An Important Message from Ashland Town Manager, Michael Herbert

Dear Ashland Residents & Friends:

It's been roughly six weeks since Coronavirus has upended our entire lives. We've weathered it well in Ashland, thanks to the resiliency shown by our residents and businesses. We generally exhibit an optimistic outlook and look forward to returning to some semblance of normalcy. However, it's hard to consider the situation the "new normal" when that situation changes day by day.

When confronted with any type of crisis, you generally have to react, huddle up and triage the situation. We have taken the steps necessary to do that (at the local level at least). But once you get your bearings, you need to start confronting the challenges facing you, deal with the aftermath and start planning your path forward. From my perspective, we are approaching that stage.

It's no secret that the Town of Ashland will be looking at a decrease in revenue for next year, and potentially a couple of years after that. To that end, we are going to be looking closely over the next several weeks at revising our FY21 budget to reflect that reality. I believe that we have planned well enough in previous years to manage this situation while still maintaining our services and making progress on the myriad of projects currently underway. However the sustainability of that will largely depend upon our state (and to a certain extent, federal) partners' appetite to share any benefits from an economic recovery with all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. Not just Boston, and not just the "Gateway Cities". To that end, stay tuned for more budget info in the next few weeks.

More positively, I am confident that we are going to weather this storm and the myriad of forms and shapes it is going to take. In fact, I am even more confident after the last few weeks and how the community has responded. Whether you contribute to the Ashland Emergency Fund, setup impromptu Zoom "play dates", volunteer your time and money to make masks, or simply follow social distancing practices, Ashland has truly rallied in a way few if any communities can match.

Stay safe!

*Michael Herbert*
Town Manager

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.

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**COVID-19 CASES**

Local Confirmed Cases in Ashland = 83

At this point, Ashland has 83 positive confirmed cases for COVID-19, and 44 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 20th, 2020 at 10:00 am

**Confirmed Cases Reported in MA = 39,643**

Key Updates:
Total tests performed 169,398
1,566 new cases for a total of 39,643
1,809 total deaths of confirmed COVID-19 cases

Please note this new MA COVID-19 Dashboard [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

**Confirmed Cases Reported Nationwide = 746,625**

Total cases: 746,625
Total deaths: 39,083
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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COVID-19 Notification Process

Click on this picture for an enlarged view, and read the steps the patients, Primary Care Providers, Testing Sites/ Labs, and Board of Health Agents take to notify the larger community.

[Learn More](#)
Local Information

Ashland Public Schools CLOSED through the remainder of the school year
Governor Baker announced today, April 21st, all Massachusetts schools are closed for the remainder of the year, and non-emergency childcare programs closures will extend until June 29th. We are working alongside Ashland Public Schools Administration to provide more information. Learn More

Annual Town Meeting and Town Election Update
Due to the pandemic, at the Select Board meeting this past Wednesday, April 15th, the Select Board voted and confirmed the dates for the 2020 election.

Annual Town Meeting will now take place on June 16th and Town Election on June 23rd.

Learn More

Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Update
Voted and approved by the Select Board on April 15th, 2020, the Town of Ashland has adopted the local option to extend due dates for your Real Estate and Personal Property tax payments.

The due date of your Real Estate and Personal Property tax payments bill has been extended to June 1, 2020. June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if the due date for payment on your previously mailed tax bill is May 1, 2020.

This motion is under Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 "An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from; COVID-19." Learn more

Watch the Select Board Meeting on April 15th, 2020

Announcements from Ashland's DPW
Purchase Ashland Trash Bags online and DPW will deliver them straight to your home! This service
assists those unable to visit local stores. Learn More

DPW collaborated to offer new, stronger bags!
Learn More

**Reminders:** Have Trash and Recycling bins **curbside by 7 am**
Separate your trash and recycling. Your recycle bin should only contain recyclables; not plastic bags, plastic film, to-go containers with food, etc.

*Watch this announcement from DPW*

**Rescheduled 2020 Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day**
In the interest of keeping everyone safe and so as to reduce the risk of possible exposure during the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day that was scheduled for Saturday, 5/9/2020 has been cancelled and rescheduled to Saturday, 6/20/2020.

**1st Saturday of May Collection - Cancelled**
Due to the continued concerns of exposure due to the Covid-10 pandemic, the collection of oil-based paints/stains, used motor oil, fluorescent/CFL bulbs, contained mercury and rechargeable batteries that takes place at the DPW on the 1st Saturday of every month is cancelled for May 2, 2020.

