

Village of Summit, IL.

Spring 2020

Founded in 1890

THE SUMMIT

A Village on the Rise



FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR SERGIO RODRIGUEZ

As we have seen and heard in recent months the threat of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has made it to Illinois. While we have no known confirm cases within the Village of Summit; in order to prevent the spread of the virus, I would like all residents to **take the necessary steps to keep themselves and especially the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions safe.** Please avoid large crowds and practice social distancing. **If you do not have to go out, please do not do so.** As you now know, our Governor Pritzker issued an Executive Order requiring all Illinoisans to stay in their homes to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 starting March 21ST through April 7TH. (With the possibility of this order continuing for a longer period of time.) The order prohibits things like visiting the homes of friends and holding gathering of any size, while also closing all non-essential establishments. (This includes most retail, recreation and entertainment businesses.) It does not prohibit essential activities like going to grocery stores, gas stations, receiving medical care, going for a walk, or taking your pet for a walk. For a full list go to www.coronavirus.illinois.gov.

In the Village of Summit, **our first responders are on duty.** As for the Village offices, **our offices are closed, but we have someone in the office to answer calls from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Residents can call if they have any questions or concerns. Remember in emergencies please call 911. At this time, we have suspended street parking violations due to people staying home or working from home. **Water / Ticket Payments can be done as follows:**

-Drop Box (59TH Street Location only): Checks Only. No Cash Payments while the office is closed.

-Online: www.summit-il.org - Water Payment: Click on "Pay My Bill" (Questions - please call the Water Department) Tickets: Click on Police Department and then click on "Ticket Payments" (Questions - please call the Police non-emergency number)

We are suspending all late fees / penalties for utility services offered by the village until further notice. We do not want people feeling they have to leave their homes and coming to the office or drop off bills, they can wait.

It is essential that we adhere to the recommendations and warnings from the professionals. **It needs to be stressed especially to those that do not show any symptoms that they may still be carriers, and while it may not harm them it can be deadly to others.**

We as a Village **will continue to serve and protect the public;** but in our efforts, we need the support and cooperation from all our residents. Several of our businesses have made a great sacrifice by shutting down and I applaud them for following through and cooperating with the Governor's Executive Order - thinking of the safety of the public first. Something like this has never been seen before, and it is a constantly evolving situation. I wish I had better news, but at this time **we will all need to do what is recommended to be safe and look out for one another.** It is a time that will bring hardship to many and change the way we are accustomed to living our lives for the moment. **Making some sacrifices now will keep the virus from spreading and hopefully bring this crisis do an end sooner rather than later.**

If you find yourself or someone you know needing assistances to obtain basic necessities during this time please contact the Village at (708) 563-4800. We have also created a Village of Summit Facebook page to ensure residents are provided with up-to-date and reliable information that can assist you and your family during these challenging and unprecedented times. Included in this newsletter is important information and resources you should all be aware of. **We will get through this, together, and please know we are here to assist in any way.** Village Main Number: (708) 563-4800

Department of Public Works: (708) 563-4809

Water Department: (708) 563-4817

Building Department: (708) 563-4809

Police non-emergency: (708) 563-8112



The Argo General Hospital in 1909 was the busiest emergency facility in suburban Cook County. The hospital remained until 1940 when the IHB underpass was built.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COVID-19 Symptoms..	2
Unemployment	3
Social Distancing.....	4
Help for Residents.....	5
Business Help	5
Info for Residents	7

Newsletter timelines:

- January - Winter Edition
- April - Spring Edition
- July - Summer Edition
- October - Fall Edition



The Official Publication of the Village of Summit



CENSUS 2020 - EVERYONE COUNTS!

By now, you should have received a postcard invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. **Don't throw it out! Follow the directions and complete the Census!** Those who don't answer will then receive the traditional paper form in the mail.

BE COUNTED.



HAZTE CONTAR.



This is an enormous undertaking that could have dramatic ramifications for our village. **It is important that every Summit resident be counted so our village population accurately reflects our needs.** The information provided by the census is used to shape communities, identify where schools, senior centers, health clinics, public transportation and fire stations are needed - all things that provide for a better future.

