

July 2 through July 8, 2020

Whidbey Weekly

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A Celebration of the Best of Whidbey Island First Market July 3rd, 11:30 - 5:30

The Langley Chamber of Commerce and Langley Creates are excited to show off the bounty and creativity of our island.

The New Langley Friday Street Market will take place on Langley's streets throughout the summer, starting on July 3rd and ending on September 25th during the hours of 11:30 - 5:30.

We have invited artisans, creatives, growers, and performers from all over Whidbey Island to be part of Langley's "Out of the Box Program," joining our retail stores and restaurants to bring you the best of Whidbey Island.

Come Experience Whidbey Island at its Best

Stroll our streets, explore our retail stores, galleries, and the new Friday market, then have a bite in one of our open air restaurants.

If you'd like to be part of the Friday Market applications are online at VisitLangley.com/the-new-friday-in-downtown-langley/



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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



While filling out another unwanted questionnaire from another wanting organization, I realized my appreciation for the category of "Other."

I have always related to "other." It is always the last category listed. Living in a caboose, I appreciate the last one to arrive.

There are infinite numbers of categories listed in these questionnaires that show up in my mailbox.

At least it is fun bulk mail, not like the Neptune Society. Do they know something I don't know?

When asked in print today by some organization called Population Connection, "How angry are you about....", my choices for a response were: *absolutely furious, pretty mad, not too bothered, and more concerned about the other urgent issues.*

This is the kind of multiple choice question I can get right.

The last time I was "absolutely furious," I was "partially furious" just moments before becoming "absolutely furious."

Like the United Way thermometer on those fund raising signs outside small town America, my *furiousness* rises in accordance with my emotion.

Things like typos, blinking orange turn signal arrows, and questionnaires without the "other" category make me *absolutely furious*.

Pretty mad things includes forgetting I am cooking a frozen dinner, sleeping too late to watch Hopalong Cassidy on TV even though I already have the DVD, and scaring the fawn when I am mowing the pasture.

Not too bothered stuff includes forgetting my mask, dropping my mask, or liberating a hearing aid while removing my mask.

Like Fats Waller's song, "Your Feet's Too Big," my ears are too big for some of these loops.

The expression, "Thanks for keeping me in the loop" means more every day.

Few and far between would be my answer to the *more concerned about the other urgent issues* category.

With my memory, nothing is urgent for long. To remember, I often have to walk into another room.

Hopefully, my weekly *Whidbey Weekly* deadlines are as close to an urgent issue as I get.

It's the only job I still have.

No need for me to set the alarm to wake for a deadline. I would not miss this weekly sharing opportunity with you even if I forget what week it is.

Chinese Proverb

If there is Light in the Soul, there will be Beauty in the Person.

If there is Beauty in the Person, there will be Harmony in the House.

If there is Harmony in the House, there will be Order in the Nation.

If there is Order in the Nation, there will be Peace in the World.

Can you hear me now?

The other night, while enjoying an overly modulated TV commercial segment, a Miracle Ear ad was followed by a Viagra ad.

To me, it looked like the same couple in both. The guy was gray haired, in his mid-to-late 60s, sitting next to a 40ish brunette smiling quietly at her mate with his glistening droplets in tact.

No wonder.

Thanks to the Miracle Ear-Viagra combo, the guy can finally hear what she is saying.

At least for four hours.

Baseball trivia

In honor of some form of baseball spring training now in session, I am reminded, thanks to a piece of paper with my scribbled notes, of the final words of Vin Scully, Hall of Fame Dodger baseball broadcaster, on his final day of his final broadcast.

"I have said enough for a lifetime, and for the last time, I wish you all well."

Mentioning Vinnie reminds me of the classic Dodger/Cardinal game back in the Lasorda years. The exact date was Aug. 10, 1995. The marketing promotion that day was free baseballs to the fans.

You already know where this is going, even if you don't like baseball.

If the Dodgers win the game, they are tied for first in their National League West Division.

It is the bottom of the 9th with Dodger Raul Mondesi at the plate with a 2-1 Cardinal lead. There is one out.

Much to the dissatisfaction of batter Mondesi and manager Tommy Lasorda, the umpire calls a strike three instead of a ball four.

Mondesi is out. He and Lasorda erupt, only to be ejected for arguing with the ump, Jim Quick.

Over 53,000 fans go nuts. Those who still had their free baseballs (some balls were tossed on the field in the 7th during the stretch and toss) began throwing them on the field and at umpires.

The game was called for safety reasons. The Dodgers forfeited. Those who still have their free baseballs today surely have an unforgettable memory.

Those who tossed their balls might say today, in unison, "We had a ball."

At ease

"Ease in any art is the result of mastery over the details of the craft. You get them together to the point where you can forget about how you do things and concentrate on what you are doing." ~Gene Lees, from his album liner notes for Perry Como's *Look to your Heart* (1968).

"The more likely you are to live for others, the more likely you are to live happily ever after." ~Steve Hartman, CBS News

Pop quiz

Who are the two U.S. presidents with 10 letter surnames?

Who are the six presidents with surnames ending in "-son"?

Name the five presidents with four letter last names.

Let's give you some time on this.

One thousand one. One thousand two. Repeat as needed.

Ready for the answers?

We'll tell you next week.

Joking!

Just joking!

Don't crumple page 3 unless you are reading online.

George Washington and Dwight D. Eisenhower are the 10 letter men.

Jefferson, Madison, Jackson, Harrison, Johnson, and Wilson are the six "-sons."

Polk, Taft, Ford, Bush, and Bush are the five with four.

These are the kinds of things one learns with too much spare time.

I'd go back and check my work, but it is time to change subjects again.

Reader joke

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go on a camping trip. After a good dinner, they retire for the night, and go to sleep.

Some hours later, Holmes wakes up and nudges his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

"I see millions and millions of stars, Holmes" exclaims Watson.

"And what do you deduce from that?"

Watson ponders for a minute.

"Well, astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful, and that we are a small and insignificant part of the universe. What does it tell you, Holmes?"

And Holmes said: "Watson, you idiot, it means that somebody stole our tent."

To read past columns of *On Track* in the *Whidbey Weekly*, see our Digital Library at www.whidbey-weekly.com.

The market is hot!

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Volume 12, Issue 27 | © MMXX Whidbey Weekly

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**More trips.
Earlier and
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New route.**

**Modified service starts July 6 with
14 routes on Whidbey and Camano.**

Saturday service resumes July 11.

www.islandtransit.org

**We care—please wear a face mask
and follow distancing practices.**



Thank you for reading! Please recycle the Whidbey Weekly when you are finished with it.





Bits & Pieces

Letters to the Editor

A Message from Sheriff Rick Felici:

In response to Governor Inslee's press release, we are fielding a lot of questions about what you can expect from the Island County Sheriff's Office during the governor's statewide mask mandate.

Our position hasn't changed since our last post on the topic.

Our priority is the safety of the public. During COVID-19 restrictions, we will be focusing on educating people about how to best help keep themselves, their families, and our communities safe, especially our most vulnerable members.

When deputies encounter people who are not complying with the governor's order, we will remind them of the current restrictions and the reasons for them with a goal of education and voluntary participation as we all work to reduce the impact of this virus.

We have no desire to arrest or ticket anyone for violations of the current restrictions.

Our community continues to show we are taking this infection threat seriously. We are individually and collectively doing good things to help control the spread of COVID-19.

As we continue to balance these new challenges with limited resources, we ask that you please continue to help stop the spread by doing your part.

We are very much aware of the difficulty this pandemic has created for our families, businesses and community.

Working together to shorten the physical and economic impact of this event is still our only real option.

Rick Felici, Island County Sheriff

Editor,

I endorse judicial candidate Carolyn Cliff. I was a Seattle law firm's pro bono attorney, Director of the Access to Justice Institute at Seattle University and served five years on the State Access to Justice Board. I was the Director of Whidbey's Volunteer Lawyer Program. I have much trial experience.

Nathan Howard, Commissioner candidate, interviewed both judicial candidates. The interviews are available on his campaign website. (www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=nathan-howard-for-island-county)

Kathleen Petrich is intelligent. However, I am concerned she doesn't understand the need of assistance for unrepresented litigants. She never mentioned pro bono or attorneys assisting without charge.

Carolyn Cliff understands court procedures are intimidating. She supports funding for a Court Facilitator and a Commissioner to give more time to proceedings involving unrepresented people. Carolyn Cliff has provided free legal aid.

Carolyn Cliff has practiced law in Island County since 1989. She has served as a Superior Court Commissioner and a Pro Tem Judge. Kathleen Petrich moved to Island County in 2017. Island County is different from King County, and the problems of residents here are different. Carolyn Cliff is the more qualified candidate for Island County Superior Court.

Christine Crowell, J.D.
Langley, Wash.

Editor,

I am one of seven volunteers on Whidbey Island who offer guidance to folks getting ready to enroll in Medicare. We also work closely with others who want to change their current plans or need help with their current Medicare. We normally meet in person with clients at locations throughout the island.

