An Important Message from Ashland Town Manager, Michael Herbert

Dear Ashland Residents & Friends:

I hope you had a great holiday weekend. As I mentioned in a previous message, data continues to show that what we are doing is having a positive effect on combating this virus. This is important to point out because sometimes even the most positive of attitudes can start to wonder if all that we are sacrificing is worth it. All the objective information indicates that it by all means is.

Even though public health should still be our primary focus, we do need to start considering what a post-pandemic world looks like. We’ve already seen how drastic changes in our work and transporation habits are improving air quality in a short amount of time, and some are saying the Earth is even shaking less. But on a more somber note, we also know that our collective financial situation is going to look very different than it did a couple of months ago.

So what I am about to say is very important. As funding from the $2.2 trillion federal stimulus (the CARES Act) starts flowing down to the states, pay particular attention to how much goes into our local economy and infrastructure. Massachusetts is estimated to get $2.67 billion in this stimulus funding. While a good amount is earmarked for small business and resident assistance programs, hundreds of millions (if not over a billion) of this funding could be available for local governments like Ashland. This provides a significant opportunity to rebuild our infrastructure like a public safety building or roads, or to help subsidize operational costs like our Police and Fire departments or trash services for a period of time, without having to depend upon local property taxes and fees. This could provide a significant financial relief for Ashland residents. But it will only go to those things if our leaders in federal and state government ensure that it is directed that way. As local leaders around the state start to coalesce around an advocacy strategy for the distribution of these funds, please know that the Select Board and I will be firmly asking that Ashland receives its fair share of funding. Stay informed and help us help you.

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.

Stay safe!

Michael Herbert
Town Manager

COVID-19 CASES

Local Confirmed Cases in Ashland = 58
At this point, Ashland has 58 positive confirmed cases for COVID-19, and 11 recovered cases. 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

The following information as of April 13th, 2020 at 10:00 am

Confirmed Cases Reported in MA = 26,867
Key Updates:
5,319 new tests conducted for a total of 122,049
1,392 new cases for a total of 26,867
88 new deaths were reported for a total of 844
Please CLICK HERE for details.

Confirmed Cases Reported Nationwide =554,849
Total cases: 554,849
Total deaths: 21,942
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 Massachussetts and the World right here. It's through the Globe so there might be a paywall.

Local Information

New COVID-19 Task Lead
Sgt. Ed Burman is the newly appointed Task Lead for our COVID-19 response efforts as part of the Health Department.

In the immediate future, he will be responsible for developing
and maintaining our caseload database, managing the nursing staff, and assembling a team to manage that caseload and case tracing. He should be notified about any COVID-19 related issues. This includes but is certainly not limited to requests for PPE, ideas and thoughts about public messaging regarding COVID-19. This is not a permanent situation, but will be effective for the foreseeable future.

Please contact the COVID-19 line 508-532-7900 or email covid19@ashlandmass.com with any questions or concerns.

Our Board of Health Office, and Agent Mark Oram, are also available at 508-881-1975.

Stay informed with Code Red

Code Red is our town’s emergency notification system. Stay up to date and sign up for our town’s Reverse 911 System, or edit your contact information and continue receiving notifications.

Introducing Ashland Neighbor Brigade

Effective immediately Ashland Neighbor Brigade volunteers are supporting residents and town-wide efforts focusing on food security, food distribution, and distribution of essential supplies and medications to some of our most vulnerable populations listed below:

- Kids/teens on reduced and free lunches at the schools
- Constituents of local food pantries
- Seniors
- Individuals and families that are at low-income and poverty levels
- Quarantined or self-isolating residents.

If in need of volunteers to pick up their groceries, prescriptions, food pantry food and/or grab n go lunches from schools, please contact 1-855-241-4357 or to request help online or become a volunteer, click here.

Resident Services Update

School Lunch Program - Grab & Go Meals plans to continue services until school is out of session on June 18th. Grab & Go Meals serves 2 breakfasts and two lunches on Mondays; and 3 breakfasts and 3 Lunches on Wednesdays. Service will continue on Patriots’ Day and the Wednesday of school vacation week, to not disrupt the schedule.

3R - Resident and Restaurant Relief Program continues to support individuals with food insecurities thanks to the continued funding by Ashland Emergency Fund. 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.

**Ashland Food Pantry** distributes items on Mondays and Wednesdays by appointment only. Please contact the team directly if you are in need of food at 508- 532-7942 or 508-532-7946 or email humanservices@ashlandmass.com.

Anyone wanting to donate to the Ashland Food Pantry to please send financial donations directly to the The Ashland Emergency Fund.

**Learn more about these services**

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**Dog Licensing**

According to the Town of Ashland Bylaws, all dogs must be licensed by April 15th each year. State Law requires that all dog owners license and vaccinate their pet against rabies. This helps control the spread of rabies and keep a complete record of Ashland's pet population to ensure the safety of the animals as well as the residents of Ashland. You may wish to review [Chapter 87](#) of the Town's Bylaws for the regulations pertaining to dog licensing.

Due to the current situation with COVID-19 legislation was adopted on Friday, April 3rd (Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020), allowing us to suspend the $50 fine at this time.

Although the late fee will not be assessed on April 15th, it is still very important to have your dog licensed by April 15th.

