

JoAnn Erickson

From: Ashland Chamber of Commerce <info@visitashland.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 4:56 PM
To: officemgr@visitashland.com
Subject: Thursday June 25th COVID Update



COVID-19 Update June 25 , 2020

Thursday, June 25, 2020 - Wow!!

For Profit Small Businesses!! Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation extended the "We're all in Grant". This is an opportunity for a small for profit to receive \$2,500.00 (FREE MONEY) . I am happy to write a letter of recommendation for your business! You don't have to be a chamber member, you don't even have to be located in Ashland, I just want to see as many small businesses in our area received this financial help!! If you don't have access to a copier or computer or scanner come into the chamber tomorrow and I'll help you! Here are the documents you will need to apply:

2018 or 2019 federal tax return for business (If you started your business in 2020, you are not eligible for this grant). Applicable tax returns are:

IRS form 1065 Partnership Return (no K-1s required)

IRS form 1120 Corporation Return (no schedules required)

IRS form 1120S S Corporation Return (no K-1s required)

IRS form 1040 (sole proprietors), first two pages and the Schedule C

Signed and dated W-9 form available at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf

Here is the website for more information... <https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/wai-small-business-grant/>

email me at info@visitashland.com or call the chamber if you have questions 715-682-2500

WEDC extends deadline for small businesses to apply for Covid-19 recovery grants

The state of Wisconsin is giving small businesses three more days to apply for Covid-19 recovery grants worth up to \$2,500, setting midnight Friday as the new cutoff point. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. has enough money to award grants to 30,000 businesses, but only 26,000 applications had been received by the cutoff point on Tuesday, and some of those were incomplete.

[Click here to learn more](#)

JoAnn and I are on the work share program so we are unemployed 20 hours and working 20 hours. We are open every day, but only one person is here, so if you call and we are with a guest we may not answer but please leave a message as we will ALWAYS get back to you right away!! We haven't had any income from events, lost some membership dues, and will be down in our room tax receipts, so we need to figure out some cost savings. We are trying this route through July. We are actively promoting outdoor recreation including Waterfalls, Murals, Fishing, Hiking, and Biking, along with the plethora of other outdoor activities. I'm so excited to hear from businesses, that they are seeing respectful customers and people are adventuring in their businesses to shop, eat, and recreate. Let's all be respectful of each other and if it makes someone feel more comfortable, wear a mask, always wash your hands whenever you can and sanitize! We are also taking precautions at the chamber and use a lot of sanitizer!!

If you haven't ventured out to some fun places, maybe be a tourist in your own area! You can walk and hike around the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center even if the indoor is closed. The path and trails at Prentice Park are fabulous and of course our waterfront trail and tunnel are just as amazing and you can even get an ice cream cone at Burger Barn, Gabriele's, Kravin just to name a few of the small businesses downtown!! Red Bicycle has

now moved in to the former Lil Red across from the Post office and Wendy's Widgets will be moving into the old Red Bicycle! Mark Gutteter and crew are busy dressing up the area where his grassy area is adjacent to The Deepwater Grill and Alley. What a fabulous outdoor dining and socializing experience this will be. The State will be highlighting Ashland once again for our beautiful, vibrant, historic downtown this July. Unfortunately, they will not be able to make it in person, so we will be celebrating Downtown Day in Wisconsin virtually. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation will officially announce the Mainstreet Designation and congratulate us for receiving another award as a connect community for another project that included the Northwest Workforce Investment Board NWWIB and their construction program that recently built a beautiful house that will act as a Hot Chocolate house in the winter and an Ice Cream House in the summer. The City and Chamber are working together to add wheels to the house and electric so we can move this around downtown and let non-profits use it for fundraisers. Look for more info on Wisconsin Downtown Day next week.

4th of July fireworks is on the schedule along with the fire run so make sure to social distance, and come and enjoy!! Also, Mark Drolson has applied to be a community for a Flyover and we'll know for sure next week if the Jets will do a flyover in the morning of the 4th!!

This weekend Mason is celebrating Mason Days, there is a car show at Court Manor on Saturday morning and the Farmer's Market and lastly, the races at the ABC Raceway will take place Saturday night!! TONIGHT!! until 8pm... you can head to the Neighborly for a fundraiser Brat Feed for the Ashland Cancer Center. Social Distancing, Masks, and hand washing is recommended!!

I attended my first meeting today in person!! Wow, it was FAB-U-LOUS!!

News from the Ashland Historical Society Museum!!

The AHSM will re- open on Friday, July 3rd on a temporary basis depending on how the Covis -19 virus develops.

