



From the Office of the Mayor *Jerry N. Hruby*

First, and foremost, we hope that you and your family are well and continue to practice safe distancing, good hygiene, and are spending the bulk of your time with your families. This is a remarkable time we live in. Thus far, the State of Ohio is proof that early education, “stay at home” order for non-essential services, and the other suggested habits brought forth by the Board of Health, both County and State, are the reason for the number of cases in our state compared to the other states surrounding us.

Of course, by now you know, that the “stay at home” order has been extended for thirty more days and school has been suspended until May 1st. Our Community Center remains closed, Human Services remains open for limited services, and City Hall is open for drop off and pick up of documents. The City Hall phones are manned for non-emergency calls from 8:00am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Rubbish and recycling will continue to be picked up with the following exceptions:

Saturday recycling drop-off is discontinued until further notice, as well as white goods pick-up.

Please do not “dump” your recyclables or rubbish at the Service Department gate. There is a sign prohibiting this practice and we ask for your cooperation voluntarily. The Service Department continues several of its other activities to maintain its services and our infrastructure. They are on call if you feel you have a specific Service Department need.

The staffing of our Police Force and Fire Department has not changed. A major revision to any safety force procedure is simply to expect to be questioned as to the nature of your call or emergency situation. We are trying to protect our employees as they protect you I said this before. It is important that we cooperate and practice the many suggested ways in which to limit the risk of this pandemic virus. The inconvenience will be lessened by our adhering to the Board of Health, Federal, State, and Local Governments suggested policies and restrictions. Please be safe, stay health, and wash your hands.

Please beware of scams. It has already begun. Unscrupulous people are attempting to con you out of your money by fraudulent requests to process the government refund and or process your government assistance. There is also a scam on paying for food, toilet tissue, and pharmaceutical supplies. Be sure you know who you are speaking with. Deal only with known entities and if you have any doubt, whatsoever, do nothing and call the Police non-emergency number to report your concern.

The City’s webpage has many direct links to information regarding the coronavirus. Please visit it often as information is ever changing. If your neighbor, relative, or whomever is without internet capability please share the information with them by printing copies or calling by phone and discussing what information you have learned.

The Fire Department added new hand out of information that Fire Chief Zamiska and I wish to share with our residents. By clicking on the following link you will be redirected to that hand out on

share with our residents. By clicking on the following link you will be redirected to that hand out on our city webpage:

https://www.brecksville.oh.us/NewsEvents/CommunityNews_pdfs/COVID-19/COVID%20Reference%20Guide%20BFD%203.31.2020%20DRAFT.pdf

The Ohio General Assembly passed a bill addressing issues posed by the coronavirus emergency and the Ohio Open Meetings law. Sub.H.B.197 permits public bodies to conduct meetings and hearings electronically only during the emergency. Under law, a public meeting requires members of the public body be present in the same room and members of the public must be permitted access to that room. Due to physical distancing requirements and the “stay at home” order, those public meeting requirements are at odds with the constraints of the coronavirus emergency. The bill enacts a new section ORC 121.221. This section establishes criteria under which the objective of openness can be served without requiring public officials or members of the public to jeopardize their health by exposing them to the dangers of infection.

On Tuesday, April 7th, at 7:00 pm City Council will meet as a whole and discuss items normally brought before each individual committee. Thereafter, at 8:00 pm, City Council will hold its regularly scheduled Council meeting. These meetings will be teleconferenced. City Council members, Department Head Staff, Legal Staff, City Engineer, and the Mayor will call in to the teleconferencing center. This will be live and accessible by the public on Facebook. You do NOT need a Facebook Account to listen to the meeting live. The public will not be able to address City Council or ask questions as part of the teleconference meeting, however, they can send their questions and comments by e-mail directly to Council prior to or after the meeting via e-mail address: ttabor@brecksville.oh.us.

If you have a Facebook account – login and go to the City of Brecksville Facebook Page

If you do not have a Facebook account click the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/233577357056186/live/>

*** Please note link will not be active until live streaming begins on April 7th, 2020, at 7:00 pm ***

We will then create a link on the city webpage the day after the meeting for those who are interested in listening to the meeting. Again, the meeting procedure has been dictated by state legislature and is only temporary. Council will continue to meet via teleconference each regularly scheduled 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. All e-mails to Council, Mayor, and staff will be answered promptly. If you have any questions about these procedures, please feel free to call City Hall at 440-526-4351.

The agenda for Council meetings can be found on the city webpage before Tuesday, and City Council documents will be posted the following Friday. Due to normal document posting sites being closed and not accessible to the public, the City will temporarily be posting these documents at the Fire Station and Police Station, and as always, in the lobby at City Hall.

The Ohio General Assembly has also addressed the issue of Ohio’s Primary Election. They approved a plan that will allow all Ohioans to continue voting by mail until April 28. Watch your mailboxes for more information and please visit the Ohio Secretary of States webpage for how to obtain your vote-by-mail ballot <https://www.ohiosos.gov/>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few members of this community. First, I would like to thank our City employees and Department Heads who continue to oversee essential City services and operations.

I would like to thank our teachers who are doing their very best to keep our children interested in their studies and continue the education process in their homes via computer access.

I also thank the religious community of churches who continue, and in unique ways, to serve their members.

Of course we acknowledge, and thank so very much, the extraordinary tasks being completed

daily by our Health Care members, Safety Forces, and First Responders, and we thank all federal, state, and local employees that continue to provide essential tasks needed.

These are difficult times, as I said previously, and we cannot ignore that there are many in the performance of their essential duties that place themselves in harm's way of this pandemic virus. We thank them so sincerely and hope they stay health.

Finally, please understand how difficult this "stay at home" practice is upon our small businesses, restaurants, and others who provide services. Please help us save our local businesses so they can come back full force in the near future. Order carry out food if possible and shop locally online as much as you are able. I thank our Chamber of Commerce for their efforts and promotion encouraging buy Brecksville and local business. Please visit their website for further details. <https://brecksvillechamber.com/>

Please remember to be respectful of each other. Remember, crises can causes different impacts on individuals, and do all you can to keep yourself, your family, and your loved ones healthy and safe. If you want my personal assistance please feel free to call me on my personnel cell phone at 216-316-6666.

Sincerely Yours,

Jerry N. Hruby
Mayor

