

Good afternoon members,

State Representative Karina Villa provides a valuable FAQ for businesses regarding the wearing of face masks by customers. The **attachment** provides for explanation on accommodations and exceptions to the Executive Order. Also provided by Representative Villa is a Food Assistance **attachment** that you or someone you know may find useful.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce offers a heart lifting article on how small businesses, while struggling, are still giving back and continuing to be the backbone of our communities and economy. We know so many of our members have done the same locally. Our June/July newsletter will provide a look into some of those.

For your enjoyment, member Geneva History Museum has released another video in their series ‘If These Walls Could Talk’. Hotel Geneva, which was located on the corner of Third & State, is highlighted. While quite a spot to stay in its heyday, this space has also seen quite a bit of notoriety since it closed. Watch the full video [HERE](#).

Still some webinars to wrap up the week and some new ones added today, including Chamber Chat #2 tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Paula Schmidt  
President, Geneva Chamber of Commerce

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**WEBINAR (free)**

**Chamber Chat #2**

Hosted by Geneva Chamber of Commerce

May 14 @ 11 am

Zoom link and ID [HERE](#)

Join the discussion led by Geneva Chamber Board Chairman Scott Lebin. Share ideas, updates and resources with other Chamber members.

**WEBINAR (free)**

**An Update on Health Guidelines and Protocols**

Hosted by Fox Valley Chambers

May 14 @ 11:30 am

Register [HERE](#) (this link will take you to St. Charles Chamber website to register)

Presented by Michael Isaacson, Assistant Director of Community Health at Kane County Health Department

**WEBINAR (free)**

**Not Approved For A PPP Loan? What Now?**

Hosted by Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (IACCE)

May 14 @ 1 pm

Register [HERE](#)

Your company was not approved for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan but the bills are still due. There may still be some opportunities available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help keep your company on its feet. Join labor and employment attorney Kelly Haab-Tallitsch and corporate and banking attorney Andrew Podgorny as they discuss:

Employee Retention Tax Credit

Payroll Tax Deferral

Economic Injury Disaster Loans

Tax Credits for Paid Sick Leave and Expanded FMLA

We hope you can join us for this timely webcast!

*\*\*Following the program, slides from the webcast will be sent to attendees.*

**WEBINAR (free)**

**STRESSED – Handling Overwhelming Stress and the Impact on Our Health, Happiness & Quality of Life**

Hosted by St. Charles Chamber of Commerce

May 15 @ 12 pm

Register [HERE](#) (you be taken to St. Charles (STC) Chamber site to register. If you are not a member of STC Chamber, please choose Not A Member on right side to register)

Presented by member Dr. Connor LaVallie, Greater Good Chiropractic Care.

**WEBINAR (free)**

**Calling Employees Back**

Hosted by Fox Valley Chambers

May 20 @ 10 am

Register [HERE](#) (Registration Required)

Topics include: How to handle calling employees back. Reporting and what's your responsibility. How to address employees who don't want to return. What if you receive a decline due to childcare or medical issues. Presented by Terri Greeno, Express Employment Professionals.

**WEBINAR (free)**

**Managing Personal Finances in a Crisis**

Hosted by Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Batavia Chamber of Commerce & St. Charles Chamber of Commerce

May 21 @ 10 am

Register [HERE](#) (Registration Required)

What should I do if I've lost my job? Should I apply for unemployment benefits? Should I tap into my emergency savings? Should I access my retirement accounts? What about my mortgage? What about student loans? Ways to cut back, advice on payday loans and how to handle utilities and service providers. Presented by Becki Drake & Dan Homan, Geneva Bank & Trust.

## **From Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity**

From the time COVID-19 hit, the State of Illinois has worked to respond to not only the impact it's had on our public health, but also on the health of our local economy. Over the past 8 weeks, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) launched a number of grant and relief measures to address the unprecedented economic impact – and just today, we have launched the newest installment in helping businesses and communities around our state manage through the crisis.

Yesterday, DCEO joined Governor Pritzker in announcing the [Fast Track Capital Grants](#)— a \$25 million initiative to accelerate funding to help complete critical public infrastructure projects. This program will help ensure planned capital projects move forward in spite of revenue loss facing the entire state, will prioritize projects in underserved communities, and will ensure skilled labor can return to the job site just in time for the summer construction season.

This new program builds on a series of COVID-19 relief and assistance programs totaling over \$100 million – including the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program, the Emergency Small Business Loan Fund, and more. A full menu of programs can be found on DCEO's website [here](#).

We encourage all of our business partners to stay informed on the latest information pertaining to the reopening or programs for businesses by visiting our website, signing up for any one of our upcoming webinars, or by following us on social media.

## **From U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

### **Small Businesses Step Up to the Coronavirus Challenge**

Small businesses are the backbone of our communities and our economy. Employing nearly half the American workforce, they keep our neighborhoods running and make them feel like home. The impacts of the coronavirus pandemic have wrought unprecedented financial uncertainty, yet they are still finding ways to give back to their communities, according to the Chamber's latest [Small Business Coronavirus Impact Poll](#).

Two-in-three small businesses are continuing contributions to those in need in the midst of the pandemic. This includes nearly one-third (31%) who have donated to a food bank or COVID-19 response fund, one in five (22%) who report paying their employees even if their business has shortened hours or is closed, and another one in five (22%) who have loaned money to a friend or family member. Nineteen percent say they have produced or donated personal protective equipment.