For your convenience, there are three easy options for licensing your dog:

- **Mail** - Please send an updated rabies certificate and a check or money order made out to "Town of Ashland" to the Town Clerk's Office, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA 01721. Be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope. We will return your rabies certificate with your new dog tag(s).
- **Drop Box** - You may drop your payment and rabies certificate in the drop box located on the side of the Town Hall building. Please make check payable to "The Town of Ashland". Be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope. We will return your rabies certificate with your new dog tag(s).
- **Online** - Go to [https://epay.cityhallsystems.com/](https://epay.cityhallsystems.com/). You may pay by electronic check or credit/debit card. Due to Town Hall being closed to the public at this time we are waiving all convenience fees for paying online.

If you have moved out of town or dog is deceased, please notify the Clerk's Office by calling (508) 881-0100 ext. 7127 or emailing townclerkoffice@ashlandmass.com.

**Learn More**
Ashland Cultural Council
ACC announces two artist relief funds for residents in the community seeking assistance.

Mass Cultural Council's COVID-19 Relief Fund for Individuals provides $1,000 grants to people who have lost income derived from their work as individual artists and independent teaching artists/humanists/scientists as a direct result of COVID-19 related cancellations and closures in MA. Learn More

Artist Relief will distribute $5,000 grants to artists facing dire financial emergencies due to COVID-19; serve as an ongoing informational resource; and co-launch the COVID-19 Impact Survey for Artists and Creative Workers, designed by Americans for the Arts, to better identify and address the needs of artists. Learn More

Ashland Cultural Council is a great asset to our community. Take a look at their website and their Facebook page for engaging virtual activities and for more important updates!

**Upcoming Weekly Meetings**

**Conservation Commission Meeting**
Monday, April 13th 2020 at 7:00 PM
Meeting Link: Click Here
Meeting call in number: +1 646 558 8656 US (NY)
Meeting ID: 672 408 243

Agenda items include: Extension Request for Riverwalk trail project, Mill Pond Park Improvements, etc.
Learn More

**TriBoard Meeting**
with Finance Committee, School Committee & Select Board
This meeting will be recorded on WACA TV.
Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM
Meeting Link: Click Here
Meeting call in number: +1 929 436 2866 US (NY)
Meeting ID: 344 040 239

Agenda items include: COVID-19 update, selecting Mindess School design option, Public Safety Building update.
Learn More

**Board of Health Meeting**
Tuesday, April 14th 2020 at 6:00 PM
Meeting Link:  Click Here
Meeting call in number: +1 929 205 6099 US
Meeting ID: 111 073 555
Password: 561799
Agenda items include: Covid-19 update, discuss Mary Mortensen Public Health Award, update on regionalization of nursing services, resident / volunteer opportunities available, Health Agent's Report.
Learn More

Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 15th 2020 at 5:30 PM
Meeting Link:  Click Here
Meeting call in number: +1 646 558 8656 (NY)
Meeting ID: 725 021
Password: 067386
Agenda items include: setting new dates for Town Meeting and Election, Tri-Board Recap, Establish new payment due date for FY20 4th Quarter Property Taxes - June 1st, appointment of Fire Department Dispatcher, Town Manager's Report, etc.
Learn More

ABA Virtual 'Office Hour'
Presenting Your Best Self in Zoom Meetings
Wednesday, April 15th 2020 at 12-1 PM
Register Here
Zoom login instructions will be emailed to you upon registration.

ABA member Chuck Green, DP, videographer, producer, editor, will describe a variety of steps to improve how members appear and sound on Zoom. Attendees will soon feel more comfortable and confident on Zoom meetings!

The options for members to consider will range from free, quick, and quite simple to intermediate level changes, which could involve spending between $75 and $325 for supplemental items that can be readily obtained.

All ABA members who participate in this call will be entered into a drawing for a $25 gift card to one of our Ashland businesses!

Join us online every Wednesday@noon as we speak with experts, discuss the current economic situation, and share vital information.

Public Safety Building Meeting
Thursday, April 16th 2020 at 4:00 PM
Meeting Link:  Click Here
Meeting call in number: +1 646 558 8656 US (NY)
Meeting ID: 526 885 695
Password: 622928
Agenda items include: Presentation of HVAC analysis
Learn More

Business Information

Non- Essential Businesses Closure extends to Monday, May 4th. These businesses are encouraged to continue operations remotely. Full List of Essential Businesses
For Unemployment Information Click Here or Apply Now
Families First Coronavirus Response Act Learn More or Business Guide
For more Business Resources Click Here

Ashland Business Directory during COVID-19
Most Ashland businesses have amended the typical way of serving patrons. CLICK HERE for a list of businesses and some updated information and modified hours of operation.
If you want your business highlighted in this directory, on our website, Email Economic Development Office.

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.

State Information

State Information Resources
COVID-19 State of Emergency updates Click Here
Governor Baker's State Press Releases Click Here
Senate President Spilka's Office updates Click Here
Stay Informed

Town of Ashland Department Updates
Find updates and more information for our departments on their respective website and on their Facebook page.

Ashland Human Services  Ashland Public Library
Ashland Department of Public Works  
Ashland Recreation  Ashland Senior Center
Ashland Police Department  Ashland Fire Department

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

Follow us on Social Media
@ashlandmass and @AshlandTwnMgr
@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
Previous Update Videos:
Thursday, March 19th, 2020
Monday, March 23rd, 2020
Thursday, March 26th, 2020
Thursday, April 2nd, 2020
Thursday, April 9th, 2020

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