The 2020 U.S Census is a priority, **so why not take a few minutes to complete while practicing social distancing at home! The Village of Summit's Response Rate is currently just 17.7%. Please respond to the Census!** The time is now to make investments for our future and make sure that everyone is counted. For more information, visit www.illinois2020.com.

KNOW THE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

With coronavirus literally in the air, some medical symptoms are causing extra worry. And rightfully so. If you have COVID-19, you want medical guidance on how to help yourself heal while keeping those around you from infection.

Our healthcare providers are going to be stretched thin over the coming weeks, though. Familiarize yourself with the symptoms of various respiratory illnesses, so you know whether to call for help – or ride out allergy season.

CORONAVIRUS

- FEVER
- COUGH
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH, OR DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- SYMPTOMS APPEAR 2-14 DAYS AFTER EXPOSURE

FLU

- FEVER
- COUGH
- MUSCLE ACHES
- FATIGUE & WEAKNESS
- CHILLS & SWEATS
- CONGESTION
- SORE THROAT

ALLERGIES

- SNEEZING
- ITCHY NOSE, EYES, ROOF OF THE MOUTH
- RUNNY, STUFFY NOSE
- WATERY, RED OR SWOLLEN EYES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

With its symptoms of high fever, cough and body aches - and its potential to be severe - the coronavirus has drawn comparisons to the flu. However, make no mistake: **The new coronavirus is no flu.** Even though both are spread through respiratory droplets, the coronavirus is affecting people with far more severity and rapidity than the flu. The coronavirus is also shaping up to be much more deadly than the flu, especially among the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

With everyone on edge about COVID-19, many patients are asking whether they have the virus. The hallmark symptoms of COVID-19 are distinct, but some of the milder symptoms may be more subtle. **The symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, dry cough and shortness of breath. However, fever is not always present.** In contrast, patients with colds or allergies won't have a fever and typically won't have shortness of breath.

If you are concerned that you may have the coronavirus - especially if you develop a fever along with a cough or difficulty breathing - call your healthcare provider. Your physician's office will likely put you in touch with a COVID-19 hotline.

The statewide COVID-19 hotline is experiencing high call volumes and long-wait times. Several jurisdictions have established COVID-19 hotlines to address questions in their localities. For your records, the **Cook County Health Department can be contacted at (708) 633-3319 or by email at ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org**

If your symptoms are mild, it's important not to go to the emergency room, because hospitals need the space and the staff to treat people who are severely ill with COVID-19. You also don't want to risk spreading the virus to others if you do have it. **Call your healthcare provider first if you plan to go into the office.**

It can be hard to live with the unknowns, especially when stress related to the coronavirus and to self-isolation abounds. The lack of testing puts a lot of people in limbo, unsure of how much to separate themselves from others. While self-isolation and physical distancing is hard, it's vital for the health of others.

Source: Chicago Health

CHECKS ARE ON THE WAY FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

All Village of Summit residents who have Social Security numbers and with an adjusted gross income of up to \$75,000 (\$150,000 for married couples) will get a \$1,200 (\$2,400 for couples) "rebate" payment. They are also eligible for an additional \$500 per child younger than age 17. The payments will start phasing out for earners above those income thresholds and will not go to single filers earning more than \$99,000; head-of-household filers with one child, more than \$146,500; and more than \$198,000 for joint filers with no children. **Money is expected to go out via direct deposit or by check by April 6.**

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Summit residents who are unemployed will get an extra \$600 per week and unemployment insurance for up to four months, on top of state unemployment benefits to make up for 100% of lost wages. Part-time, self-employed and gig economy workers now have access to unemployment insurance benefits. Employers will receive an advance tax credit from the U.S. Treasury instead of having to be reimbursed on the back end. **To file for unemployment, visit www.illinois.gov/ides.**

TAX FILING EXTENDED

Governor Pritzker announced that the state is extending the income tax filing and payment deadline by three months, from April 15TH to July 15TH, aligning with the new federal tax deadline. The Department of Revenue (IDOR) will continue to process tax refunds for those filing ahead of the new deadline.

3.4 million Illinoisans have already filed their income taxes to date, over 72% of whom are expecting a refund this year. Last year, 6.2 million income tax returns were filed, and 88% of taxpayers filed electronically.