Obviously, we've had to rise to meet the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to stay home and social distance. And we've done just that. People can now call us and receive their Medicare counseling over the phone. It's easy, it's convenient, and we're always available for follow-up calls.

If you find yourself wanting to learn more about how to enroll in Medicare, or what to do now that you're retiring, or if you just have a question, don't hesitate to call. The staff at the Bayview Senior Center will arrange a date and time for one of us to give you a call.

Here's the number to call: 360-321-1600.

Don't put off calling because Medicare has important deadlines you don't want to miss.

We volunteer under the local Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) program through Island Senior Services. SHIBA is a free, unbiased service of the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Kati Corsaut, SHIBA Advisor
Coupeville, Wash.

2020 Bayview Street Dances Canceled

It is with heavy hearts Goosefoot has decided to cancel its summer street dances. Goosefoot is committed to following the guidelines set forth by the Governor's office, knowing they are based on the best science and health technology available.

Goosefoot is dedicated to building community and connecting neighbors. It strives to keep everyone safe, healthy, and building towards a better tomorrow. Bayview Corner does offer the opportunity for socially distanced fun with several outdoor and indoor dining locales, picnic tables, and beautiful grounds to stroll.

In the meantime, practice your dance moves in your living rooms and kitchens. There will be live music and dancing together as a community again. And Goosefoot can't wait!

For more information, contact Sami Postma at sami@goosefoot.org or 360-321-4246.

[Submitted by Sami Postma, Goosefoot]

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue Introduces New Fire Chief



Fire Chief John Clark and his wife, Gina, look forward to being part of the North Whidbey Island community. Photo courtesy of Kelsie MacDonald.

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue hired John Clark as its new fire chief – three months ago. Chief Clark began his position March 16, a short time after the COVID-19 pandemic had taken hold in Washington state.

"We should have made the introductions before now, but preparing for and responding to COVID-19 was our priority," said Chief John Clark. "Now, I'd like to introduce myself, my wife Gina, and thank the people we've met so far on Whidbey Island for such a warm welcome."

Chief Clark joins NWFR with 41 years in emergency services. He last served as Fire Chief for Baker City, Ore., before moving to Whidbey

Island. He has also held the positions of Chief for Delta Township, Mich. and Assistant Chief for Washington Township, Mich. earlier in his career.

Chief Clark has extensive experience in volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention. This is important to an agency like NWFR, which primarily relies on part-time paid and volunteer firefighters to respond to an average of 2,400 emergency calls a year. Fire districts across the nation are struggling to attract and retain volunteers due to the time commitment and training requirements. On Whidbey Island, the cost of living is also an issue.

"We have people who want to volunteer, but they're working two or three jobs to make ends meet. Add family commitments on top of that, and there's not a lot of time left to give," said Chief Clark. "My goal is to continue the tradition of volunteerism at the fire district by providing our volunteers with some flexibility so they can stay involved or join the fire district."

Having an adequate number of firefighters on shift each day is critical to manage increasing call volumes for the fire district (up 45 percent in 10 years). Higher call volumes also are contributing to wear and tear on emergency apparatus and equipment. Two fire engines need replacing, as well as outdated radio equipment and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) for firefighters.

NWFR is considering asking voters for a Fire Levy lid lift of 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value during the November General Election. Currently NWFR has the lowest Fire Levy rate of any fire agency in Island County. If approved by voters, funding would be used to pay cash for these items as opposed to financing them, which costs taxpayers more due to interest payments.

The fire district plans to discuss the lid lift and take public comment during its July 14 meeting. More information will be forthcoming once it is known whether the meeting can be held in person or through a video conference feature.

Chief Clark holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Engineering from University of Cincinnati and a Master's Degree in Safety Administration from University of Eastern Kentucky. He also is a certified Fire Officer III, Paramedic, Fire Instructor I, Fire Plans Examiner, Fire Inspector, and Professional Emergency Manager.

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue provides an emergency response to fires, medical calls, water and high angle rescue, and auto accidents. The agency serves 18,000 people over 55 square miles, which includes the unincorporated area west of the City of Oak Harbor from Deception Pass Bridge (to the north) and Libbey Road in Coupeville (to the south). Highly-trained part-time paid and volunteer firefighters respond to an average of 2,400 calls per year.

[Submitted by North Whidbey Fire and Rescue]

Island Transit Starts Modified Service Plan July 6 Under Phase III of Safe Start

July 6, Island Transit will start operating on a new Modified Service Plan to provide the community with more access to public transit as Island County enters Phase III of Washington Safe Start during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Modified Service Plan provides more service than has been available since March and shifts some resources to high-demand areas to better serve the community. Most existing route paths under the Modified Service Plan will remain the same with more frequency and longer span of service hours. Saturday service will begin July 11 and the NASWI Commuter Services will resume July 6. Some routes that had been eliminated when the pandemic began will be restored.

"The Modified Service Plan takes our new reality of social distancing into account to slow the spread of COVID-19. Out of care and concern for our passengers and operators, we

cannot allow as many people on the buses. This means we need more vehicles and drivers to carry the same number of passengers on many routes, which increases operating costs for those routes," says Todd Morrow, Executive Director of Island Transit, adding the need to maintain new health and safety standards during the pandemic comes at a time when resources are getting tighter. "The Modified Service Plan supports the right mix of service and safety, shifting some resources from low-ridership areas to provide the highest level of service to the most people. Customers will experience much more service starting July 6."

Ridership limits on buses have changed during the pandemic from 38 to 11 on two-door buses, 25 to eight on one-door buses and eight to two on para-transit buses to maintain social distancing.

With the economic impact of COVID-19 affecting retail sales, the agency could lose up to 30 percent in local sales tax revenues which make up 70 percent of the agency's operating budget. "We're moving forward with an eye on fiscal responsibility as well as service to the public," says Morrow.

The new Modified Service Plan will provide more service on both Whidbey and Camano islands, moving from 8 to 14 routes during week days with schedule modifications on all but one route. Here are some highlights:

Whidbey Island Service:

Route 1: Adding AM/PM routes with half-hour service from 11:00AM to 4:30PM. No service to Ken's Corner on evening commuter run.

Route 3: Restoring service with five runs a day: 2:00AM, 1 mid-day, and 2:00PM.

Route 6: Restoring service and adding a 12:30PM run from Coupeville to Oak Harbor.

Route 14: Adding a new route. Runs every half hour and expands service to Oak Harbor High School, Oak Harbor Middle School, Oak Harbor Senior Center, John Vanderzicht Memorial Pool, and Summer Hill Assisted Living.

Route 58: Restoring service to a modified route with 2:00AM and 2:00PM trips.

Route 60: Adding 2:00AM and 2:00PM trips with Express Commuter runs to Scatchet Head to/from Clinton Ferry.

NASWI Commuter Service: Fully restored with 2:00AM and 2:00PM runs.

Routes 10, 12 and 22 will be combined with the new Route 14. Route 57 will not be restored but much of the service included in that area will be covered by Route 60. Service to Lone Lake and Goss Road areas will end with that change.

Camano Island Service:

Route 1W: Adding four trips: 1:00AM, 1 mid-day and 2:00PM.

Route 2: Adding four trips: 2:00AM and 2:00PM.

Route 3: Adding seven trips: 3:00AM, 1 mid-day and 3:00PM.

Route 411C: Adding three trips: 2:00AM and 1:00PM.

Route 412: Restoring to four roundtrips daily: 2:00AM and 2:00PM.

Saturday Service will begin again Saturday, July 11, on Whidbey Routes 1, 14, 411W and 60, as well as on Camano Routes 1, 2, 3 and 411C.

The Modified Service Plan was designed with ridership data driving decisions on which routes to expand, which hours and frequency to modify, and which service to reduce. The substitution of Route 57 and changes to Route 58 will affect some para-transit customers. Island Transit is working to find alternative transportation for the customers impacted by these service modifications.

"While we may not have as much service as we were running before the Stay Home, Stay Healthy orders limited travel, we will be offering much more service than has been available since March 22," says Morrow. "We're still in a time of uncertainty. As we better understand the impacts of COVID-19, we hope to be able to provide more service in the future."

A full schedule of the new Modified Service Plan can be found at www.islandtransit.org. Connecting transit agencies have implemented emergency service plans which may affect transfers. Reference their websites for the most current information.



With Washington's new law requiring the use of face coverings in public places, passengers are asked to wear a face mask while riding the bus and will be provided a mask if they don't have one. A full explanation of new health and safety guidelines for riding the bus during the pandemic can be found at www.islandtransit.org/covid-19-response.

Customers who need further assistance or have questions should contact Island Transit Customer Service at 360-678-7771.

The mission of Island Transit is to provide safe, accessible, convenient, and friendly public transportation services which enhance our island quality of life.

[Submitted by Meg Heppner, Island Transit]

A Summer Delight: A Scenic Bike Ride and a Whole Pie



Riders participate in the Sea, Trees, & Pie Bike Ride near Crockett Lake on Whidbey Island.

