



CITY OF ELLISVILLE

TRAILBLAZER

Summer
2020

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Letter to the Citizens of Ellisville

From the Mayor and City Council

The City of Ellisville is experiencing the same social and economic impact as municipalities across the Region, State and Country from the COVID 19 Pandemic. These are unprecedented times in this great nation and the purpose of this letter is to share with citizens across the community what we are doing as a City to ensure that your elected officials and professional staff are meeting both our social and fiscal responsibilities.

As a City we have been blessed with a low rate of infection, this is due in large part to our quick action and following closely the guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Controls (CDC) and the Public Health Department. In the interest of continuing to limit potential for exposure and be cognizant of the fact that our city is comprised of a large population of citizens who fall into the high risk category, we have made the recommended move to cancel the 4th of July event at Bluebird Park. In addition to the 4th of July celebration cancellation, we will also

cancel all concerts and community events through August. This will include the closure of the Aquatic Center in Bluebird Park. While we understand the major change that this will be for residents and surrounding communities, it is of the utmost importance that we also understand the risks of holding major events with large numbers of persons gathered in close proximity. The control of community spread is the priority in response to this pandemic until a vaccine is available. We believe that Ellisville is a leader in the region and puts the health of our community at the forefront of our decisions.

While these decisions are principally about the health and wellness of our community members, they also support our secondary goal of fiscal responsibility. These cancellations will result in a budgetary savings to the City of Ellisville that will help to ease the burden a little bit, but this alone will not come close to replacing the lost revenue seen by the City. This along with delaying some

non-essential capital expenditures are the first moves by City leaders to ensure that core services, personnel and community response will continue at the highest level in the future. Our Police Department is at full service and available twenty-four hours a day to continue to respond to the needs of our community. Public Works employees, key City Staff Members and other essential services will be maintained to ensure continuity of operations. Once a clearer picture emerges as to the total fiscal impact to the City revenues resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic, additional difficult decisions may have to be made. These decisions will be made with the interest of protecting the critical City services that Ellisville has prided itself of providing since their inception. We will examine every major project, expenditure and revenue source for a pathway to success in navigating these difficult financial times. We are confident that we will be successful and the City of Ellisville will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever. Please accept our prayers for your continued health and safety. May God bless our citizens.

WWW.ELLISVILLE.MO.US

Police Department Continuity of Operations

During these difficult times it is important to share with our citizens the level of cooperation and planning that your police department, along with others in the region conduct during times of emergencies. Everyone knows that police departments are available to respond to emergency operations, including things such as traffic crashes, moving violations, disturbances, thefts, assaults and the many other criminal activities that take place as part of our normal society. In Ellisville we are very fortunate to have a low level of overall crime, and our police force provides a safe community through 24-hour police response services.

What many citizens don't know is the level of preparedness the police department engages in as preparation for the once in a lifetime event that we are currently experiencing. Your Chief of Police is a member of the St. Louis Area Police Chief's Organization. This group meets regularly to discuss best practices for events of every nature. Additionally, Commanders and officers undergo National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, tabletop exercises, Blood Borne Pathogen Training and a host of other emergency management related training to prepare them to the highest level possible for response to major disasters.

Finally, the police department works closely with all local police agencies to ensure consistency of service and sharing of both resources and best practices. The Police Chiefs of West St. Louis County meet regularly and are comprised of a group of leaders who have worked together for decades in all areas of law enforcement. There are planning documents in place at this time that ensure that any impact on the personnel of the police force will be mitigated by support provided through Mutual Aid agreements across St. Louis County.

Your Police Department stands at the ready to continue to provide responsive police services. While it is possible that temporarily ancillary services such as presentations, minor report calls, minor traffic crash reports and the like may not be a priority, all emergency response calls for service and major events will be handled by the police department. We appreciate the continued support of our agency by our citizens and ask that you continue to put your faith in us and please continue to keep our first responders in your thoughts.



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE – COVID-19

Visiting Parks and Recreational Facilities

Staying physically active is one of the best ways to keep your mind and body healthy. In many areas, people can visit parks, trails and open space as a way to relieve stress, get some fresh air and Vitamin D, stay active and safely connect with others.

Know Before You Go: While these facilities and areas can offer health benefits, it is important that you follow the steps below to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

DO

- Visit the parks that are close to your home.
- Prepare before your visit
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others and take other steps to prevent COVID-19

DON'T

- Visit parks if you are sick or recently exposed to COVID-19
- Visit crowded parks
- Use playgrounds
- Use water playgrounds or water parks
- Participate in organized activities or sports.



2020 Home Improvement Program - Good for Ellisville. Great for Your Wallet.

Ellisville homeowners are essential participants in securing the future health of our City. As a community and your partner, the City of Ellisville wants to help eligible homeowners increase the safety, comfort and value of their homes. The City of Ellisville has allocated \$20,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds towards the Home Improvement Program (HIP).

