

BARABOO AREA CHAMBER & TOURISM

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

By Darren Hornby, Executive Director
Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce

I could not be prouder of the way our members and their customers have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Let's hope things turn around in time for all to be part of the recovery.

Coronavirus has posed significant challenges. The health crisis has found its way to Sauk County, and had exacted a tragic human toll around the world. It also has proved crippling economically.



Quarantines, mandatory shutdowns and consumer uncertainty have hampered business in the Baraboo Area and beyond. I grieve for merchants who have lost so much revenue that they question whether they'll be able to remain open.

And yet, thanks to business owners' ingenuity and community support, many are riding out

the pandemic. Restaurants and bars that are no longer allowed to offer seating rolled out delivery programs and curbside service. Downtown Baraboo Inc. worked with the City to provide barriers preserving parking spots for customers doing curbside business, whether they were grabbing lunch, picking up a purchase or signing papers. The community responded by making a point of investing time, effort and money in supporting local businesses. You gotta love Baraboo.

We at the Chamber jumped into this effort, creating a [web page](#) at baraboo.com devoted to listing our members' specials, new services, updated hours and other changes. Businesses in the food and beverage, retail, service and entertainment sectors sent us updates on how they're working to continue connecting safely with customers and clients.

We established [another page](#) dedicated to disseminating the latest information our members need to know about the pandemic and



its economic impact. There you'll find links to websites and documents about grants for affected businesses, strategies for promoting local shopping, information about unemployment insurance and more.

We hope these resources will help our members survive this difficult time, and will make it easier for consumers to patronize them. It will take everyone's best effort to survive this pandemic and, in the end, thrive. We're all in this together.

Keep calm and shop Baraboo. And above all, stay safe and stay healthy.

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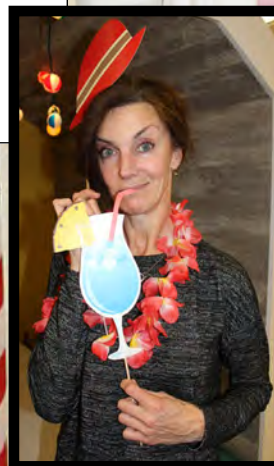
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BUSINESS AFTER 5: AGRACE HOSPICE



[Agrace Hospice](#) turned March's installment of Business After 5 into a tiki bar luau, featuring leis, door prize giveaways and tropical flavors provided by Amber Giddings of [Glacier Rock](#). The April 6 Business After 5 event to be held at [HealthSource Chiropractic](#) has been postponed.



RIBBON CUTTING: PIERCE'S WEST



Pierce's West Express hosted an open house and ribbon cutting Saturday, February 29. Owner Brian Pierce and his staff welcomed a great crowd during the daylong festivities. Located at 527 Linn St., Pierce's West Express features gas pumps, a convenience store and a vast liquor selection.



Local healthcare providers seek masks

The Trump administration recently allowed health-care workers to use N95 face masks not specifically approved for medical use to treat a patient during the COVID-19 pandemic. If your company has available masks to share with healthcare providers, you are encouraged to contact your nearby hospital and clinics. Ask to speak to the person in charge of Materials Management.

Baraboo: St. Clare Hospital 356-1400

Reedsburg: Reedsburg Area Medical Center 564-6487

Sauk Prairie: Sauk Prairie Healthcare 643-3311

RIBBON CUTTING: UNO'S PIZZERIA

Uno Pizzeria & Grill in Lake Delton officially joined the Chamber with a March 13 ribbon-cutting ceremony. Uno's is best known for its deep-dish pizzas and its selection of craft beers.



MARCH RECAP



Barry at Balanced Rock Winery



Jack Young Middle School groundbreaking • March 12



BOARD LUNCH

Thank you to KFC providing lunch for the March Board of Directors meeting!



WMC



KEEPING THE WORKPLACE SAFE ENCOURAGE YOUR EMPLOYEES TO...



PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

- Stop handshaking—use other noncontact methods of greeting
- Clean hands at the door and remind employees to regularly wash their hands
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their faces and cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks and handrails regularly



BE CAREFUL WITH MEETINGS AND TRAVEL

- Use videoconferencing for meetings when possible
- Assess the risk of business travel



HANDLE FOOD CAREFULLY

- Limit food sharing
- Strengthen health screening for cafeteria staff and their close contacts
- Ensure cafeteria staff and their close contacts practice strict hygiene



STAY HOME IF...

- They are feeling sick
- They have a sick family member in their home

WHAT EVERY BUSINESS CAN DO NOW TO DECREASE THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

Chamber website lists members' changes

One page devoted to specials, another to resources

The COVID-19 pandemic is posing significant challenges for our members, some of whom have been forced to close or reduce service.

We at the Chamber want to help by offering consumers a comprehensive listing of special offers and new services our members are instituting to safely connect with customers.

We've added a [page to our website](#) dedicated to how members are responding to the pandemic, and prominently placed a link to that page on the baraboo.com home page. Find it here.