Grab your bike helmet! It's time to register for the fifth annual Sea, Trees, & Pie Bike Ride.

The fun and non-competitive bike ride, organized by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, is taking a slightly new spin this summer. Instead of registering for a one-day event, you are invited to ride one of three scenic Central Whidbey courses when it fits your schedule between July 10 and Aug. 31.

Soak up the incredible natural beauty while supporting the Land Trust's conservation work on Whidbey and Camano Islands, then enjoy another treat: registered riders will receive a voucher for a whole pie from Whidbey Pies redeemable at the 3 Sisters Market in Coupeville.

Learn more and sign up for the bike ride at www.wclt.org/bikeride. The cost is \$25 for a single rider and \$40 for families. Children 16 and under ride for free! Helmets must be worn by all riders.

Proceeds benefit the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, a nonprofit nature conservation organization that protects natural areas and working farms and provides public access to beaches and trails.

The bike ride showcases more than 30 properties permanently protected by the Land Trust. Crockett Lake, the island's largest wetland system, is a prominent natural feature along all three routes.

Participants will enjoy riding through some of the island's most breathtaking landscapes, including farmlands, beaches, wetlands, and woods with incredible views of the Olympic Mountains and Puget Sound. Riders may choose from three routes consisting of 5, 10, or 20-mile loops. The 5-mile loop is over fairly level ground and is designed for both beginning and young bike riders.

The start and finish lines for all three routes is at the State Parks birding platform near the Coupeville/Port Townsend ferry terminal. A Discover Pass is required to park there. After you register, you'll receive a packet of information, including a course map and the voucher for a whole pie. Sign up today!

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust is a nonprofit nature conservation organization that actively involves the community in protecting, restoring, and appreciating the important natural habitats and resource lands that support the diversity of life on our islands and in the waters of Puget Sound. For more information, visit www.wclt.org, email info@wclt.org, or call 360-222-3310.

[Submitted by Ron Newberry, Communications Manager, WCLT]

Skagit Valley College's Cardinal Craft Brewing Academy Now Offering 32oz. Brews to Go

Skagit Valley College's Cardinal Craft Brewing (CCB) Academy is now offering pre-ordered 32oz. cans of student-made brews to go. At

least 10 unique beers, including Viva Farms Strawberry Blonde, Make-Up Day IPA, and Not Your Ordinary Bitter, are offered at the Academy's online store.

"Although the Taproom remains closed to the public, Cardinal Craft Brewing Academy students are back in the brewery in small groups creating their final projects," said Samantha Egloff, Cardinal Craft Brewery Coordinator. "We are very excited to have put together a safe way to get our brews out to our customers."

Online orders are accepted throughout the week, with a weekly order cut-off Wednesdays at midnight. Thursday mornings, the 32oz. cans are labeled, individually filled fresh from the tap, and sealed. The orders are bagged and ready for drive-through pickup Thursdays from 3:00 to 7:00PM. Each can will serve two full pints of beer, and when kept cold and unopened, will stay fresh for weeks. With 10 beers from which to choose, brewing fans have the opportunity to select several varieties to stock up on and enjoy. Cardinal Craft Brewing is located at 15579 Peterson Road, Burlington, Wash.

Place and pay for your order online at <https://svccardinalcraftbrewing.ecwid.com> and pull up through the Academy's drive-through area the following Thursday between 3:00 and 7:00PM. The Academy's friendly, gloved and masked team members will bring your order to your vehicle, so you do not need to leave your vehicle.

The Cardinal Craft Brewing website also offers logo merchandise, including CCB pint glasses, hats and hoodies. To stay connected with Cardinal Craft Brewing:

Online store: <https://svccardinalcraftbrewing.ecwid.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SVCCardinalCraftBrewing

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/cardinalcraftbrewing>

[Submitted by Arden Ainley, Chief Public Information Officer, SVC]

June's Low Tides Reveal Moon Snail Egg Casings



Many people are confused when they find moon snail egg casings for the first time - they look a bit like a rubber gasket or like the rubber part of a toilet plunger, like they might be garbage. But no! These are moon snail eggs. The snail who laid them is probably hiding under the sand. Looking at the egg collar, there are up to 500,000 microscopic eggs within the mucous and sand curl. As in most of nature, lots of eggs are laid but few survive to adulthood. It is illegal to remove or harm moon snails or their eggs. Moon snails are native to our shorelines. You have probably found a moon snail shell, they are prized for their intricate swirl. Moon snails eat clams by drilling a hole with their tongue (called a radula) into the clam shell and secreting enzymes. It takes about four days for the snail to drill into one clam shell and another day to digest it. Snails are not a threat to the abundance of clams found here. The moon snails spend the winter in deeper water then move toward shore in summer to breed and lay eggs.

Sound Water Stewards of Island County has just released an educational video about moon snails which can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/426010532>.

[Submitted by Kelly Zupich, Sound Water Stewards of Island County]

Small Business Reimbursement Grant



The Town of Coupeville and Island County Small Business Reimbursement Grant Program is now ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

In an effort to assist small businesses with the costs of business interruption caused by required closures due to COVID-19, the Town of Coupeville is accepting grant applications from small businesses operating inside the Town limits.

This is a Reimbursement Grant program and may be used to reimburse eligible expenses that were incurred after March 1, 2020. The application, with specific details and program guidelines, can be found at <https://townofcoupeville.org/small-business-reimbursement-grant-program/>

Please download the application and email to director@coupevillechamber.com or mail to

Executive Director,
Coupeville Chamber of Commerce,
PO Box 152, Coupeville, WA 98239

Applications must be received at the Chamber by 5:00 pm on July 9th.

For more information, call 360-678-5434



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New weekly market in Langley p. 10

There will still be fireworks this Fourth of July

By **Melanie Hammons** Whidbey Weekly

Folks who've been on Whidbey Island awhile know summertime really begins July 4, rather than June 20. Although the customary fireworks extravaganzas in Freeland and Oak Harbor have been canceled this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, all is not lost: You can still bring on summer right in your own backyard, thanks to all the fireworks kiosks around town.

The local Knights of Columbus chapter in Oak Harbor is one of those vendors. The group sells fireworks every year, with proceeds donated to a wide range of charities, including Relay for Life and North Whidbey Help House, among numerous others.

"We do this every year, not for personal gain but for charity, and we believe we offer the best deal in town," said Richard Mueller, spokesman for the Knights. He called the group's



Rich Mueller Photo Courtesy of Oak Harbor Knights of Columbus
Fire-breathing dragons are among the unique novelty legal fireworks for sale at the Oak Harbor Knights of Columbus stand this year. The organization's annual fireworks sale raises money to support local nonprofit groups.



Rich Mueller Photo Courtesy of Oak Harbor Knights of Columbus
Organizations like the Knights of Columbus in Oak Harbor raise money every year by selling fireworks for home use, something which may be very popular this year in the wake of the cancellation of public fireworks displays on Whidbey Island.

venture a great way for people to socialize smartly on the holiday, maybe enjoy a meal together, and "just have fun."

Of course, the significance of Independence Day runs much deeper than just Roman candles and sparklers, Mueller said.

"It affords us a grand opportunity to get together, not just as families and neighbors, but as Americans," he said.

It's no secret the neighborhood fireworks shows around Oak Harbor and Whidbey Island are pretty legendary on their own merits. In view of that, Mueller stressed the Knights' desire that folks have fun while they use their Washington-state legal fireworks safely.

Ray Merrill, Oak Harbor Fire Department chief, agrees and says there's a way to do both.

"We anticipate that there may be many more individuals and neighborhoods choosing to celebrate with fireworks this holiday, since the Chamber-sponsored event had to cancel, but we just don't know," he said. "As always, fire department personnel remain alert in case something arises."

Merrill also said the fire department's website has easy-to-use links to state regulations and fire safety tips. Many of the Island's volunteer fire departments, such as South Whidbey Fire/EMS, do as well.

Nationwide, a scaled-down celebration approach is very typical this Independence Day, said Vicki Graham, Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce interim executive director.

"Our hope is to come back next year bigger and better," said Graham of the Chamber-sponsored event. Beginning at 2 p.m. Thursday, she said the Chamber is hosting a Red, White, and Blue Drive-thru. "We'll be handing out patriotic 'goody bags' in the Chamber office parking lot until supplies run out."

Looking forward, Graham also hinted at the possibility of a fireworks show to usher in the New Year.

Celebrate the Fourth Safely

There are different rules governing municipalities on Whidbey Island for when and where fireworks can be lit up:

COUPEVILLE

July 4 only: 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.

LANGLEY:

July 4 only: 9 a.m. – midnight

OAK HARBOR:

June 29-July 3, 5: 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. | July 4: 9 a.m. – midnight

UNINCORPORATED ISLAND COUNTY:

July 3 & 5: 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. | July 4: 9 a.m. - midnight

- Fireworks may only be used on private property
- Legal fireworks include novelties, smoke and snakes, ground spinners, Roman candles, sparklers, etc.
- Firecrackers, bottle rockets and missiles and rockets may be discharged on tribal lands only
- Cherry bombs, tennis ball bombs, pipe bombs and altered or homemade fireworks are illegal everywhere

This year, the volunteers who man the Knights' fireworks kiosk believe venues such as theirs are needed more than ever, said Mueller. He called the endeavor a "win-win-win situation," and characterized it as a family affair, involving the spouses of Knights members, too.

