



# City of McHenry

## PRESS RELEASE

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**To:** Media Outlets  
**Release Authorized By:** Derik Morefield, City Administrator  
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### City of McHenry Postpones ShamRocks the Fox Event

Mayor Wayne Jett and the City of McHenry announce the City's annual ShamRocks the Fox event, which was scheduled for this coming weekend, will be postponed due to the risks associated with the COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) outbreak.

The annual ShamRocks the Fox two-day community event was scheduled for this Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Included in this event was a St. Patrick's Day parade, Shamrock Shuffle (5K Run), river dyeing, and a ShamRocks the Fox special event at the Miller Point on Riverside Drive.

As we have monitored the Illinois spread of COVID-19, City Staff has been in regular contact with the McHenry County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the McHenry County Health Department.

On the evening of Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, the McHenry County Health Department, in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 in McHenry County, recommended communities and organizations consider postponing non-essential public events and meetings. In good faith the City of McHenry cannot minimize this recommendation.

This was an extremely difficult decision to make and it is understandable that some are disappointed, but the City must put the safety and welfare of the community before all else. The Mayor, City Administration and City Staff greatly appreciate the community's understanding as we work through this evolving situation.

While the City sponsored event is being postponed, private businesses may make the decision to remain open. Being conscious of the impact the City's decision may have on businesses in the downtown business district, the City is allowing the open carry of alcoholic beverages in the Downtown Business District between Riverside Drive and Green Street during the following dates/times:

- Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 11:00AM to 6:00PM
- Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 12:00PM to 6:00PM

As always one of the goals of the City of McHenry is to facilitate the holding of public events that benefit our residents, businesses and visitors alike. City Staff is actively discussing the logistics of holding this event sometime later in the year as we recognize its value to our community.

The City of McHenry would like to further remind the community to take preventive measure when out celebrating St. Patrick's Day over this next week. The CDC provides the following recommendations regarding public gatherings.

- Older adults and people with serious chronic medical conditions like; heart disease, diabetes and lung disease should avoid public gatherings where their risk of exposure is higher.

- If you are experiencing Flu like symptoms or are sick make a decision to stay home and away from community gatherings.
- Clean and wash your hands often. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Utilize Social Distancing techniques when out in public. Avoid close contact with people who are sick by putting distance between yourself and other people.
- Stay home if you're sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.

We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday week.

Follow-up questions can be directed to City Administrator Derik Morefield at 815-363-2108