We will be open 10-3 Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays. Guests will be required to wear a mask and to sanitize their hands.

Simple masks will be available for 1.00

This is the email from yesterday's WMC Wednesday!! Very informative!! Penny Strom talking on tourism in the north and Stephanie Klett on tourism in the south – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6A7ELurxJY>

Former Governor Tommy Thompson to serve as UW System Interim President

University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents announced Friday, June 19 that former Governor Tommy Thompson has agreed to serve as UW System Interim President effective July 1. “The University of Wisconsin System is the state’s most valuable asset, and I will be its biggest advocate and its toughest evaluator,” Thompson said. “No other institution in the state can do more to improve lives, communities, and Wisconsin’s economy.”

[Click here to learn more](#)

I just received this from Tammy Baldwin’s Office -

Dear Mary,

Today, Senator Baldwin introduced the *Rebuilding Main Street Act*, legislation to help Wisconsin small businesses, nonprofits, and workers weather the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support safe reopening. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), and Chris Murphy (D-CT), along with Wisconsin Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI) and a number of House members, joined in introducing the bicameral legislation, which expands the existing work share program to allow employers to share their payroll costs with the federal government, while receiving grant help to cover other fixed costs such as rent and needs for reopening safely like cleaning and protective equipment. After 14 straight weeks in which more than one million workers filed for unemployment benefits, the legislation would help laid off workers safely return to their jobs at reduced hours while continuing to receive a pro-rated unemployment benefit to compensate for their lost wages.

“The ongoing public health and economic crisis in America demands solutions from Washington and Congressional action. Small businesses, non-profits, and workers need support and it’s our job to provide it. Work share programs like the updated one we have in Wisconsin need to be supported so employers can avoid worker layoffs. Our *Rebuilding Main Street Act* will provide small businesses and non-profits the tools they need to keep workers on the payroll and move our economy forward,” **said Senator Baldwin.**

Employers and workers across the country are reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic’s economic shutdown. While Congress worked to pass four bipartisan legislative packages, large segments of the workforce and business sectors have not benefitted from the economic relief programs. The Senators’ proposal encourages and expands work sharing – an existing program supported by the *CARES Act* that still has far too much untapped potential –

and provides additional support for employers and employees struggling during this time. The *Rebuilding Main Street Act* is supported by a broad coalition of organizations, including: AFL-CIO, Main Street Alliance, National Employment Law Project, Economic Policy Institute, National Women's Law Center, Common Defense, Center for American Progress, American Sustainable Business Council, MomsRising, Communication Workers of America, United Steelworkers, and American Federation of Teachers.

"I applaud Senators Van Hollen, Merkley, Murphy, and Baldwin for taking much-needed action to help those reeling economically from this devastating pandemic," **said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka.** "We need to find more ways to keep workers attached to their jobs because too many working people, nonprofits and small businesses have been left behind in the previously-passed relief packages. Building on the *HEROES Act*, the *Rebuilding Main Street Act* is another important step in supporting those who are the backbone of America's economy." "The *Rebuilding Main St. Act* solves the riddle of how to both preserve payrolls and businesses, and in so doing, it paves the way for a gradual, phased-in opening followed by a more robust recovery," **said Jared Bernstein, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.**

"The *Rebuilding Main Street Act* is a smart and flexible program that gives employers the flexibility they need to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, while keeping their workforces in place and ensuring their workers maintain their salaries and benefits. This is an approach to building resilience and creating the certainty that business owners and their employees need to pivot and sustain during these uncertain times," **said Amanda Ballantyne, Executive Director, Main Street Alliance.**

"The nation continues to face a public health crisis that has spurred an economic crisis unlike anything we've seen since the Great Depression. To help stanch the economic bleeding, Congress must think creatively and act boldly; the risks of doing too little far outweigh the risks of doing too much. We must prioritize policies aimed at keeping workers and small businesses afloat right now. Policies like the *Rebuilding Main Street Act*, which would use the large-scale deployment of an existing but underutilized part of the Unemployment Insurance program called Short-Time Compensation or Work-Sharing alongside a new grant program for firms to cover fixed costs, would help put us on a path to a stronger economic recovery. I commend Senators Van Hollen, Merkley, and Murphy for their leadership on this issue, and I urge Congress to make ongoing relief to workers and small businesses a top priority in the next legislative package," **said Heather Boushey, President & CEO and Co-founder of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth.**

"Many countries have shown that work sharing can be an effective tool to protect workers from unemployment in a downturn. While work sharing has been part of many states unemployment insurance systems for decades, it is seriously under-utilized. The Van Hollen bill provides companies with a strong incentive to use work sharing rather than layoffs as a response to weak demand. It will also help to make employers aware of this option," **said Dean Baker, Senior Economist and Co-founder of the Center for Economic and Policy Research and Visiting Professor at the University of Utah.**

[Read more about the *Rebuilding Main Street Act* and see how the bill will give Wisconsin small businesses and non-profits the tools they need to keep workers on the payroll and move our economy forward here.](#)

Drive Thru Job Fair

During Covid-19, there has been an increase in unemployment, and higher demand for open positions that are currently available across the state of Wisconsin.