The Knights of Columbus stand, located on Hwy 20 in the Auld Holland Inn parking lot, accepts both cash and credit cards.

"We invite everyone to come out, and purchase fireworks to have fun with, all while helping out the local charities," Mueller stressed. "It's time, more than ever, to come together and celebrate."

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Life Tributes



RUTH ROYAL



Ruth Royal, born May 15, 1928 in Seattle, Wash., died peacefully June 17, 2020 in Burlington, Wash. Ruth is now with her loving husband of 70 years, Chuck.

She is survived by the families of their two adult children, Chuck III and Paula Royal and Wendee and John Steele. These families include four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Ruth attended Seattle Public Schools and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1946. Ruth married Chuck in 1948. They spent a few years in Newhalem, Wash., where they managed a gas station

and store. Upon their return to Seattle, Ruth worked as a secretary for several law firms and Troy Laundry. She ended her career as the office manager of a travel agency in Seattle.

They moved to Clinton approximately 39 years ago and commuted to work. Mom finally retired after spending a year as a receptionist for the Everett School District calling for substitute teachers. Even at 5:30 a.m., Ruth, with her wit and charm was able to convince a reluctant prospective substitute of their value and contribution.

Having always worked, Ruth kept very busy while retired. She took up golf, bridge, shanghai rummy, and volunteered at the M Bar C Ranch and the Senior Thrift Store in Freeland where she worked about three days a week. She also loved to work at the Useless Bay Golf and Country Club for the golf tournaments. In addition, she was a decorator and the BEST EVER customer at the Community Thrift Store. She loved the kids and families at the M Bar C Ranch and made them think it was the best hot dog EVER!

Ruth loved to shop and then give her treasured purchases away. She was especially drawn to clip-on earrings, bracelets, scarves and any "jungle" related items. For Ruth, two was a collection, and because she would give it away, she went shopping often.

Ruth was blessed with many friends and had so many special memories: camping at Priest Lake where she would open the candy store for kids in the campground, her own store filled with lots of affordable candy; dance club; cruising; Chinese dinner nights; cards; volunteering; and last but not least, having Friday night at the USBCC occupying the corner window "ROYAL TABLE." Ruth loved spending time with family and grand/great-grand kids sooooo much.

Ruth was a devoted wife, mother, great/grandmother and friend to many. She was fun, willing and oh so positive. She always said, "You get more bees with honey than vinegar."

She will be missed greatly by her family and friends.

There will be no funeral services. A celebration of her life will eventually be held at the Useless Bay Golf and Country Club.

Donations may be made to: Island County Senior Services Center, 14594 SR 525, Langley, WA 98260 or the M Bar C Ranch, 5264 Shore Meadow Road, Freeland, WA 98249.

DAVID FRENCH

David Q. French was born June 16, 1940 and raised in the Portland, Ore., area.

He is survived by two sisters, Patricia Henderson and Laurie French, and one brother, Randolph French.

David remained in Oregon for several years after graduating high school and college and then became very involved in sailing and racing sailboats. He moved to Southern California and became a member of Dana Point Yacht Club, where he was involved in racing sailboats and also became involved with the club's Junior Sailing program. Dave was recruited to work for sail lofts and traveled the west coast designing and selling sails for racing.

Dave returned to the Portland area in the 80s to assist his family with their business and became a member of Portland Yacht Club.

David and his family relocated to Whidbey Island where he was employed at Island Transit for 13 years as a driver, then supervisor.

Dave joined Oak Harbor Yacht Club and, while doing quite a bit of racing, became very involved with the Junior Sailing Program, which brought him a lot of joy.

After several recent months in hospitals and care facilities, Dave passed away quietly at his home June 17, the day after his 80th birthday.

As per David's wishes, there will be no formal funeral services.

Arrangements entrusted to Wallin Funeral Home, Oak Harbor, Wash. Please visit David's page in our Book of Memories online at www.wallinfuneralhome.com to share memories and leave condolences.

**Life Tributes can now be found
online at www.whidbeyweekly.com**



Island 911

Seriously, we do not make this stuff up!

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

8:36 am, Emil Rd.

Reporting party advising someone just dropped a mattress down a ravine on Emil Rd. Unknown who did it.

5:53 pm, NE 9th St.

Reporting party advising cars just suddenly showed up near the Coupeville dock, unknown why, maybe about 20.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

2:38 pm, NE Lindsay St.

Reporting party requesting contact at location, is standing outside; location is mother's address, who passed away. Since mother's passing, reporting party's sister and daughter have taken over the residence, are inside now with doors locked and will not answer door.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

7:19 am, Hastie Lake Rd.

Reporting party states seeing woman blocking traffic. Screaming and yelling things about arsenic.

9:32 am, SR 525

Advising male with knife is on property. Male is fighting imaginary person.

7:53 pm, Bayview Rd.

Reporting party advising was at location earlier, gave phone number to male about dog sitting; is now receiving rude text messages from male; no known name.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

10:59 am, NE 7th St.

Reporting party states a police car is running in front of location. Is "concerned because it's polluting the air and is a waste of gas."

6:23 pm, Vesel Ct.

Reporting party states neighbor was angry that reporting party told her kids to not throw their ball towards her house; was yelling at reporting party's house around 6 pm.

MONDAY, JUNE 15

6:36 pm, Paradise Pl.

Advising neighbor is harassing reporting party. Was yelling profanities with reporting party's children around and parking in front of reporting party's mailbox.

7:38 pm, NE Front St.

Caller advising is on green boat in Penn Cove; subject stole dinghy, paddling across the bay; 20 feet from boat, near public boat ramp.

7:40 pm, Hastie Lake Rd.

Reporting party requesting phone call regarding horses across from address eating plastic.

10:07 pm, N Oak Harbor St.

Reporting party advising subject was staying with her and stole her vehicle; white 2014 Mitsubishi Outlander, brand new with no plates; turned right on Oak Harbor St. six minutes ago. Subject from Utah.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

12:04 pm, Skymeadow Dr.

States pest control is at location under reporting party's house. Reporting party has been yelling to get his attention and isn't getting a response. Requesting check on him. Been under the house 10 minutes.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

7:19 am, NE 9th St.

Subject in 40-foot wooden vessel, green in color, 200 yards from shore; lost dinghy. Requesting assistance in getting off his boat and taken to shore.

1:57 pm, NE Leach St

Reporting party says the persons associated with big green wooden boat have tied up their dinghy at Lovejoy Point, which is trespassing on reporting party's property. Says CWF&R has the dinghy in tow now.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

10:23 pm, SR 525

Reporting party is hearing a loud noise that reporting party thinks is coming from the end of the island. Advising is a low rumble sound that comes and goes. Is calling from Pt. Ludlow.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

3:41 am, SR 525

Reporting party advising a horse is walking down the highway, in and out of the road. Reporting party states is near SR 525 now.

5:04 pm, Resort Rd.

Reporting party advising neighbors took down reporting party's gate. Advising house is for sale and are making it appear as if they own the road.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

11:21 pm, Fort Nugent Rd.

Reporting party states across Fort Nugent from location vehicles are parked shining headlights onto reporting party's residence. Revving engines and blasting music. Ongoing issue. Reporting party states more vehicles arriving now. More than six vehicles there now.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

9:28 am, N Main St.

Reporting party states nurse tried to kill him; states "get back from me doc, I will swing on you like a mad dog."

MONDAY, JUNE 22

11:55 am, S Main St.

Advising female outside near the transit stop is yelling at people who drive by.

2:06 pm, SR 20

Open line, sounds like someone's turn signal in a vehicle. Male came to line, states male is passed out in middle of the road.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

2:41 am, Reservation Rd.

Reporting a washer in middle of the road.

12:26 pm, Mardell Dr.

Requesting call, states items have been stolen from reporting party's home over a period of time while reporting party has been renting out home to tenants.

12:41 pm, West Beach Rd.

Reporting party states is at her vacation home, just noticed it was broken into. Makeup bag is missing.

4:03 pm, Geck Rd.

Reporting party states last Friday, in the water near Hope Island between Skagit and Whidbey, another boat almost hit him.

Report provided by OHPD & Island County Sheriff's Dept.



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Photo Courtesy of WhidbeyWaxWorks Artisan Beeswax Candles
Each Friday through Sept. 25, a group of artisans and retailers will gather in Langley for the New Friday Street Market. Shoppers will be able to listen to local musicians and find a number of local products, including natural beeswax candles from WhidbeyWaxWorks.

New weekly market to launch in Langley

By **Kacie Jo Voeller** Whidbey Weekly

As Phase III reopening continues on Whidbey Island, new opportunities and events are also starting to take flight, including the New Friday Street Market in Langley.

