An Important Message from Ashland Town Manager, Michael Herbert

Dear Ashland Residents & Friends:

This weekend hopefully provide an opportunity to explore parts of Ashland you may not have experienced before. Believe it or not, despite the fact that a vast majority of our efforts are focused on COVID-19, there are still several major activities and projects that are still at some stage of development that you should be aware. Several mtgs for the upcoming week are detailed below.

Many people are agreeing that both the Annual Town Meeting and Town Election should be postponed from their respective dates on May 6th and May 19th. Currently we are looking into June 16th for Annual Town Meeting and June 23rd for the Town Election. These dates are not confirmed, but expect that to change in the next few days.

Work on our two major building projects are proceeding. The Mindess School Building Committee had a meeting last week, and we plan on holding a Public Forum on Tuesday of this week. The Public Safety Building Committee does not have a meeting this week, but is expected to soon upon receipt of estimations on HVAC costs.

The downtown project also held its first pre-bid meeting late last week, with bids due closer to the end of the month. It's uncertain how the COVID-19 situation and the resulting economics will factor into the project, but we will know soon enough.

You can continue to find more "real time" updates on our social media pages like the Town's Facebook page and my Twitter feed. As we start to see the number of cases in Ashland rise, please know that it is the highest priority for myself and my staff to ensure that we are doing our absolute best to help people stay safe and stay informed.

Please remember that non-emergency COVID-19 questions can be sent to covid19@ashlandmass.com or you can call 508-532-7900 if you need more information. Or you can go to our dedicated webpage.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the wonderful employees that work for the Town of Ashland and the School District. Many of them have been going 24/7 since this crisis unfolded to help make sure we are still able to function and provide services while getting information out to you directly. Even with a small staff (relative to our population) we've been able to stay ahead of the curve while flattening the curve.
you have a moment and see one, please let them know that they are appreciated. It will mean the world to them.

Stay safe!

Michael Herbert
Town Manager

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**Local Information**

**Local Confirmed Cases in Ashland = 20**
At this point, Ashland has 15 positive confirmed cases for COVID-19. The Ashland Board of Health team and volunteer nurses are diligently working to keep our community safe at this time.
Visit our website for updated case information

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**Confirmed Cases Reported in MA = 12,500**
Key Updates:
3,137 new tests conducted for a total of 71,937
764 new cases for a total of 12,500
15 new deaths were reported for a total of 231
Please [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

**Confirmed Cases Reported Nationwide = 328,861**
Total cases: 328,861
Total deaths: 9,368
Please [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

If you're a fan of charts and graphs (and c'mon; who isn't), Johns Hopkins University has provided a pretty good set of them tracking Coronavirus in Massachusetts and the World [right here.](#) It's through the Globe so there might be a paywall.

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**Weekly Meetings**

**Mindess School Building Project Community Forum**
Tuesday, April 7, 2020
6:00 PM
Meeting Link: [https://zoom.us/j/948820972](https://zoom.us/j/948820972)
Meeting call in number: 929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 948 820 972

**Agenda:**
Stormwater Advisory Committee Agenda

Monday, April 6, 2020
7:00PM Meeting
To join the meeting click on the following:
https://zoom.us/j/837566273
Call in number: 646-558-8656

Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes of March 5 MS4 compliance status, current year goals (Yr. 2) and year 3 (FY2021) goals - Evan
- Discussion of impact of spending freeze on compliance messaging
- SMU finances - Comments and consensus
- SMU regulations a. IDDE Regulation section on Private Drain Connections - Vote b. Proposed phosphorus zoning overlay district - Vote
- Next Meeting Date
- Feedback regarding online meeting

Learn More

Ashland School Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2020
Meeting Link: https://zoom.us/j/999156872
Call in number: 929-436-2866
2:30pm Executive Session
3:00pm Open Session

Agenda:

- Call to Order Opening Procedures Agenda Review and adoption
- Public Comment - Items of Interest to the Public (C, SA, O) Administrative Items - Action and/or Information
- COVID-19 Update
- AEA Evaluation 2019-20 School Year
School Choice - FY'21 Participation
Approval - Student Activity Account Reconciliations Oct. -Dec. 2019
2020 Calendar Update - Cancellation of April Break April 20-24, 2020
2021 Calendar Update - Movement of Boston Marathon- Sept 14, 2020
Assistant Superintendent's Report (O, FR)
Warrant Approvals - Kathleen Bates (FR) School Committee Laurie Tosti, Chair,
Marc Terry, Vice Chair Kathleen Bates, Secretary Erin Williams, Member Paul
Kendall, Member School Administration Jim Adams, Superintendent Barbara
Durand, Asst. Superintendent Paul Vieira, Assistant Superintendent
Approval of Minutes
Acceptance of Gifts (FR) Committee Reports of Activities (O)
Member Updates
Action Items

Learn More

State Information

COVID-19 State of Emergency Details
Governor Baker typically gives daily updates about COVID-19,
including press conferences in the afternoon. Residents who
would like to see the Governor's daily updates can do so here.

The Legislature also passed several reforms this past week
designed to help municipalities, businesses and individuals
through these trying times. You can find a summary of these on
Senator Spilka's page. Representative Lewis also provides frequent and timely
updates through his Facebook page.

Stay Informed

Coronavirus Updates
Hotline: 508-532-7900
Email: COVID19@ashlandmass.com
Website: ashlandmass.com/765/Coronavirus-2020

Follow us on Social Media
Twitter: @ashlandmass and @AshlandTwnMgr
Facebook: @TownofAshlandMA

Town Manager's Newsletter
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.

Watch the Town Manager's Updates on
Facebook Live
The mission of the Economic Development department is to encourage, promote, and support growth and development within the town.