

TOWN OF FERDINAND  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 16, 2022

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, in the Ferdinand Town Hall. Present were Council President, Ken Sicard; Vice-President, Debbie Johnson; Council Member, Ron Weyer; and Clerk-Treasurer, Tamara Miller.

Ron moved to approve the Minutes of the July 19, 2022 Council Meeting. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Department head reports (attached) were distributed to the Council prior to the meeting.

Kerri Blessinger, Police Chief, reported for her first official meeting. She is getting up to speed, getting to know the Ferdinand officers, and meeting with the local leaders in the surrounding communities and the prosecutor's office.

John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, stated the Fireman's Ball was a success and thanked all who supported the event by attending and buying raffle tickets.

Todd Fischer, Electric Superintendent, reported that Dean Gogel gave his resignation stating his last day is August 26, 2022 and requested permission to advertise for the open position. Ken moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Fischer requested permission for him and one other electric employee to attend the IMMEA conference in Michigan City on October 12 & 13, 2022 including hotel and travel. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Fischer requested the Town become a member of the American Public Power Association at a cost of \$1,000 for the first year. Ron moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Steve Lechner reported for the Water/Wastewater Department. The department requested the purchase of a new Refrigerated Sampler Bundle at a cost of \$7,620.80 to replace the current unit that is no longer working. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve Chris James and Ken Sicard to attend the AIM conference at French Lick on November 2-4, 2022 at a cost of \$345 per person. Debbie may choose to attend selected sessions that week. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ken moved to allow Brinkman to move forward with the preliminary evaluation of the Ferdinand WWTP headworks by Midwest Engineering at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ed Cole with Dubois Strong gave an update on the community actions. He stated the Dubois County Innovators meeting will be held September 15, 2022, 5:15 pm -7:30 pm at the Thyen-Clerk Cultural Center in Jasper. He stated that John Wetzel with Midwest Engineers will be reporting on the Patoka Lake Expansion at the end of August.

Sicard moved that the Town use the CDC streamlined COVID-19 guidance released on August 11, 2022 (attached) for Town employees. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Miller will distribute the guidance to all employees.

Debbie moved to allow the Water/Wastewater Department to advertise for the Water/Wastewater open position in September. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard has contacted another potential new member of the Economic Development Commission. He is waiting to hear if they will accept the position

Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2022-26, an Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No. 96-07 An Ordinance Establishing the Town of Ferdinand, Indiana Disaster Recovery Plan. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Miller gave an update on the outstanding utility accounts receivables stating the balance continues to show improvement. Miller plans to look into the TRECS (Tax Refund and Exchange Compliance System) program to collect outstanding balances greater than 90 days.

At 7:00 pm the Budget Hearing was held. Miller stated the Advertised 2023 Budget is \$2,297,790 (2022 was \$2,188,632) with an adopted tax rate of .7527 (2022 adopted rate was .7669) per \$100 of assessed value of \$124,606,109 (2022 was \$115,799,270). The Maximum Levy is \$948,881 (2022 was \$897,647) an increase of 5.7%. The 2023 Budget Form 3 was posted on Gateway and is available at [www.budgetnotices.in.gov](http://www.budgetnotices.in.gov). The 2023 budget adoption meeting will be Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. Miller addressed several questions posed by William Keller, a Ferdinand resident. There being no further discussion. Debbie moved to close the hearing. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie expressed having considerable reservations as to whether or not the commission was necessary and Ron Weyer echoed those same reservations, notwithstanding those concerns, Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2022-27, an Ordinance Creating and Establishing the Ferdinand Historic

Preservation Commission, at the meeting it was introduced. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Lueken stated that Calcar will begin the CCMG 2021-02 and CCMG 2022-01 road projects the week of August 31, 2022 or the week after depending on the weather. During this time, Calcar will fix the road in Country Ridge Estates at no cost to the Town. At the September Council meeting, the plan is for the Town to accept the Country Ridge Estates roadway into the Town's road inventory.