Take Kaas Tailored, a furniture manufacturer in Mukilteo, WA, that shifted from building furniture for major airplane manufacturers to making personal protective equipment, producing more than 100,000 surgical masks and 30,000 face shields with a team of 200 employees. Eight Oaks Farm, a family-run distillery in New Tripoli, PA, halted its production of whiskey, rum, and other spirits, and switched to making hand sanitizer for nonprofits and frontline workers. Another family-owned business, Minuteman Press, which works with local franchisees across the nation to provide print, design, and marketing services, launched the Bounce Back USA

initiative, offering free advertising and COVID-19 awareness and prevention posters to support local businesses in need.

We're seeing incredible acts of kindness from local chambers as well. The Tucson Metro Chamber and Tucson LGBT Chamber of Commerce have been working with local hotels to provide respite housing for frontline healthcare workers and recovering COVID-19 patients. Every hour of every day, small business owners and small chambers across the country are being forced to make difficult decisions due to the significant revenue disruptions caused by the coronavirus. Yet, giving back to their communities is not one of them. Through their resilience, compassion, and ingenuity, small businesses continue to strengthen our communities and serve as a powerful beacon of hope in these trying times.

## **From Illinois Small Business Development Center at WCC**

### **Resources**

[PUA Unemployment](#) is now available for Sole Proprietors and Independent Contractors. You must apply for regular unemployment first, if you have not already done so. Read more information about [PUA](#).

[Sam's Club is teaming up with LISC](#) to offer small business grants. The next round of grants opens on May 14. This program focuses on historically underserved communities – especially enterprises owned by women, minorities, and veterans.

GoFundMe is offering [\\$500 matching grants](#). To qualify for a matching grant from the Small Business Relief Fund, the GoFundMe fundraiser must raise at least \$500 and verify that your small business has been negatively impacted by a government mandate due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your small business must be independently owned and operated and must not be nationally dominant in your field of operation. Each recipient of the matching grant must intend on using the funds to help care for your employees or pay ongoing business expenses.

Shaw Media [Community Marketing Grant](#) is providing matching advertising credits to assist locally owned businesses.

The IL SBDC at Waubonsee is working remotely, and is available to answer your questions. Please contact us at (630) 906-4143 or email [sbdc@waubonsee.edu](mailto:sbdc@waubonsee.edu). Please be patient. We will respond to your inquiry as quickly as possible.

## **From our Representative Lauren Underwood**

In a virtual meeting with the Illinois District Director for the Small Business Administration (SBA) Robert “Bo” Steiner, Underwood and Steiner provided an update on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. Additionally, Underwood provided meeting participants with the opportunity to ask questions and hear directly from the SBA. A full video of the meeting can be found [here](#).

During the coronavirus pandemic, Underwood has worked to help Illinois small business owners impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. In March, Underwood hosted a Facebook Live

[discussion](#) with Steiner to share a range of resources available to Illinois small businesses that have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

### **From Illinois Restaurant Association (IRA)**

Yesterday, House Democrats announced a bill to amend the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that includes several necessary changes to the program that would benefit restaurants.

The bill is a House Democratic Leadership marker bill to communicate to Congressional Republicans and the Trump administration for the negotiating table, which could be sometime in mid-June. Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham said the bill, in its current form, is "dead on arrival" in the Senate.

Below is a summary of the bill in consideration. [Click here](#) to read the bill text, which starts on page 821.

- Extension of the program from June 30 to December 31 with Dec. 31st as the new deadline for rehiring for forgiveness purposes.
- Improves loan terms from current 2 years to new 5 year floor to amortize loans over a longer period of time, which lowers monthly payments
- Clarifies that PPP loans cannot be calculated on a compound basis, saving borrowers money over the long-term;
- Modifications to PPP Funds, including
- A carve out of 25% of the existing funds on the date of enactment to be used specifically for small businesses with 10 or fewer employees to guarantee they are fully able to access PPP assistance;
- Establishes an additional set aside of existing funds of the lesser of 25% or \$10 billion specifically for community financial institutions, such as Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), Minority Development Institutions (MDIs), SBA microlenders, and SBA Certified Development Companies (CDCs); and
- Extends the covered loan period from 8 weeks to 24 weeks
- Creates a safe harbor for borrowers who cannot rehire due to the inability to rehire in the prescribed timeframe;
- Eliminates the 75/25 rule on use of loan proceeds for non-payroll expenses

### **From member Fox Valley Ophthalmology**

Our practice is offering a more comfortable option for medical professionals ([see attachment](#)). We have a limited supply but we are offering them at our cost. \$100 for non prescription or \$150 for single vision. Contact Heidi at [opticalshop@foxvalleyeyes.com](mailto:opticalshop@foxvalleyeyes.com) for further questions.

### **SEND PICTURES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA**

Since we had to cancel Swedish Days, our social media manager, Kristen Cornelio is working on a special Swedish Days Social Media Post and would love for our members to share with us a photo of you or your team that we can include. Photos can be of you enjoying a past Swedish

Days or just a nice photo of you & your business. Please email Kristen your photo submissions by May 22 to [kristenhollyevents@gmail.com](mailto:kristenhollyevents@gmail.com).