We also have added a [page to our website](#) listing all the resources available from public and private organizations during this health crisis. These include information on grants available to affected businesses, tips for bringing in customers during quarantine periods, and information about unemployment insurance. Many of those resources appear in this month's edition of the Chamber Review.

Chamber events postponed

At the urging of the Centers for Disease Control on the spread of COVID-19, the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce's Executive Committee has decided to post-

pone the organization's upcoming events until further notice, including the April 6 Business After 5 scheduled at HealthSource Chiropractic. We hope to reschedule these events with the members who were set to host them.

Visitor Center lobby closed

In related news, we have closed the Visitor Center lobby. The vestibule remains open for visitors looking to collect brochures. Our offices remained staffed. Over the next two weeks, Darren and Ben will be working from home. They will be monitoring their Chamber email accounts and interacting with members by phone.

Baraboo Pizza Ranch

Business Specials

To get us through this difficult time for all of us, we have created some awesome specials for pickup or delivery.

\$5.00 items

Small Pizza

2 pc chicken dinner w/mashed or wedges

A wrap with chips

Pasta dinner with breadsticks

A garden salad or Crantastic Salad

You can call the store or order through email, for the next day

Baraboo@pizzaranch.com

Call us at:608-448-2215





TAKING THE CHAOS OUT OF CORONAVIRUS

As you are aware, President Donald Trump declared a national state of emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak. In light of the clients and community members who have reached out to MBE CPAs and its affiliates, we've compiled a coronavirus FAQ for employers.

Please note that the information contained in this document is preliminary, and we will be providing frequent updates as additional information becomes available.

Q: Which online resources are available to employers and employees?

A: The main resource that should be frequently reviewed is the CDC homepage, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>, which is continually updated, displays statistics about the virus spread, and provides guidance for preventive measures.

Another helpful resource is the EPA website, <https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/19536-epa-publishes-list-of-disinfectants-that-can-help-stop-spread-of-coronavirus>. This site provides a list of cleaning products that have been determined strong enough to eliminate the coronavirus.

Q: Can an employer require an employee who has been exposed to the coronavirus to stay at home?

A: Yes, if the employer has knowledge that the employee has been exposed, the employer can require the employee to stay at home. Employers can also require employees who exhibit signs of respiratory illness to leave the workplace and stay home until the symptoms are gone.

Q: Can an employer inform other employees when they become aware that an employee has tested positive for COVID-19?

A: No, this is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Instead, employers should inform their employees that a potential exposure has occurred in the workplace.

Q: Should employees returning from travel be required to stay away from the office for 14 days?

A: Yes, employees returning from countries that have a Level 3 Travel Health Notice from the CDC should stay at home for a period of 14 days.

Q: What steps should employers be taking now?

A: Employers will want to develop, implement, and communicate a contingency work plan. They will need to analyze business needs and assess if employees have the ability to work remotely or if other work alterations should be made. Modifications may include implementing various work shifts, splitting

shifts, reducing work hours, or partial business closings. Contingency plans will depend largely on the type of business. If it becomes necessary for the business to close for a certain period of time, business owners should review their business liability insurance as some policies include business interruption clauses.

For businesses that remain open and have public contact, employers will need to determine which types of personal protective equipment (PPE) should be supplied to employees. Note that employees have the right to request their own PPE that is not used by other employees.

Employers will also want to communicate frequently with employees and stay updated on the spread of the coronavirus and the proposed Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Employers should continue to encourage sick employees to stay at home.

Q: What is the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)?

A: The House approved the FFCRA (HR 6102) on March 13, and the Senate will be voting on this bill in the very near future. Provisions of this bill may be removed or modified. The FFCRA contains various new requirements that impact employers with fewer than 500 employees and government employers.

Q: What are the provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)?

A: The FFCRA ([H.R. 6201](#)) has several components:

- Free coronavirus testing (private health plans, Medicare, and Medicaid).
- Paid emergency leave and amended family leave (requiring employers to pay a certain number of hours to employees).
- Payroll credits for employers for required paid sick leave and family leave.
- Enhanced unemployment insurance.
- Additional funding for nutritional programs.
- Protections for health care workers and employees responsible for cleaning at-risk places.
- Additional federal funds for Medicaid.

Q: When will the FFCRA be passed?

A: It is anticipated that the Senate will pass this bill in the next 2-4 days. As soon as additional information becomes available, MBE CPAs and its affiliates will share this information.

If you are an employer in need of additional guidance and support, please contact one of the following Workforce Solutions HR Consultants:

- Dawn Urban: urban@workforcehrsolutions.com or (715) 502-5009
- Chris Storlie: cstorlie@workforcehrsolutions.com or (608) 478-4002
- Sue Matis: smatis@workforcehrsolutions.com or (715) 803-4232



U.S. Small Business
Administration

SBA Disaster Assistance in Response to the Coronavirus

- The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon a request received from a state's or territory's Governor, SBA will issue under its own authority, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.
- Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the state's or territory's Governor to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.
- Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state, the information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance will be made available to all affected communities as well as updated on our website: [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster).
- SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.
- These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.
- SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.
- SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government's coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.
- For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.
- Visit [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster) for more information.