

City of CREST HILL

Illinois

Raymond R. Soliman
Mayor

1610 PLAINFIELD ROAD, CREST HILL, ILLINOIS 60403 PHONE 815-741-5100

Vicki Hackney
Clerk

April 4, 2020

Glen Conklin
Treasurer

Good Afternoon!

To all of our residents, I hope that you continue to be well and that your families are healthy.

Since the last update, we have seen a tremendous increase in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Will County. As of April 3, 2020, there are 456 confirmed cases throughout Will County that have unfortunately resulted in 11 deaths. The City of Crest Hill is not immune to these numbers and has approximately 6 confirmed cases within the residential areas. As you are aware Stateville Penitentiary is within the boundaries of the City of Crest Hill, however, is under the control of the State of Illinois and the Department of Corrections. The Coronavirus has infected several of the staff and inmates of the penitentiary. The City of Crest Hill does provide sewer and water to Stateville and the Lockport Township Fire District provides services and transportation to our local hospitals. With the contained environment of Stateville Penitentiary, the number of COVID-19 cases has grown rapidly and has probably infected several other people. I certainly wish to extend my thanks to Governor JB Pritzker, Senator Pat McGuire, and Representative Larry Walsh, Jr. for their quick response and actions to this serious issue. Hopefully with the addition of the Illinois National Guard, those affected by the virus will receive the care and support they need now that these infected individuals have been isolated from the general population. I ask for your continued prayers for our first responders especially the Lockport Township Fire District for their safety and health as they continue to serve.

Ward 1
Scott Dyke
John Vershay

Ward 2
Claudia Gazal
Barbara Sklare

Ward 3
Tina Oberlin
Marco Coladipietro

Ward 4
Nate Albert
Joe Kubal

Heather M. McGuire
City Administrator

I want to reassure you that the operations of our Police Department have not changed and calls are being answered as they normally would throughout the entire city. Police Chief Ed Clark has worked diligently in attempting to acquire additional personal protective equipment including n-95 face masks and hand sanitizer. We are taking all the necessary precautions in attempting to keep all of our officers safe and healthy. I am grateful to all of our officers as they continue to provide those essential services to all of our residents while placing their own personal safety and health at risk. Again, if you are in need of the police for non-emergency police calls, please dial 815-741-5111. And, naturally, for all emergencies, dial 911.

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City Hall will remain closed to the general public until April 30, 2020 to be in compliance and coincide with Governor Pritzker’s recent extension of the stay-at-home order. Our April 6, 2020 City Council meeting has been cancelled and I will update you of a future meeting date. Also, our April 8, 2020 Plan Commission meeting and our April 15, 2020 Administrative Hearing has been cancelled. Most of our employees will continue to work from home with our administrative staff rotating personnel to answer phone calls during the day and direct them to the proper office and maintain the day to day operations of their department. Employees of the Public Works department are also rotating to handle any and all street department issues that need to be addressed. I want to assure you that the City-owned wells and treatment plants will continue to be maintained and checked daily by members of the Water and Sewer Department. For all other matters or questions, concerning these City functions, please call 815-741-5100.

You most recently received your March water bill and you will notice that we have extended the date of payment to April 30, 2020 and I will also assure you that there will be no penalties for late payment in regards to this billing cycle. There will also be no water shutoffs for non-payment for the sake of public safety. We will provide water service to all of our residents with no interruptions. We are however noticing an increase in the amount of water usage in our residential areas since the implementation of the stay at home order by Governor Pritzker which included the closing of schools and businesses which went into effect March 21, 2020. This coincides with the additional family members that are home during the day and the increase of handwashing by all family members several times throughout the day. With City Hall closed to the general public, please use the City of Crest Hill drop box which is the white mail box near the front doors of City Hall for any city payments you wish to make. This drop box will be emptied daily by our city staff. Please understand and be patient that there may be some delays in processing your payments.

