

From: Ashland Chamber of Commerce <info@visitashland.net>
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To: officemgr@visitashland.com
Subject: Business COVID -19 Updates 04-03-2020



COVID-19 Friday, April 3rd Update

Another busy week with lots of changes coming ahead. Thankfully, we are still very fortunate with low cases of COVID-19 and we do hear that the “Safer at Home” orders are helping to flatten the curve. We also are hearing that we may see an influx in the next few weeks, so all need to continue to do our part and abide by the social distancing. The Ashland Chamber along with Washburn, Bayfield, and Madeline Island Chambers authored a letter to the city of Ashland to ask that the beaches be closed for smelting. Smelting usually takes place the third to fourth week in April and we felt very strongly that the folks coming to this area are coming from many of the hot spots in Wisconsin and Minnesota. I consider myself one of the best ambassadors and cheerleaders for tourism promotion, but my concern for the health and wellbeing of our communities is greater. I wholeheartedly believe that we all have to make sacrifices and to that end we have made some significant sacrifices. We made the incredibly difficult decision to cancel the Apostle Islands Inline Marathon that takes place on June 20th. It’s around 375 skaters with about 60% from the Midwest, but there is another 40% that are from other areas in the country. We felt it may be too soon to host an event that has national participation. There are two other

events that we will most likely cancel in the next week. We are moving ahead with the Memorial Medical Center WhistleStop and feel strongly by the fall that our healthcare industry in the Midwest will be more prepared and who knows, we could even have a vaccine by that time!

This week there have been some great stories and look at all of the windows in town that have hearts, Easter Eggs, and even Stuffed Animals and teddy bears!

Many manufacturers including our own C.G. Bretting Manufacturing are changing strides and making equipment for our local hospitals. Our hospitals need to feel prepared and when they do, we can all breath a little easier. Companies from Jockey to small distilleries in Wisconsin have manufactured all sorts of Personal Protective Equipment and today on a Webinar we were assured by the Wisconsin Paper Industry there is PLENTY of Toilet Paper!!

I believe there is always a light at the end of the tunnel and many times there are glimpses along the way that if we don't look for, we may not find them. In our daily blasts I hope you have seen that we are feeding you all sorts of pertinent information that can help your business with grants, loans, and programs that we learn of. But also, that we share some sort of news that puts a little glimmer of hope. For me this week, it was hearing the Dr. from New York talk about feeling hopeful and teaching us what we can do to protect ourselves and others in our homes. Washing Hands and not touching our face washing hands and not touching our face! There was even a funny workout video showing moves to COVID-19 protection -. I'm sure we will hear more about masks in the next week and should we be wearing them or not... I say, if it makes you feel safe... Wear them, but don't wear the mask the hospitals need. Wear a drywall mask or bandana or something like that. Wisconsin Manufacturer's and Commerce made up a tool kit. Very short and sweet and has great links. I have been receiving hundreds of emails with everyone's links and I like this one because it isn't cumbersome.

This online toolkit will help your business with the latest and most relevant

information, and will provide answers to some of the most frequently asked questions. We will continue to update this with new information as these issues develop.

Featured topics in this toolkit include:

- Coronavirus Small Business Guide, Loan Resources & Guidance
- Unemployment Insurance
- Federal Paid Leave Changes under FFCRA
- Work Share - A current state solution to help employers avoid layoffs
- Federal CARES Act Summary
- WMC Resources
- WMC [Relief & Recovery Agenda](#)
- WMC [Employer Resources and Infographics](#)
- WMC [Summary of the Family First Coronavirus Response Act](#)
- WMC [Summary of CARES Act](#)
- WMC [Business Related Tax Provisions in the CARES Act](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions

To view the full COVID-19 Employer Toolkit please [click here](#).

Thank you to the many people that purchased gift certificates through the chamber e-commerce website.

https://shop.visitashland.net/15-chamber-store?id_category=15&n=60

Ashland School District - Internet Access Survey

The School District is looking at options to provide students with internet access during this school closure. We are trying to identify any community partners that might allow families to pull up to their parking lot and access wifi. Individuals would be required to stay in their vehicles in compliance with the Safer at Home Order. We would greatly appreciate your feedback by completing the attached survey. Thank you in advance for your feedback!

[School District of Ashland - WiFi Access Survey](#)

BUSINESS UPDATES

Please continue to email information regarding your business to 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.

SUPPORT YOUR SMALL BUSINESSES

Check out our **One Stop Gift Certificate Shop** on our E-commerce page at 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. <https://shop.visitashland.net/15-chamber-store>

CHAMBER HOURS

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 and we can take care of that as well.

Other Links

- [Ashland Area Development Website during Covid-19](#)
- [Updated action letter from Xcel Energy. Please note the 3rd and 4th bullet point.](#)
- [Travel Advisory for Ashland County](#)

- Travel Advisory for Bayfield County
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