Miller requested permission to advertise the Notice to Taxpayers for an Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2022-28, appropriating \$363,843 from the Community Crossing Grant Fund for capital outlays. The amount represents the CCMG 2021-02 and CCMG 2022-01 grants received to resurface sections of streets throughout Ferdinand. Ron moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Miller stated three Community Crossing Matching Grant applications were submitted on August 10, 2022 totaling nearly \$600,000 with the Town's commitment being just under \$150,000. Universal Design Associates provided the detail cost estimates. The three applications include:

- 1) Culvert Replacement-Vienna Drive from 21st Street to East 22nd Street – Small Structure Replacement at an estimated cost of \$415,867.50
- 2) 13th Street from Main Street to Maryland Street – Pavement Replacement at an estimated cost of \$67,221.22
- 3) 22nd Street from Maple to Vienna & Maryland Street from 3rd Street to 4th Street – HMA Overlay Minor Structural at an estimated cost of \$116,765.96

Lueken stated that the plan for the 330 Maryland Street parking lot is to have Calcar pave the parking area while Calcar is in town later this month for the CCMG paving projects. Lueken stated the estimated paving cost is within the budget for the 330 Maryland Street property.

Miller stated the ARPA funds used to date have been for the Old Town Lake restroom building. We will receive \$254,615.57 on 8/17/2022. The total funds received will be \$508,271.01.

Miller recommended the acceptance of the London Witte Group Rate Study proposal in the amount not to exceed \$22,500 for electric, water and sewer. Sicard added the Town will be doing rate studies more frequently than in the past. Debbie moved to allow Miller to sign the acceptance letter. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Midwest Engineers is currently working on the Non-Potable Permit Renewal.

Debbie stated the Town has purchased 90 lighted Christmas decorations for \$75 each (10% of the new decoration price of \$750 each) from the town of Rosemont. She requested the Ratification

of the Decorative Banner Retrieval Expense which included two employees' travel to Rosemont, a one-night stay at a hotel and trailer rental. Ron moved to approve the request. Ken seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Ron Weyer stated that Ferdinand residents have expressed interest in donating to the Christmas decoration project. The banners are still being designed. With the help of Kathy Tretter, the Town has applied for a grant from the Dubois County Community Foundation to help cover the cost of decorations. The existing decorations will be sold to another community that needs them.

Personnel Policy changes agenda item was tabled to allow the Council to review.

The sewer tap-in fee for the Klem home on 5<sup>th</sup> street has been received and the Klem's plumber plans to do the required connection by the September 1, 2022 deadline.

Ordinance 2022-29 was introduced, An Ordinance Amending Salary Ordinance 2021-22 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand. Christian Gogel's new job title: Assistant Chief; new rate of pay \$25.00 plus \$1.00 for acting as Assistant Chief; change to day shift. Robert Randle's new job title: Administrative Commander; new rate of pay \$27.80 which includes \$0.80 for acting as Administrative Commander; remains on day shift. Brian Seffernick; Rank: Major; remains on day shift; no change to salary. Rayce Jones will change from regular shift to night; salary remains at \$20.00 per hour and due to shift to night will receive an additional \$1.00 per hour. All other members of the department have no changes. Chief Blessinger stated Randle, Gogel and Blessinger will cover the third shift when necessary due to vacations. The amendment is effective as of August 26, 2022. Debbie moved to adopt the Ordinance, at the meeting it was introduced. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The Dog Issues agenda item is still being reviewed.

Ron moved to pay regular claims. Debbie seconded. Motioned carried 3-0.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	September 20, 2022 at 6:30 PM
Town Council Budget Adoption	Tuesday	September 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM
BZA	Wednesday	August 24, 2022 at 6:30 PM-Cancelled
Plan Commission	Wednesday	August 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM-Cancelled
Park Board	Wednesday	September 14, 2022 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Comm.	Monday	October 24, 2022 at 6:00 PM

As there was no further business to discuss, Debbie moved to adjourn. Ron seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL

Tamara M Miller  
Clerk-Treasurer

Kew Sinal

Ron Wj

Deva Jensen



Ferdinand Est. 1905

Police Department

243 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street Ferdinand, Indiana 47532

Phone: 812-367-1806 / Fax: 812-998-2094

Chief of Police: Kerri Blessinger

Assistant Chief: Brian Seffernick

I was sworn in on August 1, 2022. I am familiarizing myself with departmental policy and procedure. I have set several meetings with area agencies as well as central dispatch. I look forward to having a positive working relationship with other emergency services.