Each Friday through Sept. 25, Langley's First and Second Streets will showcase vendors and retailers from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. In addition to items from local artisans, the weekly event, a collaboration between the Langley Chamber of Commerce and Langley Creates, will feature local musicians and an atmosphere of community.

Mary Ann Mansfield, chair of the steering committee for Langley Creates, said the groups planning the event hope to generate more creativity and business in Langley through the market as things begin to reopen.

"I think what we are looking forward to most is sparking some new energy in town as we move forward out of the COVID virus shutdown," she said. "And we look forward to creating some new opportunities for artists and farmers and a variety of vendors."

Inge Morascini, executive director of the Langley Chamber of Commerce, said the aim is to grow the market as time goes on.

"We will be adding to the market each week, and in addition to local produce, food and crafts, we will engage musicians to give performances," she said. "We are also looking forward to spontaneous 'flash' creative participation along the bluff on Cascade

Avenue, so the public is invited to come each week to see what's new and to take part in creative activities."

Priscilla Lowry, founder of WhidbeyWaxWorks, said she hopes to see the event expand as time goes on. Lowry plans to sell handcrafted natural beeswax candles at the market.

"I think it (the market) is going to very gracefully appear and then hopefully gracefully and graciously grow into something that everyone can look forward to doing on Fridays for the afternoon," she said.

Morascini said safety will also be an important consideration for the market's organization.

"We will be distancing all vendors six feet apart and will provide space between vendors and the public," she said. "Our setup will be in the parking spaces off of the sidewalk, leaving the sidewalk free for traffic. Langley requires masks be worn by everyone in the business district and there are outdoor hand washing stations available."

Jesse Levesque, the market manager for the New Friday Street Market, said part of the reason for the event was to create a marketplace for local artisans after Langley Creates, a coalition of entities in the community, applied for and received the distinction of a Certified Creative District for Langley in March.

"This marketplace conceptually is intended to bring together not only goods and products,

a lot of which are handmade and local to the south part of the island, but also ideas and services and organizations and scientists and anybody making anything who needs a marketplace," she said. "We have been so isolated from each other except for online. This is a way to re-energize the southern part of the island in a physical space, but outside and at a healthy distance so that people can exchange everything from products to what they are working on."

Mansfield said as a Creative District, greater opportunities for programs and events supporting the arts and creators will become available. She said the steering committee of Langley Creates completed a rigorous application to achieve the certification.

"By going through that (application) process it gives us a lot of credibility when we apply for grants and funding from various organizations for some of the programs we hope to put in place," she said.

Levesque said the market is intended to give vendors and the public alike the chance to build community connections.

"I want everyone to know, if you are a vendor, if you are participating in it, if you are an entertainer or a musician, it is meant to be a supportive platform," she said. "And if you are the public, coming to it is meant to be a way to get people things that are being made right here and grown right here and a way to relax outside and walk through something and experience something without having to be shut in for a moment."

Kim Gruetter, a farmer at Salty Acres in Coupeville, said the market will be especially important this year, when many larger festivals and events have been canceled. Gruetter will be selling flowers and other produce at markets later on, when Salty Acres' flowers are ready to be sold.

"You have to remember that all of these artisans and all of these people depend on festivals especially, art festivals and street festivals, and a lot of those have been canceled," she said. "That does not mean that they did not work all year to make product, to make crafts, to make art that they depend on to sell, but now they do not have a place to sell them, so these kinds of things are really important and the only way we are going to get them is on a very local level."

Lowry, who has been pouring candles since 1999, said events like the market are vital in a creative community like Langley.

"The arts matter and the connection to that beauty and the act of creativity and just being with kindred spirits, I think it is all vital and that is what gets us through as well," she said.

For more information on the New Langley Friday Street Market, visit visitlangley.com. Interested vendors can participate for the entire season for \$175 or \$20 for one day. A temporary vendor license is also required, which costs \$33, and sign-up must be completed seven days prior to the date of participation.

Phase IV on pause, masks now required

By **Kathy Reed** Whidbey Weekly

Gov. Jay Inslee has hit the pause button on the state's "Safe Start" plan due to increasing COVID-19 cases.

As of now, all Washington counties will be stopped at Phase III, a benchmark Island County hit last week. Those counties still in Phase I or II will be allowed to progress as far as the third phase of reopening, but Phase IV, which would lift virtually all restrictions, will not be approved any time soon.

"Phase IV would mean a return to normal activity and we can't do that now due to the continued rise in cases across the state," Inslee said in a press release Saturday. "We all want to get back to doing all the things we love in Washington during the summer, and fully open our economy, but we aren't there yet. This is an evolving situation and we will continue to make decisions based on the data."

Eight counties were eligible to move to Phase IV before the pause was announced Saturday. Island County would have potentially been able to apply for Phase IV in two weeks, pending approval by the State Department of Health.

As it is, Island County has seen several new cases of COVID-19 in the last two weeks, bringing the total of positive cases of the virus to 192 as of Monday evening, after weeks of holding steady at 181.

"Nine new cases in Island County are in three households - one individual and two families of four," said Island County Commissioner Helen Price Johnson. "The location of original infection for each of these families appears to have happened outside of our jurisdiction. All are successfully quarantined at home."

News of the new Island County cases follows a mandatory mask order put in place last Friday by Washington Secretary of Health, John Wiesman. Facial coverings are now required to be worn in indoor spaces as well as outdoor public spaces where individuals cannot maintain social distancing.

"The best thing Washingtonians can do to slow the spread of the virus and save lives is to wear facial coverings, continue to maintain physical distancing and good hygiene practices,"

See MASKS continued on page 12



Thank you for reading! Please recycle the Whidbey Weekly when you are finished with it.



All the President's Movies

By Carey Ross

Politics on the big screen



Because I love Jon Stewart like I love few other people who exist in the overlapping spheres of politics and media, I was eager to watch the movie he wrote, directed and produced, "Irresistible," released June 26 on various streaming services. I paid the \$19.99 premium new movies net these days and settled in to be entertained by a top-notch cast, including Steve Carell and Rose Byrne as dueling political consultants from either side of the aisle, and Chris Cooper as a small-town Wisconsin farmer running for mayor. The plot revolves around the mayoral race and the movie is intended to be a humorous-yet-scathing indictment of consultant culture and big money in politics set against a small-town, swing-state backdrop.

At least, I think that was what it was intended to be.

It was hard to tell what Stewart was getting at because as much as it pains me to say it, "Irresistible" is not a good movie. In fact, it's just plain bad. It's tough to put my finger on what was wrong with it, namely because I don't have enough fingers for the job. The one thing I can say in its favor is not even Stewart's uneven script and ham-fisted direction could kill Byrne's impeccable gift for comedy—but she was only in about 10 minutes of the movie altogether.

All of that is my longwinded way of saying I watched "Irresistible" so you don't have to. But if you're interested in turning off the endless opining and permanent punditry of cable news in favor of some top-notch political cinema, you have a rich field of candidates from which to choose. Cable news will still be there when you get back. It's not going anywhere, even when it goes nowhere.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington: When cataloguing political cinema, it makes sense to begin at the beginning and with a 1939 movie widely considered to be one of the most incisive pieces of political commentary ever committed to film—much of it still cogent in today's era and climate. Jimmy Stewart stars as the titular Mr. Smith in this Frank Capra-helmed affair, and he plays a naive Boy Ranger leader from Montana selected to fill a Senate vacancy precisely because he's seen as being easy to control and manipulate. However, despite efforts to lure him into a scheme involving a dam in his home state and a whole lot of graft, and then a vicious campaign to discredit him when he declines to take part, Mr. Smith proves himself to be

a man of rare character in politics (even rarer these days), and his heroic 24-hour filibuster and epic "I will not yield" speech is cinema for the ages.

All the President's Men: If the intersection of politics with the news media is your thing, Hollywood has many examples from which to choose, going all the way back to "Citizen Kane." But the standard-bearer is no doubt the 1976 quadruple Oscar winner, "All the President's Men," which details the investigation by *Washington Post* reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein into the Watergate break-in, an investigation that would nab them a shared Pulitzer Prize and end in President Richard Nixon's resignation. Watching the duo (portrayed by Dustin Hoffman and Robert Redford) chase the story and meticulously assemble facts and sources (including the infamous Deep Throat) as they begin to realize this was no mere break-in, makes for a riveting docudrama—and the fact Redford stars in it definitely ups the sex appeal of a decidedly unsexy chapter in American politics. For a companion watch, check out Stephen Spielberg's "The Post," detailing the *Washington Post's* decision to publish the Pentagon Papers two years before the newspaper's Watergate investigation.