The fastest, most secure way to receive a refund is to file tax returns electronically and request a direct deposit into a checking or savings account. **Taxpayers who have already filed a return can check the status of their return by using the "Where's My Refund?" link located at www.MyTax.Illinois.Gov.**

The Annual Auction of delinquent Cook County property taxes scheduled to begin May 8, 2020 has been postponed. The Cook County Treasurer's Office is required to put delinquent taxes up for auction, the first step in a legal process that can end with the loss of property if the taxes are not repaid. When it takes place, the Tax Sale will be for homes, businesses and land with unpaid bills for Tax Year 2018 (originally due in 2019).

SENIOR SHOPPING HOURS

The Village of Summit applauds the idea of the special senior hours at grocery stores, which are meant to provide a safer environment for our older customers. **Older consumers on a fixed income or who have underlying health conditions should not need one more thing to be worried about when it is their time to go to the store to purchase essential supplies. Visit the Illinois Retail Merchants Association website at www.irma.org** to view the list of stores that are holding special shopping hours for senior citizens and other vulnerable populations. This list is updated frequently.

SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS WON'T BE DELAYED BY COVID-19

If you're wondering whether the coronavirus pandemic will delay your monthly Social Security benefit, **the answer is no.**

You'll see no change in your regular monthly payment if you get it by direct deposit. You'll also continue to get your payments by mail. **"There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 is being spread through the mail," according to the U.S. Postal Service, citing guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Surgeon General.**

Remember that Social Security Administration field offices are temporarily closed, but you can still get online help at the **Social Security's website, <https://www.ssa.gov/>** as well as **calling the general inquiry line at 800-772-1213.** Due to field office closures, anyone who had an in-person appointment might get a call from Social Security to handle the appointment by phone, but Social Security employees will never threaten you or demand money.



COVID-19 Social Distancing

Social distancing actions are taken to restrict when and where people can gather to stop or slow the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) or other infectious diseases in communities. Social distancing actions include limiting large groups of people coming together, closing buildings or canceling events.

Protect yourself and your community

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If you don't have soap or water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home when you're sick.



Change your daily habits

Avoid shopping at peak hours and take advantage of delivery or pick-up services with retailers.



Work with your employer

Cooperate with leadership to change company practices, set up flexible shift plans, have employees telecommute, and cancel large meetings or conferences.



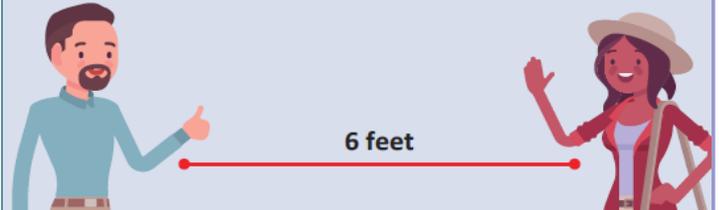
Universities and colleges

Consider suspending on campus classes, implementing web-based learning and canceling large campus meetings and gatherings.



Keep at least six feet between you and others.

Avoid shaking hands as a social greeting.



Public transit

Avoid public transit if possible and don't travel to areas with active outbreaks.



Crowded places

Avoid crowded places. Events with 1,000 or more people have been canceled. Community events with 250 or more recommended be canceled or postponed. Major sports events are canceled.



ASSISTANCE FOR OUR RESIDENTS

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor are in need of any kind of assistance, please know we are here to help you. Here are some of our partners in the Village of Summit who are offering help:

ST. BLASÉ CATHOLIC CHARITIES - Food Pantry hours: Monday, Thursday, and Friday; 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

SUMMIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 104 AND ARGO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 217 - Free "Grab n Go" school breakfasts and lunches through April 7TH for all students. Pick up between 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at the following locations:

⇒ **Graves / Heritage Middle School:** 6021 S. 74TH Avenue, Cafeteria Entrance, Door 8

⇒ **Argo High School:** 7329 W. 63RD Street, Main Entrance

Perishable leftovers will be shared with both Bedford Park and Summit Park Districts for further disbursements after 10:30 a.m.

