

# LOCAL

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## City of Monroe closes city hall, facilities amid coronavirus threat

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The City of Monroe closed city hall and all facilities to non-emergency employees and visitors starting at noon Friday and will continue the closure through Tuesday.

This step is being taken "out of an abundance of caution," officials said. "During this time, city administration will develop a response and continuity plan, evaluate facilities, supplies, sanitation, social distancing measures, and essential services the city must provide to ensure the long-term and reliable delivery of service to residents."

This unusual step, and implementation of an emergency response plan, has triggered other cancellation and emergency notices in the city. It will be reviewed on a day-to-day basis after Tuesday.

City administration is actively engaged with public health officials and planning ahead for any potential implications for our community.

It is imperative that certain protective and preventive "are in place to ensure the ongoing delivery of our core essential services during these unprecedented times. This includes protection and maintenance of the city's water supply and wastewater treatment systems, police and fire protection, emergency medical response, refuse collection and the support services necessary to maintain these services," officials said.

The emergency plan is as follows:

- Starting noon Friday, all City Hall and all facilities were closed to non-emergency employees and visitors. Those areas include Monroe City Hall, Monroe Police Department lobby (emergencies only), Monroe Fire Department lobbies (emergencies only), Opportunity Center at ALCC, Sawyer House, and the Navarre and Dorsch branches of the Monroe County Library System.

- Employee telecommuting plans are being put into place "as appropriate," while other staff continue working in a modified manner.

- All city-related business travel for employees outside of Monroe County is prohibited through March 27. Offsite meetings that are local "should

### EVENT CLOSURES

# Organizations cancel events to prevent spread of illness

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Local organizations continue to cancel events in light of the coronavirus outbreak.

Many groups already had canceled many gatherings, but then Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued an order at noon Friday that all events of more than 250 people or assemblies in shared spaces of more than 250 people were to be canceled. Her order took effect at 5 p.m. Friday and ends at 5 p.m. April 5.

Here's a list of cancellations or postponements submitted to The Monroe News Friday:

**One Book, One Community:** All upcoming One Book, One Community events are canceled.

**River Raisin National Battlefield Park:** The grand opening gala for the Flora of Michigan Art Exhibition has been postponed to May 1. Tickets that were already issued will be honored that date.

Meanwhile, the park is continuing normal operations and public services.

"We have implemented all recommended United States Public Health Services recommendations concerning preventative measures to ensure the safety of the public and our volunteers and staff," said park Supt. Scott Bentley.

**Mother-son bowling:** The City of Monroe Mother-Son bowling party has been canceled.

**Alice Lorraine Care Center:** Alice Lorraine Care Center of Monroe, an assisted living home, has "restricted entry to healthy staff members and medical personnel only," according to a notice issued by ALCC. "This ban on all outside visitors includes the family members and loved ones dear to us and to our residents, but is being instituted in the best interests of our Alice Lorraine family."

**UAW Retirees:** The Local 723, United Auto Workers, meeting scheduled for Thursday has been canceled.

**Airport High School Class of 1968:** The reunion set for Wednesday has been canceled.

**MIFA:** Monroe International Friendship Association has canceled its meeting slated for Monday.

**Meadow Montessori open house:** The open house



The Monroe County Fair marquee flashes updates of event cancellations. (MONROE NEWS PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY)

slated for Sunday at Meadow Montessori School has been rescheduled to April 19.

**Mount Carmel fish fry:** The fish fry slated for Friday at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Temperance was canceled.

**Erie St. Joseph fish fry:** The fish fry slated for Friday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Erie was canceled.

**Holy Ghost fish fry:** The fish fry at Holy Ghost Lutheran Church did take place with carryout service available.

**KofC fish fry:** The Monroe Council 1266, Knights of Columbus, 202 W. Front St., shifted its Friday fish fry tonight to carryout only. A decision has not been made about next week.

**Huron-Clinton Metroparks:** All 13 parks will remain open, but public events slated to April 5 are canceled. All interpretive center buildings, including nature centers and the Marshlands Museum at Lake Erie Metropark, will be closed.

**Trinity Lutheran School:** The craft and vendor show today has been canceled. Vendors will be contacted.

**Celebrate Children Festival:** The Celebrate Children Festival scheduled for April 18 at Mall of Monroe has been canceled. All sponsors will be contacted for refunds.

"While we know the potential risk level is low for most people, we are taking the extra precautions necessary to slow the spread of the virus and not transmit it to those with weakened immune systems," organizers said. The plan is to return in 2021 with "an even bigger and better celebration."

**Monroe Center for Healthy Aging:** The Dementia Umbrella presentation scheduled for Monday at Monroe Center for Healthy Aging has been canceled.

**Jefferson Schools:** The Empty Bowls dinner that was scheduled for Thursday was cancelled and will be rescheduled.

**Flat Rock Methodist Church:** Flat Rock First United Methodist Church has canceled the roast beef dinner that was scheduled for Wednesday.

**Flat Rock band:** The Flat Rock band will reschedule its March 26 concert to April 23. Freshman orientation scheduled for Thursday is postponed.

**St. Mary Catholic Central:** SMCC has canceled today's returnable can and bottle drive along with Sunday's Discover SMCC Event and Auction Workday for Parents.

**FIRST Robotics:** FIRST has suspended its season and canceled both championship events. There are Monroe County schools who participate in this league.

**Tomahawk Archers:** The Tomahawk Archers is working on changes to its Monday Night Youth League fun night and banquet. Families who are scheduled to attend should look for an announcement in their email by Sunday night.

**Dundee Community Schools:** Family Bingo Night scheduled for March 27 has been canceled and a new date will be determined. Refunds will be given to those who can't attend the rescheduled date.

**Citizens Redistricting Commission:** The program

### Report cancellations to The News

The Monroe News is updating event cancellation notices because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Organizers with cancellation or postponement notices to report are asked to do so as soon as possible in order to get them published in the newspaper and posted online at [monroenews.com/topics/coronavirus](http://monroenews.com/topics/coronavirus).

They can be sent through the website by using the "news tips link" or "send us your news" links at [monroenews.com](http://monroenews.com) or by emailing events@monroenews.com.

scheduled for March 23 at the IHM Motherhouse will be rescheduled for sometime in May.

**U.S. Rep Tim Walberg, R-Tipton:** The congressman's office has announced that any district resident who has scheduled a tour of the U.S. Capitol building through April 1 will be contacted by his office, in hopes of rescheduling the visit.

**State Rep. Darrin Camilleri:** The Brownstown Township Democrat has postponed all public events, coffee hours and in-person office hours through the end of March.

**Michigan Department of Corrections:** The Michigan Department of Corrections has ceased in-person visiting of prisoners until further notice. This step includes all volunteers, tours and groups that routinely visit the prisons.

**Schoolcraft College:** The college is taking steps to move as many classes as possible for this semester to "distance learning formats." Students are asked to check their school email accounts regularly for updated information from their instructors.

**Croslow Opera House:** The Adrian theater has postponed or canceled all events through the end of March. Shows that had been scheduled were "Captain of the Crossing Guards" March 20-21, "Thank You for the Music: An Abba Tribute Concert" March 27, and Ernie Haase and Signature Sound.