In the Loop: In the realm of razor-sharp, wickedly funny political satire that hits every mark "Irresistible" misses by a mile, you can do no better than Armando Iannucci's 2009 send-up of government in both the United States and the United Kingdom, "In the Loop." Rife with colorful jokes, creative backstabbing and pointless posturing, the movie imagines what would happen if a low-level government employee were to unintentionally start a rumor about a war in the Middle East while giving an otherwise innocuous radio interview. Government officials on both sides of the pond mobilize, secret committees are formed, deals are struck and all is chaos for the 106 glorious minutes of the movie's runtime. Be warned: Iannucci's scripts are like masterworks of profanity and the art of vicious insults, and "In the Loop" makes his later work on "Veep" look positively tame by comparison. But if profane politics are your thing, Peter Capaldi as Malcolm Tucker, the Prime Minister's director of communications, is your new god. For something slightly tamer, try "Wag the Dog" or even "Bulworth."

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Answers on page 15

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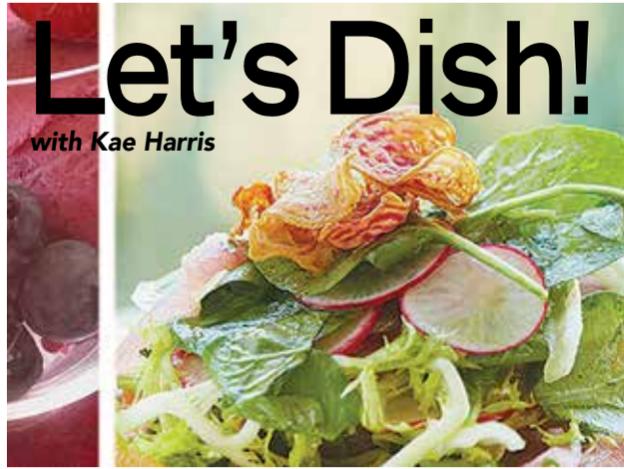


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At Oak Harbor Elks Lodge
155 NE Ernst Street

BUFFETS: GETTING EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT!

This year has been a difficult one. That's an understatement; this year has been unbearable, at least for me. Yet, here we are, halfway through 2020 and into summertime. True, this summer is like none other in recent memory, but the eternal sunshine, gorgeous weather and general feel-good-vibes summer brings fill me with hope for the rest of the year. Barbecues, swimming pools, the beach and of course, summer vacations, are all synonymous with this time of year. For my family, an annual ritual is to escape for a week to the desert to relax, revitalize and rejuvenate. No, we do not go on a vision quest in the middle of Nevada, but rather make a pilgrimage to the Mecca of excess: Las Vegas. Surprisingly, Las Vegas is quite family-friendly, which is very important for me and my brood. The kids and I love the lights, sounds and the general over-the-top spectacle that is Las Vegas.

One of my favorite amenities of Vegas is, of course, the unending all-you-can-eat buffets that can be found in every casino along the strip. There is a buffet that caters to every palate, every time of day and every budget. My love for the buffet is everyone in my family can find something they like. You know what I mean; you've just spent hours in the kitchen creating a culinary masterpiece, only for someone to ask if what you made has onions in it, and if so, can you please remove them and if it's not possible then they will have to starve to death unless you can, by some miracle, whip up another Michelin-worthy dish. Kids - the toughest critics around. So, I love that a buffet caters to all tastes, but also it offers the opportunity to sample cuisines and dishes you may not have otherwise thought of trying. With this in mind, I asked myself "Where did the buffet come from?"

The word "buffet" comes from the French word for "sideboard," a piece of furniture used to display dishes and subsequently serve guests; the word itself was eventually

adopted in the 1600s to refer to the act of serving oneself from said furniture item. Early buffets were generally made up of anything that could be found in the larder (pantry), along with simple hot dishes that could be served quickly to unexpected guests. This style of eating was popularized by the wealthy in France and would go on to be adopted by their compatriots in England and the rest of modern-day Europe. The iteration of the buffet as we know it today, however, comes from the concept of the Swedish "smorgasbord." This spread of hot and cold dishes gained exposure during the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games before gaining true international notoriety at the 1939 New York World's Fair, where it was served at the Swedish pavilion's Three Crowns Restaurant. The smorgasbord gained traction in the first half of the 20th century, but it wasn't until 1946 the modern all-you-can-eat buffet was born.

Who do we have to thank for this wonder of culinary excess, I hear you ask? This honor goes to Herbert "Herb" Cobb McDonald, a publicity and entertainment manager who introduced his vision in, you guessed it, Las Vegas. The buffet was a reflection of Vegas itself; huge, over-the-top, magical. Where else could you eat as much lobster as you wanted in the middle of the desert? The concept of the buffet was a hit because not only did it showcase the culinary abilities of the talented chefs being recruited by Las Vegas, but it added to the spectacle of the city. Casinos chose midnight as the hour to premiere their buffets; so impressive were these culinary mega-projects they were described as "the eighth wonder of the world, the one true art form" by William Pearson in his 1965 novel, "The Muses of Ruin." So, the buffet has been a Las Vegas institution for almost three-quarters of a century. During that time, declining standards saw buffets gain a bad reputation as a cheap way to get food poisoning, (which in fact, I did, at a buffet that shall not be mentioned), before rebounding to the high-quality examples we have today,

often run by celebrity chefs. The buffet has become a part of Las Vegas, so much so it is a requirement for any tourist passing through. Not a bad tradition, if I do say so myself!

While modern buffets offer a culinary trip around the world, with stations ranging from Asian fare to fine French cuisine, there are buffets unique to particular countries and cultures. Of these, one of the most well-known is "dim sum," which is generally associated with Cantonese cuisine. Mainly comprised of an assortment of dumplings, steamed or fried, along with meats and vegetables, dim sum houses are renowned for their brunch menus that satisfy both sweet and savory cravings. In Japan, there's "kaiten-zushi," or conveyor-belt-sushi, in which individual dishes are placed on a conveyor belt that whizzes by tables, allowing diners to pick and choose their favorites. Amazing! The closest thing I experienced to this was markedly less amazing - it was the off-kilter "Lazy Susan" in the middle of our dining room table when I was growing up in Malawi, which often brought more heartache than joy. But I digress. You see, the buffet is an intrinsic part of food culture and it is possible to find one that encompasses all cuisines as well as one specifically tailored to the dishes of a particular style. Whichever one you end up choosing, I know you will not be disappointed!

Buffets have inspired me to attempt to create my own version at home, usually on a Sunday. Once a month, I like to choose a cuisine from somewhere in the world and cook several simple dishes which I then set up on my dining room table so everyone can serve themselves (alas, I do not have a French sideboard to give it an authentic touch). These "indoor picnics," as my kids like to call them, are a great and fun way of dining on the weekend and can be made even better by inviting family and friends who bring their own dishes to add to the menu. A real crowd pleaser I love to cook is inspired by my favorite station at any good buffet: the carvery. It is spatchcock chicken, a simple recipe that requires minimal preparation and time to

cook but yields a dish worthy of any buffet anywhere. I'm including the recipe, but first - what, dear readers, has been your favorite buffet experience? What new dishes have you experienced and then attempted to re-create at home? I'd love to hear all about it so please send your tales of fine dining, buffet style of course, to letsdish.whidbeyweekly@gmail.com, along with any questions and comments so we can continue to Dish!

Spatchcock Chicken

- 4 to 5 lb whole chicken*
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh sage
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 1 stick (1/4lb) butter

Preheat oven to 425°F. Using kitchen shears, cut along both sides of the backbone, discarding or saving for later use. Flip the chicken over and press down firmly between the two breasts, flattening the chicken. Pat the chicken skin all over with a paper towel, soaking up as much moisture as possible. Mix softened butter, rosemary, sage, parsley, salt and pepper together. Gently separate the skin from the flesh of the chicken using your fingers; spread the butter mixture into the cavity between the skin and the flesh. Rub butter all over chicken's exterior on both sides. Place chicken on a sheet pan about twice the size of the chicken, and roast for about 40-45 minutes, until the breast registers at 160°F. Let the chicken rest for 10 minutes after roasting, so the juices can redistribute. The chicken will continue cooking slightly, to about 165°F, serve as desired and enjoy!

*Any 4 to 5 lb chicken will work, but the cook time will vary slightly. It's best to use a thermometer to check for doneness.

To read past columns of *Let's Dish* in the *Whidbey Weekly*, see our Digital Library at www.whidbeyweekly.com.

MASKS continued from page 10

Wiesman said. "Now that testing supplies are available, it is critical to get a test if you have any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19."

While the face mask order is enforceable by law, local law enforcement officials are more interested in educating, rather than ticketing, those who do not comply with the mandate.

"Our priority is the safety of the public," read a statement from Island County Sheriff Rick Felici. "During COVID-19 restrictions, we will be focusing on educating people on how to best help keep themselves, their families, and our communities safe, especially our most vulnerable members."

"When deputies encounter people who are not complying with the governor's order, we will remind them of the current restrictions and the reasons for them with a goal of education and voluntary participation as we all work to reduce the impact of this virus," the statement continued. "We have no desire to arrest or ticket anyone for violations of the current restrictions."

Price Johnson said she hopes Island County residents will continue to put health and safety first and is pleased with how many people are following the new rule.

"I'm grateful that our residents and visitors are mostly following the rules to keep each other safe in this ongoing crisis. I hope we can continue to do that," she said.