We are currently working on upgrading (reprogramming) our portable radios to be functioning on the 800 megahertz system. Several radios have been reprogrammed in order to test the radio capability and service in the town of Ferdinand.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerri Blessinger, Chief

# Ferdinand Police Department

243 W 10th Street, Ferdinand Indiana 47532

Phone: 812-367-1806 / Fax: 812-998-2094

Chief of Police: Kerri Blessinger

Assistant Chief: Brian Seffernick

Total Calls For Service		Calls For Service Report July 2022 	
Miles Driven	209		
Total Gallons	3804		
Average MPG	387.8		
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm	8	Missing Person Adult/Child	1
Animal Complaint	3	Parking Violation	4
Assist Other Agency	17	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	1
Battery/ Assault	0	Protective/Restraining Order	1
Burglary (attempted)	0	Prowler (report of)	0
Burning Complaint	0	Report to Station	0
Child Abuse/Neglect	0	Return Messages	16
Civil Matter /Dispute	4	State Dispatch	27
Citizen Assist	6	Scam	0
Debris in Roadway	0	Security Check	0
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	4	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	0
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	2	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	7
Drug Complaint	0	Theft	3
Domestic Problem	0	Traffic Control	1
Escort	5	Traffic Warnings	33
Eviction	0	Traffic Citations	6
Extra Patrol	0	Trespassing	0
Fight	0	Threats/ Intimidation	0
Finger Printing	0	Vandalism	0
Fire	2	Vehicle Accident	14
General Information	21	Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	0
Gun Permit	0	Vehicle Check	2
Harassment	0	Vehicle Lock Out	9
Hazardous/ Not Chemical	0	Warrant	1
Investigation	4	Weather Related Problems	0
Identity Theft	0	Welfare Check	2
Illegal Dumping	0	911 false calls	2
Intoxicated Person	0		0
Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway	2		
Lines/ Poles Down	0		
Lost/ Stolen License Plate	1		
Mental Subject	0		



## FERDINAND POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Complaint Type	Kerri	Brian	Rob	Tom	Christian	Joshua	Rayce	Kyle							Total
Mental Subject															0
Missing Person Adult/Child		1													1
Parking Violation				3			1								4
Property Lost/Found/Recovered					1										1
Protective/Restraining Order						1									1
Prowler															0
Report To Station															0
Return Messages		8		4			4								16
State Dispatch		4	3	9		5	6								27
Scam															0
School Check															0
Suicide/or a Suicidal person															0
Suspicious Person/Vehicle			2		2	2	1								7
Theft							3								3
Traffic Control							1								1
Traffic Warnings		1	4	20		7	1								33
Traffic Citations				2		3	1								6
Trespassing															0
Threats/ Intimidation															0
Vandalism															0
Vehicle Accident		1	3	3	3	1	3								14
Vehicle Accident Leaving The Scene															0
Vehicle Check		1		1											2
Vehicle Lock Out		1		2		3	3								9
Warrant		1													1
Weather Related Problems															0
Welfare Check				1	1										2
911 False Calls			1		1										2
															0
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>209</b>						
Miles Driven		295	675	1148	433	843	410								3804
Total Gallons		16	84.3	106.7	42.5	113	25.3								387.8
Average MPG	#VALUE!	18.438	8.0071	10.76	10.1882	7.460177	16.20553	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	#VALUE!					9.81



## **FERDINAND FIRE DEPT.**

221 E. Fourth St. P.O. Box 31

Ferdinand, IN 47532

### **2022 Summary of Incidents**

	<b>FIRE</b>	<b>EMR</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>				
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
<b>DECEMBER</b>				

**We would like to thank everyone for supporting us at our Firemen's Ball.**

## **Electric Department Report**

Aug. 16, 2022

- Dean turned in his two week notice- his last day is August 26
- one unplanned outage
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> St. 30 min caused by animal
- Pole changeouts
  - East side of main street
- Continuing tree pruning and removal of danger trees
- Main street lighting from 18<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Layout locations and base setting to begin running lines



Town of Ferdinand  
2065 Main Street  
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007  
Phone 812-367-2280  
Fax 812-367-1303  
E-mail: [twnofferdinand@psci.net](mailto:twnofferdinand@psci.net)  
[www.ferdinandindiana.org](http://www.ferdinandindiana.org)

---

# Town Council Meeting

August 16, 2022

We continued working on right-of-way mowing and weed control. With the unusual rain we are having for this time of the year this will be for a while longer.

Dugout the area along the parking lot at the firehouse and compacting the needed stone in the area where the parking lot is proposed to be extended. Also working on preparing the rest of the property for seeding and straw.