AGING CARE CONNECTIONS - If you are an older adult or you know of an older adult with a lack of access to food, please contact Aging Care Connections at (708) 354-1323 and they will help. **You can also call the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior Help-Line at 1-800-252-8966 or send an email to aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov.**

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS - Is offering to shop and deliver groceries for people ages 75 or older in the communities they serve who have no other means to safely get food and household supplies. Call (708) 354-9328 for details.

PHARMACY PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY - Pharmacy chains are waiving delivery fees for prescription drugs to discourage older customers and those with underlying health conditions from visiting stores during the coronavirus outbreak **Talk to your pharmacist to ensure eligibility. For example, controlled substances and refrigerated medications might not be eligible for delivery.**

⇒ **Albertsons/Safeway:** Albertsons chains with pharmacies will waive delivery fees for same-day and next-day prescription deliveries, as well as for mail deliveries, until May 1, 2020. Most rush deliveries (one- and two-hour) are excluded.

⇒ **CVS Pharmacy:** Free one-to-two-day delivery of prescription medicine is encouraged for high-risk customers until May 1, 2020.

⇒ **Walgreens:** The chain is waiving delivery fees for all eligible prescriptions. **Essential household items such as cleaning and medical supplies are available for purchase at the pharmacy drive-through.**

HELP FOR OUR BUSINESSES

Our small businesses are already hurting, and the root of that pain isn't going to go away anytime soon. **Mayor Sergio Rodriguez is pleased to pass on news** that Governor Pritzker is offering relief to small and medium sized bars and restaurants in Summit, by allowing a **two-month delay in sales tax payments to the state, and to local jurisdictions, and waving late filing fees and interest.**

Illinois has also received its statewide Economic Injury Declaration which means **small businesses in the Village of Summit may be eligible for low-interest, economic injury disaster loans** up to \$2 million per business. **Businesses can access additional information and apply for the loan online at www.sba.gov.** Eligibility requirements are determined by the U.S. Small Business Association.

Summit businesses can also apply for **emergency assistance programs including low-interest loans of up to \$50,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).**

DCEO and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) are partnering with Accion, the Illinois Bankers Association and the Community Bankers Alliance of Illinois to create this fund. Loans will be supported by a \$30 million loan loss reserve, consisting of \$20 million of DCEO funds and \$10 million in funds secured with the partnership with the Illinois banking community.

Businesses with fewer than 50 employees and less than \$3 million in revenue in 2019 will be eligible to apply. Successful applicants will owe nothing for six months and will then begin making fixed payments at 3% interest for the remainder of a five-year loan term.

Applications will be available on DCEO's website starting Friday, March 27TH. www.illinois.gov/dceo/



COVID-19

Social Distancing: What does it mean?

Social distancing is the practice of reducing close contact between people to slow the spread of infections or diseases. Social distancing measures include limiting groups of people coming together, closing buildings or canceling events.

AVOID

- Group Gatherings
- Sleep Overs
- Playdates
- Concerts
- Theater Outings
- Church Services
- Athletic Events
- Crowded Retail Stores
- Malls
- Workouts in Gyms
- Visitors in Your Home
- Non-essential Workers in Your Home

USE CAUTION

- Mass Transit Systems
- Visiting a Grocery Store
- Getting Take Out
- Picking Up Medications
- Playing Tennis in a Park
- Visiting the Library

SAFE TO DO

- Take a Walk
- Go for a Hike
- Yard Work
- Playing in Your Yard
- Cleaning Out a Closet
- Reading a Good Book
- Listening to Music
- Cooking a Meal
- Family Game Night
- Going for a Drive
- Stream a Favorite Show
- Check on a Friend
- Check on Elderly Neighbor



Questions about COVID-19?
Call 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov
Illinois Department of Public Health - www.dph.illinois.gov

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OUR UTILITIES

COMED - has implemented a moratorium on service disconnections for non-payment, effective immediately. This suspension will apply to both residential and commercial customers and will remain in effect at least until May 1ST. They will also offer their most flexible pay plans to customers who indicate either an impact or hardship as a result of COVID-19. **More information can be found at www.comed.com.**

NICOR GAS - has suspended service disconnections and is waiving late payment charges until May 1ST. Both these decisions help ensure that those who can't pay their bills or whose jobs are affected by COVID-19 do not face the added hardship of interruption of services or consequences for late payments. **To learn more about financial assistance or payment programs available visit www.nicorgas.com.**

