Absentee ballot requests can be made online at the same location.
- **The Beloit City Council** meeting on Monday, March 16, will continue as scheduled. We will be separating the chairs to discourage close proximity.
- **Water Resources** has suspended its water meter and transmitter replacement project.

In addition to these changes, all work-related travel for City of Beloit employees outside of Rock County has been postponed or cancelled.

Please visit [www.beloitwi.gov/covid19](http://www.beloitwi.gov/covid19) or [www.facebook.com/cityofbeloit](https://www.facebook.com/cityofbeloit) for the latest information, closures and cancellations from the City of Beloit.

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