Dear Ashland Residents & Friends:

I hope all of you are staying healthy and well. As we are trying to do every Friday, tonight's newsletter is devoted to activities you can do with friends and family while social distancing. These are truly challenging times, and while nothing can replace getting together and enjoying friends and family, we hope these activities and programs make it easier for all of you as we confront these challenges.

But first, some numbers. As of today, we have 68 total Coronavirus cases in Ashland, with 25 of them considered recovered. We saw a pretty dramatic uptick in cases last week, with this weeks leveling off a bit. Cases statewide, however, have been increasing sharply over the last few days. At this point, I still think it is far too early to identify whether or not we are in a "surge" state, as my opinion is that the increase in testing is the main driver of these figures. We can all agree though, that nobody seems to be able to predict what will happen.

Below you will find more information on programs at ARC and the Library, and through the Community Center. Additionally, a number of community organizations are offering programs, such as Ashland Community Theater.

Finally, after several impromptu appearances by our Police and Fire Departments for birthdays, I am pleased to say that we are going to try and do them on a more formal/regular basis in the hopes that it will make kids' birthdays a little more special during these trying times. If you would like us to make an appearance, you can either contact me at mherbert@ashlandmass.com or through the link below with the Fire Department.

It is my hope that these activities can make these unsure times a little easier in fun. Please like the Town of Ashland Facebook page and follow me on Twitter, @AshlandTwnMgr for more real-time updates and events. I hope you all stay safe and healthy.

Michael Herbert
Town Manager
Activities for All Ages
(while still practicing social/physical distancing)

Ashland Public Library Activities
Try Miss Lois' Alphabet Scavenger Hunt
Try Miss Holly's Letterboxing Challenge
Learn more

Watch Story time and Lap sit sessions online through a private Facebook group. If you need assistance accessing this Facebook Group content click here.

Participate in Stay at Home Reading Challenge
Learn More

Learning Resources from the Boston Children's Museum Learn More

Kanopy movie streaming site isn't just for adults! Learn More about Kanopy Kids

Find more information such as how to access to digital books, stream movies, access online subscriptions on their website and follow them on social media

Fun Run by ARC
Marathon Monday has always been a special day here in Ashland, it is the start of spring vacation and the return of sunnier and warmer days. It's a day when the community comes together to cheer on athletes from around the world as they make their journey to Boston. The 2020 Boston Marathon may be postponed but that doesn't mean Marathon Monday is cancelled! Lace up your sneakers and let's come together as a COMMUNITY and #RunForAshland by supporting the Ashland Emergency Fund.

Register for free here then head over to make a donation to Ashland Emergency Fund (suggested donation $26.20 but any amount is good). Race bibs will be emailed Sunday. On Monday put on your bib and go the distance of your choice....5k, 10k, the full 26.2 Miles or from your couch to your fridge (no judgement)! Make sure you share pictures of your race with #runforashland

Learn More

Ashland Fire Department Birthday Appearance
Ashland Fire Department wants to brighten up your birthday during this quarantine. Contact the department for a Fire Truck or Police Car to drive-by and perhaps a visit from
LEGO Challenge

Build a Lego Masterpiece! How big is your creation? What does your fantasy land look like?

Share a picture of your creation with us!

Learn More

"STAYING APART TOGETHER" VIRTUAL RACE

Sponsored by Oak Realty and the Ashland Sporting Association supporting the Ashland Emergency Fund.

Starts "Patriots Day" April 20th - until May 30th, 2020

Sign up for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or all 6 weeks. Walk or run outside, or inside the house! Enjoy some physical activity by yourself, with your partner or your household. You choose who participates, when you participate, where you participate, how far, and how much you want to fundraise for the Ashland Emergency Fund.

Everyone who registers receives a shirt- to be mailed or picked up (time and place announced soon). Post photos and your distance each week! Learn More

Share a family story with Ashland is United

Ashland is United is collecting and sharing family stories on their website as a way to help people feel connected.

Ashland is United is inviting you to gather around - albeit online - and share inspiring stories from your "Grandmother's Basket." Socially distant as we are, this project offers an opportunity to stay connected with each other and remind us of the community of which we are part.

Contact Us
which we are all a part.

They are looking for contributions that help us navigate through difficult times and that say something about your culture or that have been handed down through oral traditions. Learn More

**Front Steps Project Fundraiser for AEF**

Local Ashland Photographers have offered their services as part of the Front Steps Project. The goal is to raise money for the Ashland Emergency Fund. It's also a great way to lift people's spirits during this crisis and bring our community together (virtually of course).

The Front Steps Project is part of a large movement started by Needham Photographer Cara Soulia as the coronavirus pandemic began. During this time, photographers have donated their time to go to people's homes and take portraits outside (short 10-minute sessions), all while staying 10-15 feet away and practicing strict social distancing rules. In exchange, the families would make an honor-system donation to a local charity working to help those through this crisis.

Participate Here

**BINGO Live on Facebook with ARC Staff**

We will be giving away some ARC swag...water bottles, t-shirts, lunch bags, drawstring bags and maybe even a beach towel! Swing by the Community Center to pick up a sheet of BINGO cards or download one at home. BINGO sheets are in a green bin on the bench next to the Senior Center entrance. there are plenty, please take only what you need. Use coins or game pieces to play and you can use the same card over and over again. CLICK HERE for information.

**Community Kangaroo**

Stay busy and find more virtual events in our surrounding communities here.

**Activities for Adults**

*(while still practicing social/physical distancing)*

ACT Players to present A Virtual Comedy Show

Thursday April 30th at 8PM
Since the last month has kept us all at home and cooped up in our respective residences, we are taking our creative efforts and put on a virtual show called "ACT Players ACT-ING Up". We have music, comedy skits, comedic commercials and improv skits.

We have partnered with WACA TV utilizing Zoom to put on a comedy show that will air on Thursday Night April 30th at 8 PM. It will air in Ashland on WACA TV and also on the ACT YouTube Channel.

Please join the talented ACT Players and see just how creative and talented they are. Please stay tuned for further information on what ACT is doing during these unprecedented times.

Learn More

VIRTUAL Book Chat
Meet with other avid readers in the community to discuss books! Discuss something you've recently read, your absolute favorite book, or just join us to hear book recommendations from your neighbors! Click here for updates.

On April 22nd at 8 pm join the live Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/251590911 Meeting ID: 251 590 911 (This link will not work before this day/time).

Contact Ashley if you have questions call 508-532-7935 or email.

Restaurant Challenge
Use this check list to highlight all your favorite local restaurant menu items!

Share this photo on your social media page, and tag your favorite restaurants or post your results and times in the Facebook Events comment Section!

Work out with Empowered by Meg
Meg offers FREE classes live through her Facebook Page all week long! Join in for some sweaty fun. All classes run about 30 minutes. This is an opportunity for a perfect mental break and opportunity to do something good for
Ashland Human Service's Phone Pals

No need for a paper and pen, get to know a new friend by picking up your phone!

If you would like to get a friendly phone call and participate in this program, dial 508-532-7955.

Leave your name and number and Staff will connect you to a new phone pal!

Stay Informed

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.

Follow us on Social Media
@ashlandmass and @AshlandTwnMgr
@TownofAshlandMA

COVID-19 Updates
Hotline: 508-532-7900 | Email | Website
Watch Town Manager's Facebook Live Updates

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