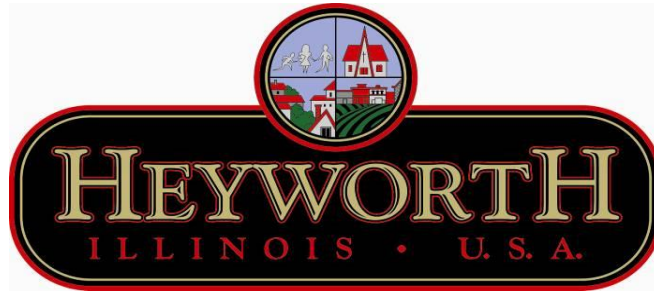


108 S. BUCHANAN STREET
P.O. BOX 439
HEYWORTH, IL 61745-0439



Phone No. (309) 473-2811
Fax No. (309) 473-2291
WWW.Heyworth-IL.gov

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Hey Heyworth!

Happy 4th of July everyone!

Is it just me, or does the 4th of July feel a bit off this year? Especially since we cancelled the fireworks and other 4th of July activities. I have thought about this quite a bit. I cannot help but imagine this is what it must feel like if there were no presents under the tree on Christmas morning or eggs and candy for kids to discover on Easter morning. However, I do not get too far before I am reminded that the true meaning of Christmas and Easter are NOT the wrapped presents or colored eggs. Similarly, but not the same, the true meaning of the 4th of July is NOT the fireworks. My hope is that these challenging times will have the positive impact of allowing us to focus more on the “Birth of American Independence”, what freedom means, and what has been sacrificed to keep it.

It has been almost 16 weeks since the initial “stay at home” executive order was put in place because of COVID-19. Our community has lived and learned quite a bit about what this “new normal” is and we continue to adjust as the situation changes. I remain convinced our community has stepped up and continues to meet this challenge as good or better than most communities. Staying diligent and disciplined in taking measures to slow the spread is what resulted in the positive data trends and the state moving to Phase 4 of the Reopen Illinois plan. Let’s keep the trend going in the right direction by staying disciplined, focusing on community, being respectful of each other, and using “common sense”.

Please know that your local government continues to place the health and safety of our community, providing police protection, and maintaining the availability of clean drinking water and removal of sewage as our top priority.

Take care, be safe, and Happy 4th of July!

Todd Zalucha, Mayor