An Important Message from Ashland Town Manager, Michael Herbert

Dear Ashland Residents:

Ashland is known as a community that rallies together through tough times, and this one is turning out to be no exception. While this is not exactly the way we envisioned spending St. Patrick's Day, I want to thank all of you that are doing your part to make sure we get through this with our health (and sanity for all of you with kids at home 24 hours a day)!

It's important to note that while our buildings are closed to the general public, at this time staff are still reporting to work. If you have general questions about town operations, please call the department in question.

However, if you have questions related to COVID-19, we are establishing a dedicated phone line for COVID-19 related issues that are not emergencies. Starting tomorrow, each day during regular working hours, one staff member will be dedicated to this line. I can't guarantee that we will have the answers at our fingertips, but this gives us a chance to collect them and make sure we have the right answer before getting back to you. The phone number is 508-532-7900. You can also send questions to Covid19@ashlandmass.com.

Also, as a reminder, we are trying to collect a significant amount of information related to COVID-19 at our dedicated Coronavirus webpage. Please refer to that resource first and see if contains the answers you need.

Today was the first day of our 3R program (Restaurant & Resident Relief). It was heartwarming to see the work of our volunteers, staff and restaurants come together for the benefit of the community. In addition to all the restaurants supporting the program, and the Ashland Emergency Fund, I want to thank Cara Tirrell, Jennifer Wuelfing, Kim Kotob, Beth Reynolds, Kim McGreal, Rowan Perry, Jordan
Kotob, and the Ashland Police Department for distributing and delivering meals today. More info on this program can be found [here](#).

Our Library and Recreation staff are working hard to develop programs that you can do at home with your families. The first one will be a **State Park Scavenger Hunt** organized by Kelly Rund. Be on the lookout for this event.

Superintendent Adams recently announced that Ashland faculty will be working over the next several days to develop learning enrichment activities for our kids at home. Teachers will be notified of these learning activities through kids’ email addresses (and parent emails for those kids at the Warren School). Ashland Public Schools and our IT staff especially are working hard to ensure that kids have the technology they need at home by providing Chromebooks for students. I want to commend Superintendent Adams, the Ashland School Committee, the Ashland Educators Association, and their respective teams for getting this up and running.

Coronavirus is already having a tremendous impact on the health and safety of our nation. And now the economic impacts are starting to show as well. Governor Baker has filed legislation that will reduce the wait time for unemployment benefits from one week to one day. I am sure that other economic supports will follow as well. I promise to keep you up to date on those items, either through this newsletter or our Coronavirus webpage.

Part of our job is to help ensure that our state and federal leadership knows what these supports need to be and what problems need to be addressed. To that end, if you have any concerns (even those not local government related), please make sure you take a moment and let me know at mherbert@ashlandmass.com

*Michael Herbert*
Town Manager

**FUTURE UPDATES**

Updates will be shared primarily through this medium (email newsletter), so please [sign up for updates](#) and encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well.

Updates will also be shared via Twitter: [@ashlandmass](#) and [@AshlandTwnMgr](#) or the Town of Ashland's Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/TownofAshlandMA/](https://www.facebook.com/TownofAshlandMA/)

The CDC Coronavirus site is updated regularly with important information. Please bookmark it and refer to it frequently: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
The mission of the Economic Development department is to encourage, promote, and support growth and development within the town.