

From: Ashland Chamber of Commerce <info@visitashland.net>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 5:05 PM
To: officemgr@visitashland.com
Subject: Business Update #2 for 4-20-2020



COVID Update 4-20-2020

First, I would like to apologize for the frustration many have felt when trying to apply for The Save Small Business Fund through the U.S. Chamber. The website crashed within the first 4 minutes of the program. I can only suggest you keep trying.

I'm hearing that people are receiving their stimulus money, which is so wonderful for so many. The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance programs are not available yet. We expect them in the next week. I have to remind myself that these programs are moving fast and furious and sometimes taking the extra week or so to figure out implementation is the right thing to do even though there will be a strain. I'm hopeful if the state has taken their time to come up with a successful implementation of the PUA program it will move with ease for those of you self-employed folks that are ineligible for the regular unemployment programs.

For those of you who haven't seen any unemployment payments we have to remember that the Unemployment cases have never seen the intensity that they are experiencing. The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has

taken extreme measures in a very short time in order to process the enormous amount of claims they have received. Mari Kay-Nabozny from the Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment board shared these incredible numbers:

DWD Unemployment Insurance Staffing Measures:

Over 150 unemployment Insurance Division's (UI) employees are working overtime.

1. Trained and transferred 35 employees from another DWD division to assist the UI call center, with an additional 45 being trained for part-time assistance.
2. Recruiting to hire 36 claim specialists.
3. Hiring up to 25 positions to work on manual tasks that need to be performed on a claim and 60 limited-term employees to process paperwork.
4. Assigned eight employees to make outgoing calls to applicants whose online applications required contact with DWD staff.
5. Online claimants who were previously instructed to call DWD now receive a message that a claims specialist will call them back within five business days to assist them in completing their initial claim. These claim specialists have cleared more than 1,000 claims since this began on March 27.
6. Successfully recruited UI retirees to return to DWD to help as limited-term employees.

Here are a few links to the FPUC and PUA programs. I would suggest checking these links every day and we will also send you a communique when we hear they are available.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/pua/>

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/fpuc/>

In the meanwhile, we are seeing some new activity in our businesses in terms of

operations and we are keeping track of business hours on a daily basis and will continue to share that information and post it on our website daily.

Thank you for being kind to each other and encouraging each other in these history making times we are living in. If you are praying people, please pray for a vaccine and healing on our country.

Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Request COVID-19 Tax Relief

We are pleased to provide tax relief in this difficult time.

2019 Wisconsin Act 185 authorizes the Wisconsin Department of Revenue to grant extensions to taxpayers that request relief for returns and payments due in 2020 as described below.

- Returns and payments for state and county sales and use taxes, employer withholding, and excise taxes that are due from March 12 through May 11 may be extended to May 11.
- Returns and payments for the following taxes that are due from March 12 through June 10 may be extended to June 10:
 - Local Exposition District Sales Taxes (Lodging, Rental Car, and Food and beverage)
 - Premier Resort Area Sales Taxes
 - Limousine Fee
 - Rental Vehicle Fees
 - Dry Cleaning License and Products Fees

All COVID-19 requests must be filed electronically after 8:00 am, Monday, April 20. Submit your request here:

<https://TAP.revenue.wi.gov/COVID/>

An extension will provide relief from late filing fees, penalties and interest to the extended due date indicated above. Interest will accrue after the extended due date. If you are unable to pay your taxes in full after filing your return,

contact us to work on a payment plan.

Note: The legislature may extend the state of emergency declared by the governor under sec. 323.10, Wis. Stats., which may allow the department to extend the due dates further. The department will provide notice if additional relief may be provided

Small Businesses... Retail, Food & Beverage, Lodging.... etc. etc.

Sign up today!

Look at these fun webinars coming up with NWWIB Mari Kay-Nabozny's Team!!

The staff from the Northwest Workforce Investment Board otherwise known as NWWIB is working with us to hold a series of FUN ways you can learn and improve your social media presence as a retailer, restaurant or other customer-driven business. This is the time to hone in on those social media skills and if you aren't sure of how they work, this is a great time to learn. We are offering a series of 3 modules for our EPC group and other small businesses.