The next scheduled collection date for these materials is on Saturday, 6/6/2020. Saturday, 6/6/2020 is also the next scheduled date for the collection of electronics for recycling at the DPW. The collection events will begin at 9am and end at 12:00 noon.

View DPW Website and Facebook page for updates

**Stay informed with Code Red**
Code Red is our town's emergency notification system. Residents and Business Owners, stay up to date and sign up for our town's Reverse 911 System, or edit your contact information and continue receiving notifications.

**Shout Outs!**

Thank you for your donations!
Thank you to everyone helping our community during this difficult time with all of your donations! Thank you for thinking of us and keeping us safe!

Rafe Wolfe from Quilling Card for 500 reusable masks
Heather H. Sherer Family, Wying Family, and Carol Bartley for masks
Hanto Restaurant for masks
MatTek, Fabrizia Spirits, M.S Walker for hand sanitizer
Mike Purpura and **Federal Glass & Mirror Co.** for their donation of face shields
Mansfield Police Department, for their help obtaining masks for our departments.

**Meals for our Fire Department Provided by:**
- **Needham Bank** for sending **Bagel Table**
- Nadine N. at **Purple Ink Insurance** for sending **Doragon Ramen**
- Jeanne P. for sending **Marathon Deli**
- Heather H. for sending **Stone's Public House**

*If you know of someone that needs to be recognized let us know* [Contact Us]

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Mindess Elementary School Principal, Mike Caira, had a surprise shout out by Ellen DeGeneres during the World Health Organization's "The One World At Home Together" television event for his driveway dance parties to students' homes during this crisis.

Caira's response on [Twitter](https://twitter.com): "Completely humbled and honored this evening! Thank you @TheEllenShow for the shoutout. Thank you Ashland for supporting our incredible educators. Dancing with our students from a safe distance brings great joy. So blessed to know it is making others happy. Keep Dancing! We love U!"

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**Blush Bouquets Rainbow Challenge**

To remind all of us that this difficult time we're in is only temporary and there will be a rainbow on the other side of this rainstorm, let's fill Blush Bouquet's front window with rainbows!

Calling all artists ages 1-100! Submit your artwork in the box in the greenhouse (the door to the left of our front door) - make sure you put your name on it somewhere so you get credit. All submissions will be posted on social media and saved in the Project Rainbow folder on this [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com). They will collect them until the quarantine is lifted!

Please note: This is not an in-person event. **Blush Bouquets** is closed to all walk-in customers but open to online sales and delivery.

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**Ashland Celebrates Resident's 101st Birthday**

Ashland Fire Department alongside his friends and family, paraded past his home in Ashland, celebrating George's 101st Birthday!
This gesture was featured on NewsCenter5 this past weekend. Watch WACA-TV Coverage

Volunteer Opportunities

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.

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.

Donate Blood

Donate blood 20 minutes away at Woonsocket Donor Center

Learn More

Resident Services Information

Ashland Emergency Fund funds an additional $10,000 and Ashland's Select Board pledges $4,000 toward our 3R Program.

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.

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 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.

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.

Learn more about these services

Upcoming Weekly Meetings

School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 22nd 2020 at 3:00 PM
Meeting Link: Click Here
Meeting call in number: +1 929 436 2866 US (NY)
Meeting ID: 137 659 423
Password: 7NRsae

Agenda items include: Connolly Bus Contract Adjustment, Refunding D.C Trip, Out of District Payments for SY’2020, High School Update, Middle School Update, Warrants

Learn More

Planning Board Meeting
Thursday, April 23rd, 2020 at 7:15 PM
Meeting Link: Click Here
Meeting call in number: (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 374 484 848

Agenda items include: vote to amend the Town of Ashland Zoning Bylaw Chapter 282, Section 10

Learn More

ABA Virtual 'Office Hour' with State Representative Jack Lewis
Wednesday, April 22nd at 12 pm

Register Here

Zoom login instructions will be emailed to you upon registration.

State Rep. Jack Patrick Lewis will be on our call to discuss: unemployment insurance, Bill HD.5031 (An Act providing hazard pay for essential workers in the COVID-19 emergency), and other topics concerning business owners.

Click HERE to read Rep. Lewis' letter to the ABA regarding his support of Bill HD.5031

All ABA members who participate in this call will be entered into a drawing for a $25 gift card to be used at 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.

Learn More

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**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]


For more Business Resources [Click Here]

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**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.

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**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.

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**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  
Thursday, April 16th, 2020  

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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