

**From:** Ashland Chamber of Commerce <info@visitashland.net>  
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**COVID-19 E-Blast Update 4-09-20**

We have been pretty busy with Smelting calls, gift certificate sales, webinars, or conference calls, and updates on Business Hours, and....Easter Eggs. A huge thank you to Rose Bents, Meegan Gosseline, Mary Jane Kulbaki, Maribeth & Ed for emptying the 6000 eggs that were going to be used for the Easter Egg Hunt. We brought them to Salem Baptist Church today for their food share program this Saturday.

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There was a virtual tour on the Lake Superior Circle Tour Facebook Page and it was very cool!! Take a peek at it. [Click Here.](#)

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Tomorrow at 10am is the call with Workforce Development at 10am.  
Here is the information in case you haven't registered.

**WMC COVID-19 Update: Featuring Wisconsin DWD Secretary Caleb Frostman**

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC), its trade association partners and local chambers invite you to a business coalition update call. The webinar will feature Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Caleb Frostman. Additionally, Eric Ness and Tammie Clendenning from the Small Business Administration will provide an update. **(Friday, April 10 at 10:00 AM CDT)**

[Click here to register](#)

I'd love to hear from you about what barriers or obstacles you are dealing with during this time

There are many of you who are not eligible for unemployment and many that have employees that although they may be eligible for unemployment, will not make the current wages they were making pre COVID-19. We have to think of creative ways that the state can use the money from the Federal Government to help people especially in our rural communities, because sometimes we are the forgotten. I was having a conversation with Senator Bewley's office, Joseph Hoey and I asked about the possibility of repurposing the food stamps or foodshare programs to help our self-employed business owners or self-employed people that are not eligible for unemployment or, as mentioned before, their income has simply dwindled down to a fraction. Food for your families could help during this time period until we get back to whatever normal will look like. If you have any ideas that you think may be helpful to you or other businesses, please let me know. These programs were initially created to help taxpayers get through tough times and I know there are a lot of people that are having a rough time. If you have any ideas, please share them with me and let's keep communicating to the folks that can make the decisions in Madison and Washington. Email me at [info@visitashland.com](mailto:info@visitashland.com)  
Mary McPhetridge

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## **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.

## **SUPPORT YOUR SMALL BUSINESSES**

Check out 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>

## **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](mailto:info@visitashland.com) and we can take care of that as well.

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### Other Links

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