Had the roof repaired on the EMS/ Attorney's office building. We need to replace some ceiling tiles. After the repair was made, we had couple rains now if we see the leaks stopped in all areas. We will replace the damaged tiles.

## OLD BUSINESS

## NEW BUSINESS

CCMG update 2021-02 and 2022-01 the planned start date [August 31st](#). Or the following week. I got an update [August 12th](#). The contractor said the unusual rain set is setting them back.

CCMG 2022-02 Projects have been submitted.

330 Maryland House- parking lot update prep for pavement we did Calcar said the 25' x 100' would take approximately 75 tons of mix placement of pavement in this area cost estimate while in Town is \$10,000

Country Ridge Estates last month meeting we were going to wait until repairs were made to the cul-de-sac and this will be done when they start on CCMG projects.

*Visit us for a day. Join us for a lifetime.*

KENNETH SICARD, President  
TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member  
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager



Town of Ferdinand  
2065 Main Street  
PO Box 7  
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007  
Phone 812-367-2280  
Fax 812-367-1303  
[twnofferdinand@psci.net](mailto:twnofferdinand@psci.net)

---

**Water:**

MRO's Filed with IDEM

Three Water leaks this month totaling 160,000 gals lost

July 19<sup>th</sup> 802 W 23<sup>rd</sup> 2 leaks

July 30<sup>th</sup> 2645 Leaf Drive

August 8<sup>th</sup> 802 W 23<sup>rd</sup>

Wrapping up finals on Hidden Meadows subdivision

Remove fire Hydrants

Cap and plug mains

Turn fire hydrants the correct direction

Repaint bonnets and caps

Flushing to begin on September 6<sup>th</sup> and carry on till further notice

**Wastewater:**

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Non-Potable Water

Pump is in and tank is filling

Lab tests to be sent out in the next week for first use

Head Works

Midwest Engineering cost for engineer survey -\$10,000

Refrigerator Sampler is down

Using ice to keep sample chilled at the time per IDEM request

Needing Cost approval for new refrigerator sampler: will have quote Monday 8/15

**In a separate note,**

**Education:**

Ben will be in Ft Wayne August 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> for IWEA Wastewater Exam Prep Course

Clint is in his 4<sup>th</sup> week of his exam prep course for his Wastewater Class II Certification

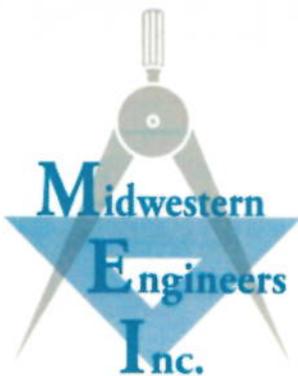
Kyle is in his 5<sup>th</sup> week of his exam prep course for his Water DSS Certification

Ben and Debbie virtual Water Summit September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

**Open Position:**

Asking to put ads out on open position starting September 1<sup>st</sup>  
Post position as apprentice

Ben Brinkman  
Water/Wastewater Superintendent



*Quality Engineering Services Since 1959*

**Consultants • Mechanical • Electrical • Civil**

JOHN W. WEITZEL, PE.  
R. DERICK WIGGINS, PE.

MARK M. SULLIVAN, PE.  
ALAN F. BURCH, PE.  
CLINT W. ROOS, P.E.

NATHAN J. WALKER, P.L.S.  
BRANDON A. PARKER, P.L.S.

August 11, 2022

Ferdinand Wastewater Department  
543 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 7  
Ferdinand, IN 47532  
Attn: Mr. Benjamin J. Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Superintendent

Re: Ferdinand WWTP Headworks  
Preliminary Evaluation

Dear Mr. Brinkman:

As requested, we have prepared a scope of work and fee proposal for a preliminary evaluation of the Ferdinand WWTP headworks. This proposal is based upon the following preliminary scope of services:

### **ENGINEERING SCOPE OF WORK**

#### **PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING SERVICES**

- Review of the hydraulic conditions and capacity of the existing headworks structure.
  - Review of WWTP record drawings prepared by others, monthly reports of operation (MRO's), and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) reports
  - Review of available design summary submitted for the 1999 WWTP improvements project IDEM construction permit by others
  - Evaluate capacity of existing raw water pump station and force main hydraulics to raw sewage diversion structure and EQ basin storage and hydraulics
  - Review capacity of existing screen and grit removal structures as well as EQ basin storage
- Conduct flow monitoring of the 20" raw wastewater influent sewer coming into the headworks structure.
  - Install and monitor area/velocity flow meter of influent sewer from MH #2 (this should be installed during low flow and monitored during the wet time of the year)
  - Compare peak influent flows to the pumping, screening, and grit removal process capacities
- The evaluation shall include:
  - Improvement alternatives to address backups/overflows that have been experienced in the headworks structure including:
    - Conceptual drawings of improvements alternatives
    - Probable construction and non-construction costs