While public health and safety must remain a priority, helping



Island County businesses hit hard by the lengthy shutdown is equally important.

"My guess is we will be in Phase III for the duration of the summer. So stay strong," Price Johnson said. "The county has launched a three-pronged approach with the help of Federal CARES funding to help our communities in this time of need: Public Health response, Human Services response, and the Small Business Assistance grant programs."

"The small business grant programs are going out across North Whidbey/Oak Harbor, Camano, Langley, Coupeville and unincorporated areas covered by the Ports of Coupeville and South Whidbey," she continued. "This is a great collaboration across the municipalities in our county, which I hope will pave the way for more joint efforts in the future."

With Phase IV currently out of reach, Price Johnson said cooperation is key over the next several weeks.

"The best thing everyone can do to keep Island County safe, get our businesses open, and to get more people back to work is what you've heard before - wash your hands, wear a mask when you are around other people," she said. "It is a good idea to also limit how many people you come into contact with because if you become infected, you'll want to remember where you went and who you were with, so we can work to keep the virus from spreading."

For additional information, visit islandcountywa.gov or coronavirus.wa.gov.



Thank you for reading! Please recycle the Whidbey Weekly when you are finished with it.





CHICKEN LITTLE & THE ASTROLOGER

By Wesley Hallock

ARIES (March 21-April 19)



Life is like homemade bread. There's the busy-busy, the mad flurry of measuring and mixing, kneading and pounding, with flour in your hair and on your nose. Then, you and the dough rest, while the rising loaf does its yeasty thing. That's where you are now. Coming soon, the warm aroma of baking bread. So, heat your oven. Get your bread knife and cutting board ready. There's tasty times ahead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)



One measure of a storm is the height of the waves it makes. Surfers and beach combers like the big ones. By which we mean, it's an ill wind that doesn't put a smile on someone's face. Who else likes the big ones? Those who want to own the power of the storm? Storms bring them out in force, a wild, happy look in their eyes. Feeling the power of the storm, they're reluctant to see it end. Isn't that interesting?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)



Right place, right time. Some call it luck. When it happens, it happens effortlessly. The juicy part? You won't recognize what's happening until long after, and then you'll say, "My life changed there." Is this one of those times? Have you a clear sense of before and after surrounding a certain event? Was that event a good thing, or a bad thing? Don't rush to judge the twists and turns. Luck takes many forms.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)



You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. The ugly duckling grew up to be a swan. Reconcile. Inferior material is useless for making a superior product, true. Enter refinement. Think raw ore refined to .999 pure gold. Before it could be a swan, the ugly duckling suffered ridicule, rejection and scorn. Refinement? Purification? We're ugly ducklings, all, paying our dues. Suffer your refinements gladly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)



Football is a game of inches. Ditto, high jumping, pole vaulting and dieting. In each case, the tape measure tells the tale. Less obviously, so does the sticky note on your fridge. Whether that note refers to Super Bowl LV, Olympiad XXXII or the need for more slack in your pants, our advice is to lose it. Replace it with your seven-figure reward check, made out to you. Now that's motivation! Inches convert to dollars, didn't you know?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



What's done is done, except when it isn't. Take now, for example. The raging question: "Who knew what, and when did they know it?" Even the snootiest cat wants to know. Why the interest? Werner Erhard's Zen-wrapped answer: "If we don't change our direction, we're likely to end up where we're

headed." You can see where. Simply plot the answers to the raging question and connect the dots. Or ask your snooty cat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



How do little things grow to be big things? Illustrate using a song title. Sure, we'll take that challenge! How about: "Walk a Mile in My Shoes." In one shoe, a grain of sand. Spikey.

Abrasive. Annoying. Tiny, but feeling bigger with every step! A grain of sand becomes a boulder; a mile, eternity. And that's how little things grow to be big things: Ignore them. Pretend they're not there. So, speak up. What's nagging you?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



Money. Mean green, the O'Jays called it, and sang of people doing bad things with it. Crime. Fraud. You name it. Enough to make a person proud to be poor. In a perfect world, what might be side B of that song? Money doing good things? Spending in ways that make the world a better place? When it comes to your own finances, you're the DJ. Which side of the money song are you gonna play?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



Who rewards good behavior and punishes bad behavior? Top three answers? God, dog trainers and Andy of Mayberry. Coincidence that dog is the mirror spelling of God? That Opie got ice cream more often than bed without supper? That orderly society depends on you to do the right thing? We think not. So watch yourself. Your arm is long, your influence greater than you think. Especially when you extend treats.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



For an in-your-face tactician, we admire the barnyard rooster. The rooster's strategy? State loudly and clearly, who you are and what you represent. Repeat often. It's called crowing, and its effectiveness as an attention getter is unsurpassed. The disadvantage? Roosterly braggadocio triggers the worst in those inclined to fight. Use this as you will, and be circumspect. Maybe some light preening between crows?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)



Two steps forward, one step back. Why, oh why, is life like that? What is time? Time is life's forward march. Hear it's rhythm: Tick-tock, tick-tock . . . time marching on. Its measure, the forward-back, forward-back of a pendulum, oscillator, or naturally vibrating quartz crystal. Listen again: Tick-tock, forward-back . . . Get it? Where are you moving forward? Where back? Tick-tock . . .

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



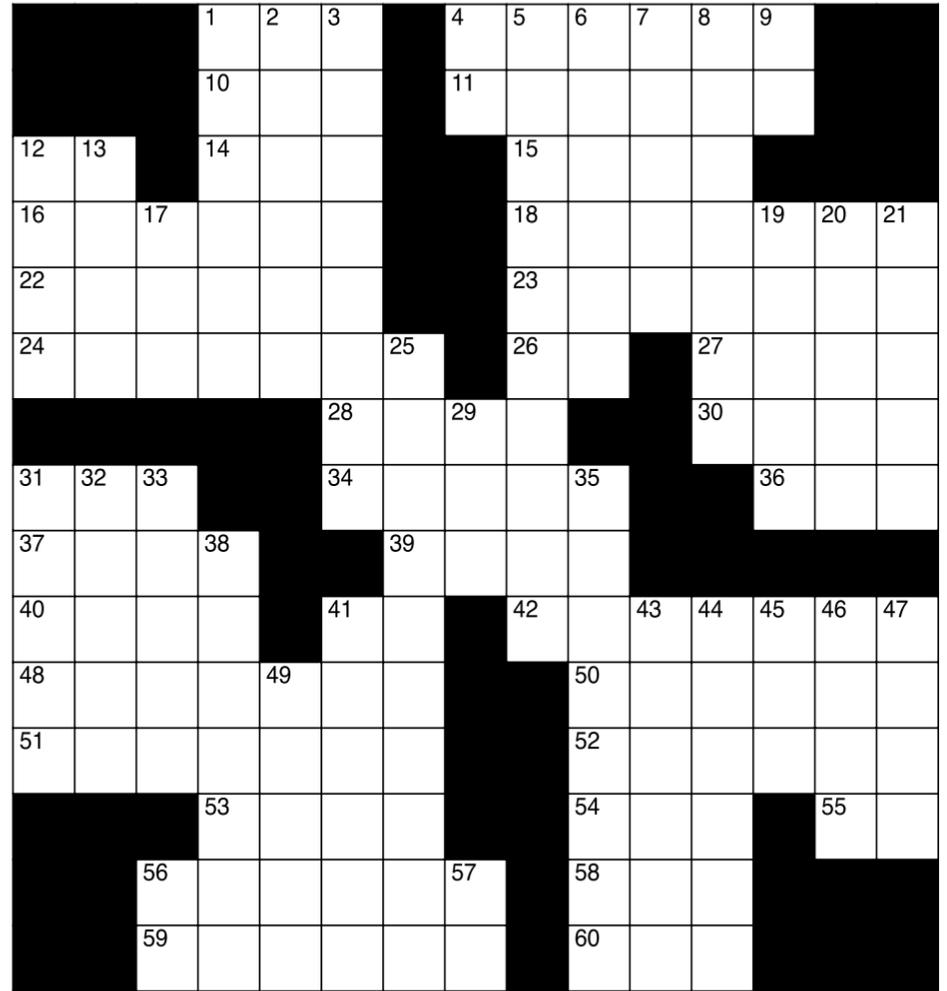
What is perfection? You have your beliefs. Others have theirs. Beliefs are like the individual leaves of a tree. Each leaf is recognizable for what it is, yet no two are exactly alike. Each leaf is unique, so no standard for the perfect leaf exists. The beauty of leaves is the beauty of the forest, the beauty of the forest is the whole. So with beliefs. The beauty of the individual is the beauty of belief, and the whole is the beauty of life. And the perfect system? We've just described it.

