

# From the Office of Mayor Cyril Kleem



March 17, 2020

Dear Residents of Berea:

I want to assure you that your City leaders are working hard to ensure that vital City services remain available during this unprecedented public health crisis. We are in constant contact with the Department of Emergency Management and carefully monitor recommendations and orders from the CDC, Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health.

It was a difficult decision to temporarily close the Recreation Center and Active Senior Network. However, it is clear that based upon my understanding of the science of pandemics, this drastic action is necessary in order to better protect the well-being of the public.

**During these trying times, I am asking that you regularly check on your neighbors and friends—especially those over age 65 or those with other chronic health issues. Never before has the word “community” meant more to Bereans.**

In the coming days I may ask for your help in assisting us in addressing the needs of our most vulnerable residents. Until then, please follow the directives provided by Governor Mike DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton of the Ohio Department of Health.

I can't predict what will happen in the next few days or weeks. But it is clear that we must pull together as a community to take care of each other.

Here are a few updates about your City services during this crisis.

While most City departments will remain operational during this crisis, it is possible that employees may be working off-site. **Therefore, I am asking that you call (440) 826-5800 before coming to City Hall.** Most services will be available by appointment only.

Visitors to Berea City Hall and the Berea Municipal Court will be asked screening questions by the security officers before entering. If they have reason to believe that you may have been exposed to the coronavirus or have traveled to parts of the world experiencing an outbreak, you will not be permitted into the building. However, you will be provided with written information about how to interface with the City.

1. The Recreation Center is closed until further notice.
2. The Active Senior Network and other senior programs are cancelled.
3. The Berea Police Department's Junior Police Officer for a Day is postponed.

4. The Senior Wheels Program is limited to non-routine medical visits. The City reserves the right to decline service to anyone exhibiting symptoms of the Coronavirus. For more information call 440-826-4891.
5. The Food Pantry at Smith School is open. However, there may be changes to how food is selected and packaged. Drive-up service may be available. Please call Berea Community Outreach at 440-826-4891 or email [nguzzo@cityofberea.org](mailto:nguzzo@cityofberea.org) for more information.
6. The Water Billing office will remain open for telephone calls only. Water bill payments may be made online, through the mail or by using the drop box located between the double-doors at the entrance of Berea City Hall.
7. The Service Department will not respond to private homes to provide sewer clean-out services.
8. The Building and Engineering Departments remains open, but please call ahead to schedule an appointment. Walk-in service will be restricted.
9. Motor vehicle accident reports are now available on line. <http://www.cityofberea.org/616/Police-Accident-Reports>.

Contact information for City staff is at <http://www.cityofberea.org/Directory.aspx>.

If you have any questions or problems, please email or call a member of my staff. We remain ready to provide assistance to the residents of Berea during this unprecedeted emergency.

I will provide daily updates on both the City's Facebook page and the City's webpage.

Stay well,

**Cyril**