802 W. BROADWAY ST. • P.O. BOX 295 • LOOGOOTEE, IN 47553 • P: 812-295-2800  
6809 CORPORATE DRIVE • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46278 • P: 317-334-0262  
meinc@midwesterneng.com • www.midwesterneng.com

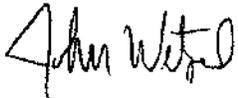
- Onsite meetings with Superintendent to discuss existing deficiencies and proposed improvements
- Attend Town Council meetings to present findings

Midwestern Engineers, Inc. proposes a fee for this work to be based on an hourly basis including reimbursable expenses not to exceed \$10,000.00. If agreeable, we can provide an agreement for our Engineering Services at your convenience.

Please note that this preliminary evaluation will be a tool to determine next steps and project magnitude, however, a complete Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) may be needed to apply for state or federal funding of a construction project. State or federal financing may include the State Revolving Fund (SRF) or USDA Rural Development that will require specific report format requirements.

We look forward to working with you on this project. Should you have questions or need clarification please advise. Thank you for your continued confidence in Midwestern Engineers, Inc.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**MIDWESTERN ENGINEERS, INC.**



John W. Wetzel, P.E.  
President & Sr. Project Engineer



## PARKS DEPARTMENT TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

*August 2022*

### **General Park Report**

- The park board met on August 10, 2022.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park
  - The board approved the planting of trees along the north-south service road at the MasterBrand Complex. Trees are being ordered and will be planted later this year.
- Old Town Lake
  - The SWCD Invasive Species Awareness Coalition is meeting this week 8/25 at 6:00 pm at the Old Town lake to learn more about the various invasive plants at the property. A future work day will be planned following the meeting to rid the park of many of these species. Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings
  - The restroom/storage building construction continues. The structure is taking shape after several weather delays this past month. The park and trails will remain open during the summer. The area is fenced off, and the public is requested to remain out of the construction area.

Matthew Weyer  
August 14, 2022



Town of Ferdinand  
2065 Main Street  
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007  
Phone 812-367-2280  
Fax 812-367-1303  
E-mail: [twnofferdinand@psci.net](mailto:twnofferdinand@psci.net)  
[www.ferdinandindiana.org](http://www.ferdinandindiana.org)

---

## TOWN MANAGER TALKING POINTS FOR AUGUST 16, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING

1 – Preparations for the 2022 Ferdinand Folk Festival are moving into high gear, as we are one month and one day away from our 12<sup>th</sup> annual event! The artist line-up has been announced and we are sending out vendor information packets to all who have signed up to this point. We are still accepting vendors through August 31st, at which time the window closes for this year. Promotional posters are also being placed throughout Ferdinand and surrounding communities to provide extra publicity. I also encourage everyone to visit the newly revamped and improved Folk Festival website. Many thanks to Aaron Trafton for his efforts in the reboot. As our next meeting falls after the Folk Fest, please accept this invitation to visit 18<sup>th</sup> Street Park on Saturday September 17.

2 – Tomorrow night marks the graduation ceremony for the 2022 Dubois County Leadership Academy. Activities will start at 6pm in the Theater Room of the CTIM building on the VUJ Campus. All three teams have done excellent work on their Capstone Projects and I am looking forward to their group presentations. A total of 12 participants will be graduating. Thanks to the corporate sponsors for encouraging their employees to take part: Kimball International, MasterBrand Cabinets, German American, Vincennes University Jasper, French Lick Resort, Old National, Meyer Distributing, Springs Valley Bank & Trust, Dubois County Corrections, cities of Jasper and Huntingburg.

*Visit us for a day. Join us for a lifetime.*

KENNETH SICARD, President  
TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member  
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager

3 – I want to offer a public thank you to Grace Schuetter and Gabey Gray, who did a great job with our Summer Park & Rec program this summer. They are seniors at Forest Park High School and destined for big things in the future. On a related note, it has been decided to press pause on the Park and Rec program for 2023. Lower than expected attendance numbers the past years, combined with increasing costs have led to this difficult decision. The monetary savings can then be utilized in other areas within the Park Department. Should public sentiment request bringing back the program, it would do so in 2024.