There have also been some changes made to our garbage services. In working cooperatively with Republic Services, our garbage hauler, effective March 30 until further notice, for the health and safety of their employees, the community, and customers, will be suspending yard waste pickup and bulk waste pickup. They will only accept garbage and recycling containers

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and drivers will not leave their vehicles to pick up waste outside of the cart. For customers who do not have carted services, they will accept waste placed in bags only that does not exceed 50 pounds. We ask for your cooperation to these changes and please contact Republic Services directly with any questions at 815-723-3200.

Ward 1
Scott Dyke
John Vershay

If you are not already registered for the City’s emergency notification program, Smart Message, please sign up at cityofcresthill.com on the residents tab, under the emergency alerts sign up. In addition, you may use this link to sign up:

Ward 2
Claudia Gazal
Barbara Sklare

<https://www.cityofcresthill.com/166/Emergency-Alerts-Sign-Up>

Ward 3
Tina Oberlin
Marco Coladipietro

You will be able to receive alerts from the City on your land line, your cell phone, as a text message or an email.

Ward 4
Nate Albert
Joe Kubal

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City Administrator

Unfortunately, we are noticing scams associated with the Coronavirus starting to appear in our area. It is unfortunate that even during these difficult and challenging times, that there are individuals attempting to take advantage of our residents. I am sure there are many scams emerging and the ones that we have heard about involve heating and air conditioning repair services to clean your heating ducts to claim to remove the virus from your home, the stimulus rebate from the federal government claiming that they need your personal information, and medications including vaccines that claim to protect you from COVID-19. Again, I am sure that there are many more scams evolving so use commons sense and do not provide any of your personal information at any time.

I would also like to address census 2020. If you have not already completed your census questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. It is imperative that you fill out this 10 minute questionnaire, which will provide funding to the City of Crest Hill for the next 10 years. I want to assure you that there are no questions regarding citizenship on the questionnaire. I also want to assure you that all the information that you provide will be kept in strict confidence per federal law. The field workers will resume their duties and will be going door to door for those who did not fill out their questionnaire when it is safe for them to return.

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Many of our local restaurants have remained open for carry outs and curbside pick-ups. I ask for your continued support by patronizing these establishments. I urge all of our small businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis to apply for low interest disaster loans at disasterloan@sba.gov. We have added and updated our list of state, county and local websites which will appear at the conclusion of this press release.

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In conclusion, I ask for your continued cooperation and patience during these difficult and challenging times. I ask for your continued commitment to stay home, stay safe and practice safe social distancing to stay healthy. With everyone’s help and cooperation, we will be able to flatten the curve of the virus as we are approaching the peak time in our area, projected to be in the next few weeks. The city will continue to alert the community via smart message, weekly updates, city website, youtube channel, and community access television channel 6 for Comcast subscribers. Please keep in your prayers all of the individuals who have unfortunately passed away and for all the infected individuals for a quick recovery. I also ask that you please keep all of our first responders, doctors, nurses, and health care providers in your prayers for their health and safety. I will keep all of you in my daily prayers for your health and well-being and May God Bless You and keep you in His Care.



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Police Emergency calls: 911
Non-emergency calls: 815-741-5111
City Hall 815-741-5100

Ward 1
Scott Dyke
John Vershay

Republic Services 815-723-3200 Garbage services

Ward 2
Claudia Gazal
Barbara Sklare

Other Important Information Sites

Senior Services of Will County 815-723-9713 willcountyservices.org

Ward 3
Tina Oberlin
Marco Coladipietro

State of Illinois coronavirus.illinois.gov

Ward 4
Nate Albert
Joe Kubal

Dept. of Public Health http://dph.illinois.gov/covid-19
https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/coronavirus/FAQ/Pages/Stay-At-Home-FAQS.aspx

Heather M. McGuire
City Administrator

DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV

Dept. of Aging https://www2.illinois.gov/aging/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx

Dept. of Commerce https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/default.aspx

Dept. of Revenue https://www2.illinois.gov/rev/Pages/Taxpayer-Resources-during-COVID-19-Coronavirus-Outbreak.aspx

Unemployment Benefits https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/COVID-19-and-Unemployment-Benefits.aspx

Toll free hotline 1-800-889-3931 available 24/7

Small Business Administration disasterloan.sba.gov

Will County Health Department willcountyhealth.org
Willcountyillinois.com/coronavirus-updates