The Home Improvement Program (HIP) is a federally funded program, which provides technical advice and financial assistance to qualified homeowners in Ellisville for a variety of home repairs. The program is administered by St. Louis County's Department of Planning, Office of Community Development.

The applicant must be the owner and occupant of the property to be improved. Gross household income from all occupants must meet established low-moderate income limits. Homeowners must be current in their mortgage payments and real estate taxes must be paid in full. Ellisville is allotted up to \$20,000 total for fiscal year 2020. Applicants are accepted on a first-come first-served basis until all funds are committed. Applications are taken over the telephone in an interview process.

Approved repairs or replacements necessary to maintain minimum housing code standards are eligible. Homeowners are required to solicit bids and select their own general contractor. The check will be submitted directly



to the contractor following final inspection. A participant can receive 100% of the cost of correcting authorized repairs, based on a maximum benefit limit of \$5,000. Program participation is limited to **Once In A Lifetime Program Participation**, regardless of the fact they married and/or moved to a different address after five years.

Homeowners are required to sign a 5-year Forgivable Loan Agreement that provides for an **annual reduction of twenty percent** of the amount of the grant, as long as they **continue to own and occupy** their house. This 5-year Forgivable Loan Agreement will be on record with the St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds office as a lien against the property. Interested residents should contact the HIP satellite office to make an application:

South County Office
4546 Lemay Ferry Road
Saint Louis, Missouri 63129
(314) 615-4025

A "ROSE" By Any Other Name



Corporal George Corless of the Ellisville Police Department was recently recognized by the Rockwood School District with the prestigious "Rose" Award. Each year, Rockwood honors individuals for their contributions to our schools at the ROSE Award Ceremony.

The prestigious ROSE Award is bestowed upon individuals who show excellence of character, performance, leadership, and service to Rockwood School District. In addition, the school district honors Rockwood's Teachers of the Year, Cornerstone Award recipients, Service Award recipients, and retirees.

Corporal Corless received the nomination and selection based on his tireless efforts in the Rockwood Schools in the City of Ellisville. Corporal Corless, who is often seen patrolling on his bike as part of his assignment to the Community Policing Unit, spends countless hours in the schools having worn many hats in this role. It is a deserving award to a tireless public servant!

Code Enforcement Corner

With the weather warming and the sunshine beckoning us to come out of our homes and enjoy the natural beauty that is a part of our City, the Code Enforcement office would like to touch base on a couple of things. A large number of complaints have been received about feeding the deer. It is unlawful to feed wildlife in the City of Ellisville. In the City of Ellisville, we have an ordinance that prohibits the feeding of deer. Although these animals are a beautiful sight to see, they have a few destructive habits, and we would hate to see anyone being fined for violating this ordinance.

§ 210.690 Feeding of Certain Wildlife.

This can be researched on the City website. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Code Enforcement Officer at City Hall.

The City also received numerous complaints about grass and weeds. Please be sure to have your yard on a schedule that will prevent any grass or weed growth exceeding 7 inches. Your Code Enforcement Officer loves visiting with the residents and sharing information and smiles, however it is not particularly enjoyable to discuss over-growth of grass and weeds. Please know, if you receive a letter from the Code Enforcement Officer concerning grass or weeds, there is a 7-day period in which to correct the violation. If not corrected, the City will have to send contract companies to cut your grass, and you will have to reimburse the City for their services. No one wants that expense, when you can hire someone at a much cheaper cost. *You will only receive one grass and weeds letter per season and any time after that, if your grass exceeds 7 inches, the contractors will be automatically sent.*

The City wants everyone to have a wonderful summer and avoid the hassle of having to deal with violations and fines. Let's all be good neighbors and keep Ellisville the beautiful City it is.



Half Cent Sales Tax Storm Water Improvement Project Update



In 2020, the City of Ellisville will be completing asphalt street improvements on Oak Hill Drive, Oak Hill Court and West Oak Hill Drive. The northern section of Oak Hill Drive is scheduled for complete removal and replacement of the curbs and asphalt pavement. The remaining Oak Hill streets are scheduled for rotomilling of the existing asphalt surface and installation of a new 2" thick asphalt surface layer. This project is expected to take place this summer.

In addition to this street improvement project, the City has planned a project for the construction of a section of sidewalk along the north side of Manchester Road, just east of Devore Drive. This sidewalk project is expected to be completed by fall.

The City will be contacting all residents impacted by these projects to discuss the proposed improvements and/or schedules for completion of the work.

