



CITY OF ANNISTON, ALABAMA

MAYOR
Jack Draper

CITY COUNCIL
Jay Jenkins - Ward 1
David Reddick - Ward 2
Ben Little - Ward 3
Millie Harris - Ward 4

CITY MANAGER
Steven Folks

PRESS RELEASE - MARCH 15, 2020 - 6:15PM

*JACKSON HODGES, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER - CITY OF ANNISTON
4309 MCCLELLAN BLVD, ANNISTON, AL 36206 - WWW.ANNISTONAL.GOV
JHODGES@ANNISTONAL.GOV - (256)-846-2044*

According to the Alabama Department of Public Health, as of March 15, 2020 at 6:15pm, there have been thirteen confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Alabama and no deaths. There are currently no confirmed cases in the City of Anniston, or in Calhoun County. However, it is expected that positive cases may emerge in the coming days. Governor Kay Ivey on 03/13/20 declared a State of Emergency and announced the closing of public schools across Alabama from March 18th through April 6th. In addition, the Alabama Department of Public Health has recommended the postponement of all large gatherings, in order to limit and slow the spread of this virus, while minimizing the impact on our citizens. Following the guidance of state and federal leadership, the City of Anniston will also take the following precautionary measures for the health and safety of our residents:

PARKS & RECREATION

- **Spring Sports:** All Spring sports programming will be postponed for 30 days, until the 3rd week of April, at which time they will be reevaluated and we will notify the public.
- **Community Centers & Public Parks - Hours of Operation:** All City of Anniston public entities will maintain their regular hours of operation. Please note, all City of Anniston public entities are continuously being disinfected, by properly trained personnel following proper cleaning protocol.
- **Community Center Classes/Events:** Note that our community centers', and the Aquatic & Fitness Center's, scheduled programming may be impacted. Thus, contact each center prior to making plans to attend any of their classes/events.
- **Something to Do Sundays:** This event has been postponed, and will be reevaluated in 30 days for a reschedule date.

CITY COUNCIL

- **City Council Meetings & Work Sessions:** All city council meetings and work sessions will proceed as regular. We encourage citizens to utilize good judgement when considering their attendance at these meetings. Please note, all council meetings and work sessions will be streamed live, via Facebook, on the City of Anniston's Facebook page.

SENIOR CITIZEN & THERAPEUTIC RECREATION CENTER

- **Hours of Operation:** We are taking all necessary precautions in order to ensure our at-risk groups are properly protected and accounted for; thus, on Tuesday, March 17th, the Senior Citizen & Therapeutic Recreation Center will cease operation, yet will continuously be disinfected by properly trained personnel following proper cleaning protocol, as certain programs will continue (see below for details).
- **Therapeutic Recreation Program:** This program will continue its regular operation.
- **Congregate Meals:** Congregate meals will continue to be served and delivered, on a first-call-first-served basis.
- **Homebound Meals:** Homebound meals will be delivered per usual, with no disruption.

MUNICIPAL COURT

- **Hours of Operation:** All municipal court sessions, and cop out court sessions, will be suspended until 04/22/20. Municipal court personnel are currently working on rescheduling plans, and will be forthcoming when those once they are finalized.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Noble Street Festival & Sunny King Criterium:** USA Cycling, in a March 14th press release, recommended the cancellation of all sanctioned events, as well as they announced the suspension of permits for all events until April 5th. Following their guidance, the Noble Street Festival and Sunny King Criterium will be postponed. Sunny King Criterium Coordinator, Marilyn Cullinane, is working alongside USA Cycling to coordinate a reschedule date, which will be announced once established.
- **Anniston Museum & Gardens - Hours of Operation & Event Programming:** The Berman Museum, the Anniston Museum of Natural History, & the Longleaf Botanical Gardens shall maintain their regular operating hours, yet will continuously be disinfected by properly trained personnel following proper cleaning protocol. However, all Spring programming, through April 2020, has been postponed and will be reevaluated at a later date.
- **Senior Citizen Educational Seminar on COVID-19:** This event has been rescheduled to 3/16/20 at 10:00am. The location will remain the same, yet please note that it has been disinfected by properly trained personnel following proper cleaning protocol, and will be routinely disinfected as such.
- **Ruff & Roll 5K Walk/Run:** This event has been cancelled, and refunds are being assessed. A reschedule date will be announced later.
- **Public Educational Seminar on COVID-19:** This event has been cancelled. In its place, in-depth COVID-19 educational videos are being crafted, and shall be released soon. Those seeking DVD copies of said videos, may contact PIO Jackson Hodges, in order to acquire a free copy.
- **Anniston Police Dept. Annual Easter Egg Hunt:** This event has been cancelled, and if rescheduled, the public will be properly informed.