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Chicken Little's knock on the head meant to him that the sky was falling, silly bird. His horoscope showed other possibilities. Don't wait for a knock on the head to ask what's up in your life. Wesley Hallock, as Whidbey Weekly's professional astrologer and horoscope writer, keeps one eye on the sky and alerts us to the prospects each week. To read past columns of Chicken Little and the Astrologer in the Whidbey Weekly, see our Digital Library at www.whidbeyweekly.com.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Central processing unit
- 4. Military action
- 10. How electricity gets to train carriages (abbr.)
- 11. Unsafe
- 12. Of (French)
- 14. Autonomic nervous system
- 15. Type of bean
- 16. Accuse formally of a crime
- 18. Promote
- 22. Type of lava
- 23. Meat from a deer
- 24. Herbaceous plants
- 26. Potato state
- 27. Helsinki neighborhood
- 28. Sports officials
- 30. Shout wildly
- 31. Reptile genus
- 34. Frocks
- 36. Born of
- 37. N. Scandinavian indigenous people
- 39. Poultry cage
- 40. Aquatic insect genus

- 41. Of I
- 42. Ad __: tirelessly repetitive
- 48. Item
- 50. Produce
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Bond in a third party's control
- 53. Legendary character __ Finn
- 54. Space station
- 55. Note at the end of a letter
- 56. In a way, contradicted
- 58. Midway between northeast and east
- 59. Bears important traffic
- 60. Brooklyn hoopster

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Presides
- 2. Artist's tool
- 3. On a higher floor
- 4. Commercial
- 5. Something to watch
- 6. Chased
- 7. Commercial producers
- 8. Keyboard instrument

- 9. Blue grass state
- 12. Phonograph recording
- 13. Unusual
- 17. Popular average
- 19. A native or inhabitant of Asia
- 20. N. Sweden river
- 21. Related on the mother's side
- 25. Mediator
- 29. Partner of to
- 31. Arm bones
- 32. Korean seafood dish
- 33. Tap of the foot
- 35. Astronauts
- 38. Carolina footballer
- 41. Indiana city
- 43. Of or relating to bears
- 44. Not widely known
- 45. Body part
- 46. At the peak
- 47. High-pitched cries of a cat
- 49. A way to intimidate
- 56. Prosecutor
- 57. Atomic #66

Answers on page 15

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, July 2	Fri, July 3	Sat, July 4	Sun, July 5	Mon, July 6	Tues, July 7	Wed, July 8
North Isle H-64°/L-52° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-66°/L-52° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-66°/L-52° Cloudy	North Isle H-66°/L-53° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-66°/L-53° Mostly Cloudy	North Isle H-67°/L-53° Mixed Sun and Clouds	North Isle H-67°/L-53° Cloudy
South Isle H-70°/L-54° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-72°/L-54° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-71°/L-54° Cloudy	South Isle H-72°/L-55° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-72°/L-55° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-72°/L-55° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-72°/L-55° Mostly Cloudy



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Be the difference in a child's life and become a foster parent today! Service Alternatives is looking for caring, loving, and supportive families to support foster children. 425-923-0451 or mostermick@servalt-cfs.com

The Whidbey Island community is encouraged to try out the paddling sport of dragon boating with the Stayin' Alive team. Our team's mission is to pro-

mote the physical, social, and emotional benefits of dragon boating. It has been shown to be especially beneficial to cancer survivors. Practice with us for up to 3 times for free. Life-jackets and paddles provided. Saturdays at the Oak Harbor Marina, 8:45am. Contact njlish@gmail.com. More info at our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/NorthPugetSoundDragonBoatClub?ref=hl

Medical Marijuana patients unite; If you need assistance, advice, etc. please contact at 420patientnetworking@gmail.com. Local Whidbey Island help.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of homicide, burglary, robbery, assault, identity theft, fraud, human trafficking, home invasion and other crimes not listed. Victim Support Services has advocates ready to help. Please call the 24-hr Crisis Line 888-388-9221. Free service. Visit our web site at <http://victimsupportservices.org>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Habitat Stores depend on enthusiastic volunteers to help carry out our mission. We are looking for volunteers to help us with customer service, merchandise intake, store up-keep, organization and pick-ups of donated items. If you have two (2) hours or more per week to donate, please join us in our mission to create affordable housing in our community by volunteering at our Oak Harbor Store. Hours: Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm and Sun, 11am-4pm. Please contact Tony Persson if you are interested in volunteering at our Oak Harbor store (290 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor, WA 98277): 360-675-8733, tony@islandcountyhabitat.org. For our Freeland store (1592 Main Street, Freeland WA 98249), please contact John Schmidt: 360-331-6272, john@islandcountyhabitat.com. Habitat for Humanity of Island County, www.islandcountyhabitat.org, 360-679-9444.

College student? Student of history? History buff? Opportunities are available to spend constructive volunteer hours at the PBY-Naval Air Museum. Go to www.pbymf.org and click on "Volunteer" or just stop by and introduce yourself. Imagine Oak Harbor's first Food Forest, Saturdays 11am-3pm, at 526 Bayshore Drive. Each week, we have volunteer opportunities available to help care for our community garden, share organic gardening tips, and learn Permaculture principles. All ages and skill levels welcome. Schedule can change due to adverse weather conditions. If you have any questions, please contact us at: imagineapermacultureworld@gmail.com

Mother Mentors needs volunteers! Oak Harbor families with young children need your help! Volunteer just a couple of hours a week to make a difference in someone's life! To volunteer or get more info, email wamothermentors@gmail.com or call 360-321-1484.

Looking for board members to join the dynamic board of Island Senior Resources and serve the needs of Island County Seniors. Of particular interest are representatives from North Whidbey. For more information please contact: reception@islandseniorservices.org

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If you or someone you know needs help in feeding pet(s), WAIF Pet Food Banks may be able to help. Pet Food Banks are located at WAIF thrift stores in Oak Harbor (465 NE Midway Blvd) and Freeland (1660 Roberta Ave) and are generously stocked by donations from the community. If you need assistance, please stop by.

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Pam's Prayer Corner

In honor of my late mother-in-law, Pamela Kaye Young, this column is a place where believers can share their prayer requests for others to help lift them up in faith. The prayers can be for you, a family member, or anything weighing on your soul. Email info@whidbeyweekly.com or call 360-682-2341 to share your prayer requests.

Creator God, In the midst of a world-wide pandemic and civil, economical and political unrest we humbly come before you with a personal and singular request for healing and peace for Ron Apgar (Mr. Ron from Paint Your World) who is battling esophageal cancer. You know him as one of your children, O God. We know him as a family man, businessman and energetic supporter of our entire community. Today we give you our little seed of faith. We place it firmly in the ground of your word. We water it in your truth and pray that the warmth of your love will make it grow. Our greatest hope is that you would bring about healing from this cancer. And may the peace that passes all understanding be with Ron and Laura and all who love them in all their days ahead. Amen.

Chaplain David G. Lura

"Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

Mark 9:23

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8	3	4	6	1	9	5	2	7
1	7	2	8	6	4	3	9	5
5	6	9	7	3	1	2	8	4
3	4	8	2	9	5	7	1	6
9	8	6	5	4	3	1	7	2
4	2	1	9	7	6	8	5	3
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Thrive is remodeled, refreshed and ready for you!

Now that Island County is in Phase III, many more people are venturing back to the gym for regular workouts. Thrive has been there for its members all along, but now that its doors are open again, regulars might find a few changes.

The kids room space has been completely remodeled and has nearly doubled in size; locker rooms have been upgraded with new shower tile and auto-flush toilets, with automated faucets coming soon; the welcome counter is also different, but features a new supplement counter for individual scoops; a new wall of mirrors upstairs and new paint throughout the facility have given it a refreshed, yet familiar, feel.

But there's more! Even before the COVID crisis, Thrive ordered new selectorized weight training equipment. This replacement to the upper floor has allowed for better spacing and arrangement of existing equipment. At the end of June, an entire line of new cardio equipment was added. Already delivered are new treadmills and AMT's, with ellipticals, assault bikes, stationary bikes, and a few other pieces still on the way.

Safety of its members is always Thrive's first priority, and it remains so during the pandemic. Thrive continues to exceed all state requirements and is pleased members help follow safety guidelines. The staff appreciates everyone's patience and understanding as Thrive continues on the path to a more normal, yet improved, environment. Social distancing to maintain health and safety during this time is also not a problem with Thrive's spacious facility.

Not quite ready to go back to the gym? Thrive has you covered. Immediately upon the COVID closure, Thrive provided virtual workout options, including LesMills on Demand and Eat The Frog on-the-go. Members were quickly given the option to attend LIVE ZOOM classes. All these options are still available today.

If it's been a while since you've worked out regularly, the Thrive team has tips that can help you succeed: Be patient with yourself as you get back to a routine and workout regimen. Everyone has been affected by the COVID season both physically and mentally, but the staff at Thrive wants people to remember this time is temporary. Set goals, create a plan and a routine that you can manage and just take one step at a time. You'll get there with focus and accountability and the team at Thrive will be there to help you succeed.

More than anything, staff members are thrilled to see familiar faces and engage in conversation. Team members say they have seen a great deal of mutual compassion that comes from a shared growth experience. Now the Thrive team looks forward to the day they can see everyone's smile.

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