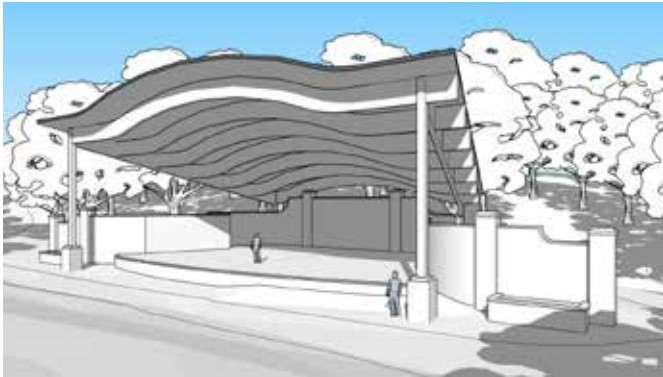
These projects are being completed under the Half Cent Sales Storm Water Improvement Tax. The City of Ellisville would like to thank all of the residents impacted by the projects for their patience and cooperation during these improvements. If you would like additional information on the Half Cent Sales Tax Storm Water projects, please contact Mike Hartwig, Assistant City Engineer, at 636-227-9660 V/TDD.

Electronic Recycling Events in Bluebird Park

The City is partnering with Adonis Recycling for Electronic Recycling Events in Bluebird Park. Please visit our website at www.ellisville.mo.us for more information including collection dates and item restrictions.



Bluebird Park Amphitheater Renovation Update



The City's landscape architecture firm, Planning Design Studios, is moving forward with the final design for the amphitheater renovation project. This project will construct a roof over the existing amphitheater to protect bands and their equipment from the elements during concerts and other events. Along with the roof construction, this project will also include some electrical upgrades and additional lighting to make the concerts a more enjoyable experience for all. Planning Design Studios has been working through the

preliminary design with the City based on comments and concerns from City staff and the public. Planning Design Studios is planning to complete final design later this summer and receive bids for the project, with construction anticipated later this fall. A preliminary design drawing is shown above. This project is being constructed with the help of a grant through the Municipal Parks Grant Commission that covers 95% of the cost of the improvements. Please contact the Parks and Recreation Director at lblumer@ellisville.mo.us or the Assistant City Engineer at mhartwig@ellisville.mo.us if you have any comments or questions.

Tennis Lessons in Bluebird Park

Tennis lessons will resume at Bluebird Park in July. The lessons will be limited and are subject to change. Lessons are coordinated by tennis professional, Bill Barker: (314) 518-4200

For more information or to register, visit ellisville.mo.us or call (636) 227-7508

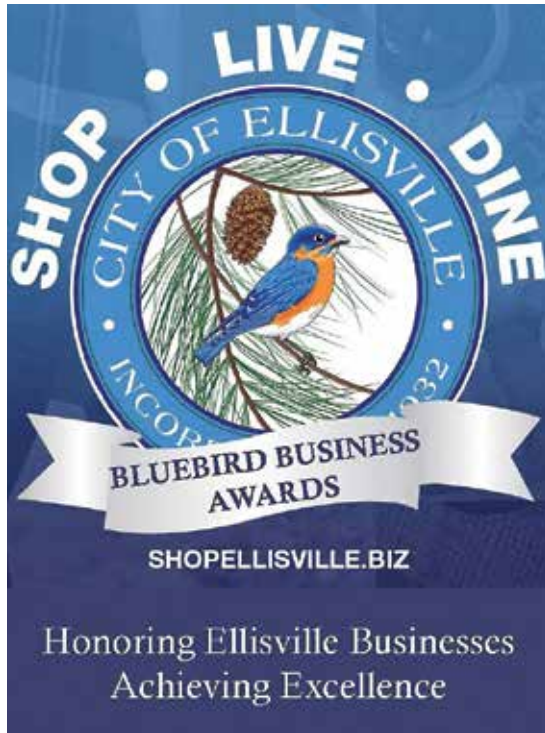


Non-City Sponsored Community Events

The City of Ellisville would like to help you promote your local community events. If you are planning an event within the City of Ellisville, send us your event announcements, and we'll be happy to post it on our City website. Please send your community event announcements to: AJ Jones at ajones@ellisville.mo.us

Job Opening Announcements for Local Businesses

The City of Ellisville would like to help our local businesses get the word out that they are looking to fill immediate employment positions. If you are a business located within the City of Ellisville, send us your job opening announcements, and we'll post it on our City website. Please send your job postings to: AJ Jones at ajones@ellisville.mo.us



ATTEND THE BLUEBIRD BUSINESS AWARDS EVENT

The 2020 Bluebird Awards winners will be honored and celebrated at the Bluebird Business Awards Event on Thursday, November 5, 2020. Reserve your seat or table by October 1, 2020.

The networking alone and connections you'll make through the process and at the event can be most valuable.