On July 15th from 12-4pm, our office will be joining Workforce Investment Boards from across the state of Wisconsin to host regional Drive Thru Job Fairs! With the difficulties in hiring due to Covid-19, and demand for open positions has never been higher, we want to bring the open positions directly to the job seeker.

Our Drive Thru Job Fair will not be a traditional job fair, where Job Seekers walk from booth to booth. Rather, those seeking employment opportunities will drive up to our tent at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College - Ashland - or Northcentral Technical College - Phillips - and receive a bag that is jam packed with flyers from employers in our area looking for help! One stop, and moments later a job seeker will have all open positions at their hand.

As a business, if you are willing to participate in the Drive Thru Job Fair, [please see the linked flyer](#) (with hyperlink to confirm participation). Businesses will need to provide **300 printed flyers** (single page) that we will put into the participant bags for pick up no later than July 9th @ 3:30pm.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to reach out to me directly for assistance!
-Scott Schultz, NW WIB

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College Virtual Express Admissions Event

July 16, 11am-2pm Online!

[Click here for the flyer.](#)

BUSINESS UPDATE

As a business please continue to email information regarding your business to info@visitashland.com as we will continue to update the [website](#) and [Facebook pages](#).

- **Ashland Parks and Rec.** 715-682-7059. Activities will be starting in July for the kids. Baseball, T-ball, Little Girls Softball, Gymnastics, Summer Camps, Clinics, Tennis, Pickleball and Rec & Read in the Park. Here is a link to their brochure <https://ashlandparks.org/docs/2020.summer.brochure.3.pdf>

- **Burger Barn:** 715-682-3276. Monday- Saturday Open 11am - 9pm, Sunday 11am-4pm. Dine In, Take-out & Delivery. Join Our Wait-list Before You Arrive! We are super excited to use technology as we reopen. You can visit [jacksburgerbarn.com](https://www.jacksburgerbarn.com) and join our wait-list before you arrive. We will send you a text message when your table is ready. Joining the wait-list before you arrive will help us ensure our guests are properly practicing social distancing. You may also call ahead and we will add you to the list. 715-682-3276. **Are you a Burger Barn Rewards Member?** For every dollar spent is one point. Reach 100 points and receive a \$5 loyalty certificate to redeem on your next visit. Sign up today!
<https://www.jacksburgerbarn.com/rewards>.
- **Hugo's Pizza:** 715-682-8202. Now open for Dine In! also offering take-out and delivery Monday-Friday. 11am-9pm. Saturday & Sunday Open at 3pm Offering Nut Brown Ale for \$5 bring your own growler or use our 1919 jugs. This week's specials: Friday: Fish Fry Saturday & Sunday: California Cheeseburger w/ French Fries \$7.95.
- **Recreation and Fitness Resources Bayfield** 715-779-5408. Phase 2 begins July 1! Will begin opening the pool for lap swim and are offering classes at the Bayfield Pavilion on Tuesdays and Thursdays! For more information go to <https://www.recreationandfitnessresources.org/>
- **Stagecoach Bar & Grill:** 715-292-6710. Summer hours are as follows: Sun & Mon closed; Tues-Sat; Serving LUNCH & DINNER with curbside available, 11am- 2pm & 4-8pm with daily specials. Specials listed on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AshlandStageCoach/> Order online <https://holo.harbortouch.com/en/order/stagecoachbargrill/menu/> Will take reservations. Wednesday nights starting June 24 at 7pm Weekly Bar Bingo. Free to play! Chances to win drinks and more. Thursday nights at 7pm come test your knowledge with trivia. Aidan will be hosting weekly trivia nights! We have prizes!

For a complete list of what businesses are open and how they are doing business go to <https://www.visitashland.com/events/latest-news-and-updates/>

If you would like to view any of the past COVID-19 updates from the Ashland Chamber go to <https://www.visitashland.com/events/covid-19-updates/>

SUPPORT YOUR SMALL BUSINESSES

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



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