An Important Message from Ashland Town Manager, Michael Herbert

Dear Ashland Residents & Friends:

Many of you have expressed concern around your ability to pay local tax bills that are due during this difficult time. I am sensitive to this concern, as is the Select Board, and so our finance team has been working hard to figure how we can provide some level of relief to Ashland taxpayers, with the following changes:

**Excise Tax Bills** are due March 30th. However, if you are finding it difficult to make this payment, *we will not be charging interest, demand fees, or other fees until May 1, 2020*. This effectively extends the due date by over a month. As a reminder, all online bank charges and convenience fees have been waived.

Also, I will be asking the Select Board to **extend the due date for 4th Quarter Real Estate tax bills by a month to June 1, 2020**. This is dependent upon legislation being passed at the state level. Again, all online bank charges and fees have been waived.

Similarly, I will be asking the Select Board to extend the date that **abatement applications** are due to June 1, 2020.

Finally, Governor Baker announced earlier today that the due date for state income taxes will be **extended from April 15th to July 15th**.

Although we know that local taxes and fees are only a part of the taxes and expenses that residents have to be concerned about, we hope this provides at least some level of assistance. My team is looking for other ways we can provide assistance to residents in these uncertain times, and there are several organizations that are looking to do the same.

Please visit the Town's dedicated COVID-19 page [here](#). We have added section a section for fun activities you can do with your family during the week and weekend. Also, occasionally during the day I will post Facebook Live updates on the town's Facebook page. Please like and follow our Facebook page and [@AshlandTwnMgr](#) and those and other updates.

*Michael Herbert*
Town Manager
COVID-19 State of Emergency Details
Click the link above for updates, emergency orders, and guidance associated with the COVID-19 State of Emergency. On March 10, Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency, giving the Administration more flexibility to respond to the Coronavirus outbreak. The Administration continues to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19. CLICK HERE for more information.

Resident Services

3R - Resident and Restaurant Relief Program
With the daily changes in how the Coronavirus is impacting our community and businesses we have revised the 3R (Resident and Restaurant Relief) Program, to better meet the needs of the community. Starting Monday, March 23rd, we will be offering food delivery from participating restaurants to anyone facing a hardship due to unemployment, loss of income, or other factors contributing to a need due to the COVID-19 crisis. Please call the town's COVID-19 hotline at 508-532-7900 between the hours of 9am-12pm on Friday and Monday to order meals which will be delivered directly to your home Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 12pm-1pm. If you or anyone in your family is experiencing food insecurity please call the hotline for the 3R. This program is being funded by the Ashland Emergency Fund. It was created to help individuals and families that might find themselves struggling because of the economic impact COVID-19 is having on our community and to help support local eateries during this trying time.

Food Pantry Services
Thank you to the Ashland community for your support in stocking the shelves at the Ashland Human Services Food Pantry. However, at this time, we are taking all precautions to keep our staff and residents safe and are no longer able to take food donations into the food pantry. The Ashland Food Pantry is asking for anyone wanting to donate to the Ashland Food Pantry to please send financial donations directly to the The Ashland Emergency Fund. These funds will allow us to not only distribute food to those in need, but address a number of other financial challenges as well. 100% of the Ashland Emergency Fund goes directly to emergency relief for Ashland residents. Please note that the team at the food pantry continues to work hard to provide food for families. Contact the team directly if you are in need of food at 508-532-7942 or 508-532-7946 or by emailing humanservices@ashlandmass.com.
School Lunch Program - Grab & Go Meals

The Ashland Public Schools are offering all PreK-12 students the opportunity to pick up Grab and Go meals, covering breakfast and lunch for two days. The meals can be picked up from the Teacher's Lunch Room in the rear of the Ashland High School cafeteria. Signs will be posted in the back of the building with directions. Students will need their individual pin numbers for identification. The schedule for meal pick up is as follows:

Thursday, March 19, 11 am -1 pm
Monday, March 23, 11am -1pm
Wednesday, March 25, 11 am -1 pm
Friday, March 27, 11am -1pm
Monday, March 30, 11 am -1pm
Wednesday, April 1, 11 am -1 pm
Friday, April 3, 11 am -1pm

Families who wish to participate should contact Lisa Beaudin, our Director of Nutrition Services at nutrition@ashland.k12.ma.us by 2:30 pm.

Many thanks to Superintendent Adams and his staff for putting this important program together.

Town Meeting and Elections

Per the Town of Ashland Charter, the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for 5/6, and the Town Election scheduled for 5/19. Due to the pandemic, legislation is either passed or being considered to provide for a changing of the date for both activities. More information soon.

Business

Ashland Restaurants
Most Ashland restaurants have amended the typical way of serving patrons. Some that have not done takeout and delivery are now doing so. CLICK HERE for a list of restaurants and some updated specials and modified hours of operation.

Business Owners
We are doing our best to stay current on programs and information that is being provided to business owners in the Commonwealth. Please click here for more details on programming, funding and basic information on what is next for our business community.
**Closures**

**Local parks and playgrounds:** To make sure everyone is following state regulations around social and physical distancing town leadership has created an order that all local parks and playgrounds are closed until further notice. Signs will be posted and violations will be considered trespassing. State parks are currently open, but we are enforcing all rules and bylaws such as illegal parking. We can't stress enough the importance of social and physical distancing.

All town buildings remain closed.

For a full list of closures [CLICK HERE](#).

---

**Stay Informed**

**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)

---

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

---

*The mission of the Economic Development department is to encourage, promote, and support growth and development within the town.*

---

**SIGN UP FOR EMAILS**

**SHARE THIS EMAIL**

Town of Ashland

---

*facebook, twitter, linkedin icons*