BE A SPONSOR:

The deadline for sponsorship is October 1, 2020:

- Bluebird Platinum Level \$2,500
- Robin Diamond Level \$1,500
- Cardinal Gold Level \$750
- Mockingbird Silver Level \$500

2020 BLUEBIRD BUSINESS AWARDS

Do you know of an Ellisville business achieving excellence? Nominate this business for one of the 2020 Bluebird Business Award categories. Accepting applications through October 1, 2020. Submit your nomination (self-nomination is encouraged) on-line at <https://ellisville.mo.us/545/Bluebird-Awards-Program>

Businesses may be nominated for more than one award. A business may only win one category award per year and will not be eligible to win that award again for a period of five years.

BLUEBIRD BUSINESS AWARD CATEGORIES:

Community Spirit/Support Award

For actively creating a positive impact on the community, their workforce and/or the environment

Beautification Award

For most improved/maintained storefront

Ellisville Project of the Year Award

For a project or endeavor that significantly enhances the City of Ellisville and helps create lasting value

Special Recognition for Non-Profits

For Non-Profit organizations serving our businesses

New Entrepreneur Award

For demonstrating a level of entrepreneurial spirit, leadership, perseverance, innovation and determination

Ellisville Business of the Year Award

For demonstrating pride and commitment to its clientele

Legacy of Ellisville Award

For longevity, quality products and/or services, and community service

Big Business of the Year Award

This award recognizes a business or organization that makes significant contributions to the City of Ellisville. Winners contribute in "BIG" ways to our community!

CITY OF ELLISVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020

The City of Ellisville will hold a public hearing to discuss the estimated allocation of \$20,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds which will become available after January 1, 2021. **The public hearing will be held at 3:00 P.M. on Monday, June 15, 2020 at Ellisville City Hall, 1 Weis Avenue, Ellisville, Missouri 63011.**

If restrictions prohibiting gatherings are in place at the time of the hearing, the City will hold the hearing via live videoconference. A link will be available at www.ellisville.mo.us to join the live videoconference.

To further its commitment to fair and equitable treatment of all citizens, the City of Ellisville has enacted and/or enforces the following:

- *A Fair Housing Ordinance* prohibiting unlawful discrimination against any person because of race, sex, color, religion, disability, familial status or national origin;
- *A Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability* in the admission or access to, or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities;
- *A Policy of Equal Opportunity to Participate in Municipal Programs and Services* regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, familial status, national origin, or political affiliation;
- *A requirement for bidding on CDBG activities that promotes* employment opportunities created by HUD funding and that these opportunities be afforded low-income community residents and businesses.

If you would like information regarding the above policies or if you believe you have been unlawfully discriminated against, contact the following municipal official or employee who has been designated to coordinate compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements referenced above. Additionally, if you are unable to attend the public hearing, you may provide written comments regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program to the following municipal official:

LEIGH DOHACK, CITY CLERK
#1 WEIS AVENUE, ELLISVILLE, MO 63011
(636) 227-9660

If you are a person with a disability or have special needs in order to participate in this public hearing, please contact City Clerk Leigh Dohack, no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, June 12, 2020.

For More Information, Call:
(636) 227-9660
1-800-735-2466 RELAY MISSOURI VOICE
1-800-735-2966 RELAY MISSOURI TDD
Equal Opportunity Employer

City of Ellisville
1 Weis Ave.
Ellisville, MO 63011-2192
www.ellisville.mo.us

City Council Directory

Mayor Mike Roemer
16273 Autumn View Terrace Dr.
(314) 479-8988

District 1: Council Members

Vince McGrath
234 Mar-El Ct.
(314) 853-3480

Stephen Chismarich
268 Lemar Park Ct.
(314) 368-8076

District 2: Council Members

Linda Reel
1239 Polo Lake Dr.
(314) 954-0067

Mick Cahill
42 Covert Ln.
(314) 281-4112

District 3: Council Members

Cindy Pool
1536 Virginia Dr.
(314) 757-2316

Dan Duffy
258 Bonnie Ct.
(314) 750-0065

Recycling in Ellisville

The City provides at no charge, weekly recycling services to all single family residences. Collection of recyclable goods is every Wednesday. Recycling containers are provided and are available to pick up at City Hall. Although most household items are acceptable, please note the following will not be accepted in the recycling bins: Motor oil, insecticide, herbicide or hazardous chemical containers, hardcover books, plastic shopping bags (these should be returned to your grocery or department store), plastic sheets, tarps or wrap. Monthly electronic recycling is on the first Thursday of each month at Bluebird Park.

What's Happening in Ellisville? *Subscribe to City News!*

Did you know you can sign up to receive email notifications from the City? Perhaps you'd like to know when the City Council will be meeting next or what's on an upcoming meeting agenda.

Just visit our website at www.ellisville.mo.us and click on "Notify Me" on the right hand side of our home page.

From there you can subscribe to whatever notifications you'd like to receive! You can also sign up to receive text messages from the City.