XFINITY - Xfinity WiFi hotspots located in businesses and outdoor locations across the country will be available to anyone who needs them for free, including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers. Once at a hotspot, consumers should select the "xfinitywifi" network name in the list of available hotspots and then launch a browser. **For more information, visit www.xfinity.com/wifi.**

VOLUNTEER

The State of Illinois and its community partners are working to ensure the health of our citizens. Those that are considering volunteering, such as donating blood, have many options, both in-person as well as virtual efforts. **Visit www.serve.illinois.gov to see all of the options available to volunteer.**

HANG UP ON SCAMMERS

Attorney General Kwame Raoul urges Summit residents to be on alert for possible email and social media scams tied to the COVID-19 outbreak. Individuals should be cautious of any advice or claims being made that certain products can "cure" COVID-19 or prevent the contraction of COVID-19. Products such as chlorine dioxide, hydroxychloroquine, essential oils, silver, elderberry and garlic are being advertised as "cures" for COVID-19. **Do not purchase any product promoted online on social media or via email that is being touted as a cure to COVID-19.**

If you get a call purporting to be from Social Security and claiming there's a problem with your Social Security account, **hang up. If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, in most cases Social Security will mail a letter.** Social Security employees will never tell you that your SSN has been suspended, contact you to demand an immediate payment, ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone, ask for gift cards or cash, or promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money. **If someone requests any of these things, they are a scammer!**

Beware of phone calls and text messages falsely claiming that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is inviting people to collect \$1,000 from an aid program that doesn't yet exist. **Beware of websites with ads** promising \$100 Starbucks gift cards as an apology for closing shops. Additionally, look out for calls offering air duct cleaning services as a way to stop the coronavirus.

WE ARE IN AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT FOR SCAMMERS WHO EXPLOIT FEARS AND NEEDS.

State officials had taken more than 700 complaints accusing retailers of gouging customers for coronavirus-related items such as hand sanitizer and toilet paper. **Anybody who believes they've been a victim of a scam or has information about suspected fraud can call the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotline at 1-800-386-5438 or visit www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.**

We also encourage you to exercise caution when donating to charitable causes connected to the COVID-19 outbreak. To help donors make informed giving decisions, here are some tips:

- ⇒ Do not donate if the solicitor uses high-pressure tactics, asks for payment in cash or insists on sending someone to pick up your donation.
- ⇒ If you receive an email or text message asking for a donation, confirm that the request is from the charity, and not an imposter, by contacting the charity or visiting its website.
- ⇒ Be cautious of "look-alike" websites. These fraudulent websites will often ask for personal financial information and may download harmful malware onto your computer.
- ⇒ Don't assume that charity recommendations on Facebook or social media are legitimate and have already been scrutinized. Research the charity yourself.

Report suspicious solicitations to the Illinois Attorney General's Office of Charitable Trust Bureau at 312-814-2595.

VILLAGE OF SUMMIT
Strzelczyk Municipal Center
7321 W. 59TH Street
Summit, IL 60501

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
1ST Saturday of month: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Summit Village Hall (708) 563-4800
Village Clerk (708) 563-4807
Executive Director's Office (708) 563-4805

FOR SERVICES CALL:

Emergency 911
Police Department non-emergency (708) 563-4830
Fire Department non emergency (708) 594-3894
Public Works Department (708) 563-4809
Water / Sewer Billing (708) 563-4817

OFFICIALS:

MAYOR **SERGIO RODRIGUEZ**
CLERK **COLLEEN LAMBERT**

TRUSTEES

Setki "Sam" Dardovski Marvel Parker
Aleco S. Julius Arthur Sullivan
Mayra Ortiz Karen J. Wasko

Website www.summit-il.org

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5



WEBSITES TO KNOW

Summit Park District
www.summitparks.org

Summit Public Library District
www.summitlibrary.info

Cook School District 104
www.sd104.us

Argo Community High School District 217
www.argohs.net

Township of Lyons
www.lyonstownshipil.gov

Illinois Department of Public Health
www.dph.illinois.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

COMMUNITY CALENDAR - ALL EVENTS ARE TBD



**KEEP
CALM
AND
WASH
YOUR
HANDS**