



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN ANNOUNCES IMPORTANT UPDATES TO BUFFALO'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Protecting seniors: Mask Up Buffalo donates hundreds of handmade masks to City seniors

Buffalo, NY – Mayor Byron W. Brown today thanked Mask Up Buffalo for donating hundreds of handmade masks to senior citizens at Senior Centers across the City of Buffalo. Mask Up Buffalo was started by the Ashland Avenue Block Club, which worked with other block clubs and community members to create handmade masks using material donated by Colvin Cleaners. The goal is to protect our most vulnerable residents from contracting the dangerous virus that has killed hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.

Mayor Brown stated, "We are truly blessed to have block club leaders who are so committed to the health and well-being of their neighbors. I thank them for protecting our seniors through this amazing initiative, which is yet another shining example as to why we are the City of Good Neighbors."

The Ashland Avenue Block Club was a recipient of a Love Your Block Grant, which was used to pay for supplies for the Mask Up Buffalo initiative. Mayor Brown encourages all community-based groups and local small businesses to apply for these mini-grants, of up to \$1,500, to develop and implement volunteer-led neighborhood improvement projects. The Love Your Block grant application deadline is May 20, 2020. For more information visit buffaloveyourblock.org.

National Older Americans Month: Check on a senior

May is National Older Americans Month and Mayor Brown is calling on residents to step up and be there for our elderly neighbors.

Mayor Brown stated, "This emergency has impacted our daily lives, especially the lives of older residents, who do not have the ability to get out as often as they used to due to the potential risk of contracting the Coronavirus. As part of National Older Americans Month, I am challenging residents to check on an older resident every day this month. Even a simple phone call can make a big difference in the quality of life of our seniors. Please be a good neighbor and check in on an older neighbor today."

Parking lot closed to improve social distancing at Tift Nature Preserve

The parking lot is closed to traffic at Tift Nature Preserve, located at 1200 Fuhrmann Boulevard. The small parking area was becoming overly congested by visitors to the popular outdoor destination, so the City and Preserve made adjustments to protect residents and visitors during the COVID-19 emergency. Tift visitors must park on Fuhrmann Boulevard and walk to the preserve.

Last weekend, Mayor Brown unveiled the City of Buffalo's "Walking Parks and Trails" guide which provides maps of 25 different walking, jogging and cycling paths residents can utilize for exercise and recreation. The guide was produced in

partnership with the Olmsted Parks Conservancy and the Tiff Nature Preserve to give people more options for passive outdoor activities as they continue to maintain safe physical distancing while they engage in their exercise routines. The free guide is available at: www.buffalony.gov.

Erie Basin Marina opens to boaters tomorrow, two golf courses open Saturday

The Erie Basin Marina opens to boaters Friday, May 1st, with a new guidelines in place to provide a safe environment for boaters and City residents.

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, in coordination with the City of Buffalo and Erie County, is planning to open the Delaware and Cazenovia golf courses on Saturday, May 2nd (weather and course conditions permitting). New York State guidelines are in place to maintain health and public safety. South Park's nine-hole course will remain closed due to wet conditions.

For a complete list of guidelines at Erie Basin Marina, Delaware Golf Course and Cazenovia Golf Course, visit www.buffalony.gov.

Parking reminder

Mayor Brown reminds City residents to cooperate with the City's alternate parking rules. Please obey the "No Parking 6 pm Thursday to 6 pm Monday" signs. We need to ensure that emergency vehicles can get down these streets.

Help Buffalo's COVID-19 recovery by participating in the 2020 Census

The City of Buffalo continues to make slow progress on its census response rate. As of April 30th, the City's response rate stands at 42%, far behind the 54.3% national response rate. Mayor Brown continues to encourage residents to help boost our number by completing their 2020 Census questionnaires. An accurate count ensures that the City will receive its fair share of federal funding that is essential for programming, education, infrastructure and much more in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit 2020Census.gov to complete your questionnaire today.

Grocery distributions for families in need

On Friday, May 1st, the Belle Center will be giving away bags of free groceries to families in need at 104 Maryland Street. The distribution runs from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

On Friday, May 8th, the Northland Workforce Training Center is partnering with Independent Health to distribute healthy food bags to East Side residents in need from 10:00 am to Noon at 683 Northland Avenue.

Visit the City's New COVID-19 website for the latest information

Mayor Brown reminds residents to turn to covid19.buffalony.gov for accurate information on the evolving COVID-19 emergency. The one-stop destination contains COVID-19 related news, policies and resources in the City of Buffalo. It also includes information for small businesses, where to find free food distribution and meal sites, how to access support for older residents, help for those seeking employment, health and mental health guidance, ways people can help others through volunteering and donating, and a special "In Memoriam" section which pays tribute to those who lost their lives during this pandemic.

The page also features data and dashboards that show the impact of coronavirus at the city, county, state, national, and global level. For more information, please visit, covid19.buffalony.gov.

#BuffaloPAUSE challenge underway

Mayor Brown, in partnership with AT&T, the Police Athletic League of Buffalo and Say Yes Buffalo, urges young residents to participate in #BuffaloPAUSE – Powered by AT&T. The weekly Instagram challenges calls on Buffalo teens, ages 13 to 18, to help spread the message of the importance of staying home during the COVID-19 emergency.

Each week, now through the week of June 8th, a new challenge will be posted on Mayor Brown's Instagram Page. The current Week 2 Challenge theme is MOVE IT, Mayor Brown is asking participants to show how they are staying physically active by posting a video of photo that also encourages their friends to STAY HOME TO STAY SAFE.

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and Mayor Brown will welcome special guest host Raven Baxter aka Raven the Science Maven. Details will be unveiled soon, so stay tuned to the @mayorbyronbrown716 and @raventhesciencemaven Instagram pages.

To enter the #BuffaloPAUSE challenge, participants must be between the ages of 13 and 18, reside in the City of Buffalo, and have a public profile on Instagram. All entries must take place at home indoors or outdoors following proper social distancing guidelines. Only one submission per person or from a social media account can win each week. Tag your post with #BuffaloPAUSE on Instagram. Selected winners will be notified via Direct Message (DM) with a link to fill out a form so we can process your gift card. All prizes and awards are funded by AT&T.

The City of Buffalo lights up for lupus awareness

Tonight, in partnership with the Buffalo Landmark Illumination Team (BUFFALOLIT), our City's landmark buildings and structures will be lit PURPLE in recognition of Worldwide Lupus Awareness Day.

Help local veterans in need

Mayor Brown encourages residents to help local veterans by supporting the Buffalo Blues for Veterans Livestream Concert Series this Sunday, May 3, from 3:30 to 4:30pm. The weekly show features local musicians and has raised more than \$4,000 to help veterans over the last 6 weeks. For more information, visit the Buffalo Blues Live Stream Series Facebook page.

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