

**From:** Ashland Chamber of Commerce <info@visitashland.net>  
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**Monday updates:**

Today was a busy day with calls and emails. There will be several webinars tomorrow as the Governor unveils his “Safer At Home” orders. We will forward the Executive Order as it is received. Many questions have been asked of us regarding what businesses are considered Essential and Non-Essential. We don’t want to speculate, and will wait and hear from the Governor’s Office and forward to the membership immediately. Hopefully the Congress will have passed some sort of “ Massive Economic Rescue Package” and we can forward information as we receive it.

We are going to kick-off our One Stop Gift Certificate Shop on our E-commerce page at [visitashland.com](http://visitashland.com). Many people are home from work and receiving a paycheck, and very concerned about our small businesses that have been severely impacted. Providing a one-stop shop for folks to show support of our small businesses and purchase gift cards will hopefully help some of you in this crisis situation. These are certificates for the individual businesses. This is a work in progress so please be patient and keep checking back. If you don't see your business and would like to be listed on our Chamber Store site, please email [info@visitashland.com](mailto:info@visitashland.com). <https://shop.visitashland.net/15-chamber-store>

I have been in contact with the USDA team in Stevens Point to try and create some help for our small businesses. Today the USDA gave the Ashland Chamber formal approval to adopt the following changes to our Chamber of Commerce Revolving Loan.

Following is a summary of our policy changes: Loans are available to small businesses that are severely impacted by the COVID – 19 pandemic, such as restaurants, bars, lodging, and retail.

- 0% Interest on loans with a maximum of \$5,000.00 and a lifetime of 3 years.

- Ability to approve loans via email in order to respect social distancing for our Executive Loan Approval Committee
- Defer payments for existing loans and new loans for 90 days. After 90 days, loans would then be processed for auto-withdrawal for payment.
- Broaden the geographical map to include small Food & Beverage, Retail, and lodging properties outside of the geographical area currently downtown.

We are working on the details to streamline the application process for this project and will have something available by the end of the week. If you are interested in this program please reach out to me at [info@visitashland.com](mailto:info@visitashland.com)

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### **Other news**

Income tax filing deadline moved to July 15 from April 15

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin has announced that the deadline for filing U.S. income taxes has been moved from April 15 to July 15. Mnuchin tweeted Thursday morning that at President Donald Trump' direction, "we are moving Tax Day from April 15 to July 15. [Click here to learn more](#)

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### **WHO officials say at least 20 coronavirus vaccines are in development in global race for cure**

The World Health Organization is working with scientists across the globe on at least 20 different coronavirus vaccines with some already in clinical trials in record time — just 60 days after sequencing the gene. [Click here to learn more](#)

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### **VOTE**

Important time for Americans to vote. If you intend to vote in Wisconsin, please go to "[myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov)" and request that an absentee ballot be sent to you.

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In an effort to limit our people to people contact, the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce will close the office. We want to assure you that one of our highest priorities is the health of our staff, customers and the well-being of our

community regarding COVID -19. If you need anything, please call our office; we have remote access to the phone lines 715-682-2500. If you need chamber dollars reimbursed, please email Mary at [info@visitashland.com](mailto:info@visitashland.com) and we can take care of that as well.

### **BUSINESS UPDATES**

Please continue to email information regarding your business to [info@visitashland.com](mailto:info@visitashland.com) as we will continue to update the [website](#) and Facebook pages. We will continue to work with our state and federal agencies via webinars and remote meetings to keep everyone updated on the latest information that will assist businesses and employees.

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[Treatments for COVID-19: Drugs being tested against the coronavirus](#)

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### **Other Links**

- [Ashland Area Development Website during Covid-19](#)
  - [Xcel Energy Actions Community Letter.](#)
  - [Travel Advisory for Ashland County](#)
  - [Travel Advisory for Bayfield County](#)
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