The first session will be Tuesday, April 21st at 10am.

Topic: Using Social Media to Engage Socially Distanced Customers: Facebook

Every Tuesday we will offer another valuable lesson on how to use social media to engage your socially distant customers!!

- April 21: Using Social Media to Engage Socially Distanced Customers - Facebook
Host: Mari Kay-Nabozny
10-11am [REGISTER HERE](#) for Week 1: Facebook
- April 28: Social Media Engagement for socially Distanced Customers - Instagram
10-11am [REGISTER HERE](#) for Week 2: Instagram

- May 5: Social Media Engagement for Socially Distanced Customers - TikTok
10-11am [REGISTER HERE](#) for Week 3: TikTok

BUSINESSES RE-OPENING or DOING SOMETHING NEW:

- **Ashland Baking Company:** Starting April 20 Monday - Saturday 9am-4pm **Online Order/pay with curbside pick-up** The menu is updated daily with our products as they are baked and available for purchase. No phone in orders. <https://www.toasttab.com/ashland-baking-company>
- **Chequamegon Bay Golf Club:** Opening Friday, April 24th! There are a few COVID-19 guidelines you need to know please check our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/cbaygolf/> We will post more via Facebook, website and emails. If you have any questions, please contact the Pro Shop at 715-682-8004.
- **Chequamegon Food Co-op** 715-682-8251.
on **04/22/2020** Chequamegon Food Co-op: It's Earth Day and we want to make you dinner! Call us at 715-682-8251 and reserve dinner for 1 or 5! We're making 1/4 BBQ Chicken with two sides; coleslaw and mashed potatoes. Per person cost is \$7! Dinner can be picked up between 4pm and 5:30pm on Wednesday, April 22. Call to reserve today limited quantities available!
- **Country Blossom Greenhouse:** Will open starting Saturday, April 25 with their Annual Fruit Tree Weekend. New Shopping Hours will apply until further notice: Monday - Friday 9am-5pm / Saturday & Sunday 9am - 4pm. Private Shopping Appointments are available prior to 9am and after 5pm by calling 715-746-2345. For more of their COVID-19 guidelines go to <https://www.visitashland.com/member/country-blossoms/>
- **Deepwater Grill & The Alley:** 715-682-4200: Open Sunday-Thursday 11am-7pm and Friday - Saturday 11am-8pm. Pick-up and

Delivery! Regular Alley menu and Now Family Meals being served 4-close daily: Chicken Bacon Mac-n- Cheese; Cider Dijon Pork Chops w/cheddar mashed potatoes, house veges with minced cashews & warm roll and Bacon Cheeseburger Meatloaf with cheddar mash potatoes, honey buttered carrots & roll. 2 ppl \$14/ 4 ppl \$28 / 6 ppl \$42

- **Pizza Pub:** Join them for BINGO this Wednesday, April 22nd, at 7pm on Facebook LIVE! We will be playing a few games of BINGO for prizes and the last round winner (game of BLACKOUT) will walk away with a SMART TV! How do I get BINGO cards? Just place an order! All pick up and delivery orders will come with BINGO cards! BINGO cards will be available beginning Monday and until Wednesday at 6pm. New hours Sunday - Saturday 11am-10pm. Delivery and take-out www.pizzapubashland.com or 715-682-6641.
- **Stagecoach Bar & Grill:** 715-292-6710 Starting Wednesday April 22 serving LUNCH Mon-Fri 11am-2pm with curbside and free delivery and DINNER, curbside only, Monday-Saturday 4-8pm with daily specials, Friday Fish- Fry and Saturday Prime Rib. More information will be listed on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AshlandStageCoach/>
- **Vaughn Public Library:** Hope to start April 24. Curbside pick-up. Check www.vaughnlibrary.org for updates on when curbside will happen and what you need to know to get books!

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

- [Travel Advisory for Ashland County](#)
- [Travel Advisory for Bayfield County](#)



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