*Visit us for a day. Join us for a lifetime.*

**KENNETH SICARD, President**  
**TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer**

**DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member**  
**SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney**

**RONALD WEYER, Member**  
**CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager**

# CDC streamlines COVID-19 guidance to help the public better protect themselves and understand their risk

## Press Release

Embargoed Until: Thursday, August 11, 2022, 3:00 PM ET

Contact: Media Relations

(404) 639-3286

Today, CDC is streamlining its COVID-19 guidance to help people better understand their risk, how to protect themselves and others, what actions to take if exposed to COVID-19, and what actions to take if they are sick or test positive for the virus. COVID-19 continues to circulate globally, however, with so many tools available to us for reducing COVID-19 severity, there is significantly less risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death compared to earlier in the pandemic.

"We're in a stronger place today as a nation, with more tools—like vaccination, boosters, and treatments—to protect ourselves, and our communities, from severe illness from COVID-19," said Greta Massetti, PhD, MPH, MMWR author. "We also have a better understanding of how to protect people from being exposed to the virus, like wearing high-quality masks, testing, and improved ventilation. This guidance acknowledges that the pandemic is not over, but also helps us move to a point where COVID-19 no longer severely disrupts our daily lives."

In support of this update CDC is:

- Continuing to promote the importance of being up to date with vaccination to protect people against serious illness, hospitalization, and death. Protection provided by the current vaccine against symptomatic infection and transmission is less than that against severe disease and diminishes over time, especially against the currently circulating variants. For this reason, it is important to stay up to date, especially as new vaccines become available.
- Updating its guidance for people who are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines on what to do if exposed to someone with COVID-19. This is consistent with the existing guidance for people who are up to date on COVID-19 vaccines.
- Recommending that instead of quarantining if you were exposed to COVID-19, you wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5.
- Reiterating that regardless of vaccination status, you should isolate from others when you have COVID-19.
  - You should also isolate if you are sick and suspect that you have COVID-19 but do not yet have test results.
    - If your results are positive, follow CDC's full isolation recommendations.
    - If your results are negative, you can end your isolation.
- Recommending that if you test positive for COVID-19, you stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home. You are likely most infectious during these first 5 days. Wear a high-quality mask when you must be around others at home and in public.
  - If after 5 days you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication, and your symptoms are improving, or you never had symptoms, you may end isolation after day 5.
  - Regardless of when you end isolation, avoid being around people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 until at least day 11.
  - You should wear a high-quality mask through day 10.
- Recommending that if you had moderate illness  (if you experienced shortness of breath or had difficulty breathing) or severe illness  (you were hospitalized) due to COVID-19 or you have a weakened immune system, you need to isolate through day 10.
- Recommending that if you had severe illness  or have a weakened immune system, consult your doctor before ending isolation. Ending isolation without a viral test may not be an option for you. If you are unsure if your symptoms are moderate or severe or if you have a weakened immune system, talk to a healthcare provider for further guidance.

- Clarifying that after you have ended isolation, if your COVID-19 symptoms worsen, restart your isolation at day 0. Talk to a healthcare provider if you have questions about your symptoms or when to end isolation.
- Recommending screening testing of asymptomatic people without known exposures will no longer be recommended in most community settings.
- Emphasizing that physical distance is just one component of how to protect yourself and others. It is important to consider the risk in a particular setting, including local COVID-19 Community Levels and the important role of ventilation, when assessing the need to maintain physical distance.

Actions to take will continue to be informed by the COVID-19 Community Levels, launched in February. CDC will continue to focus efforts on preventing severe illness and post-COVID conditions, while ensuring everyone have the information and tools, they need to lower their risk.

This updated guidance is intended to apply to community settings. In the coming weeks CDC will work to align stand-alone guidance documents, such as those for healthcare settings, congregate settings at higher risk of transmission, and travel, with today's update.

###

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES 

*CDC works 24/7 protecting America's health, safety and security. Whether disease start at home or abroad, are curable or preventable, chronic or acute, or from human activity or deliberate attack, CDC responds to America's most pressing health threats. CDC is headquartered in Atlanta and has experts located throughout the United States and the world.*

Page last reviewed: August 11, 2022