

March 11 through March 17, 2021

Whidbey Weekly

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Celebrating St. Patrick's Day



And Irish Heritage On Whidbey!

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Habitat events build awareness p. 6

Tradition returns with a twist:

St. Patrick's Day to cruise through downtown

By Kacie Jo Voeller Whidbey Weekly

Celebrate the return of St. Patrick's Day with a cruise through downtown Oak Harbor at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 17. While the Whidbey Island Irish Wildlife Society usually hosts a parade in the event's honor, this year, community members will be encouraged to instead decorate their vehicles and drive through town.

Teresa Besaw, a member of the Irish Wildlife Society, said it was important to find a safe way to continue the festivities after the last-minute cancellation of the parade last year due to the rise of COVID-19. Besaw said celebrating Irish heritage and bringing fun to the community at large is a time-honored tradition of the Irish Wildlife Society.

"We cannot have a parade because people would gather to watch the parade and it is not quite safe yet," she said. "So, we figured if people decorated their cars and cruised through town, it is a way of getting out and doing something safely."

Besaw said this year, participants will have the chance to wave at Mayor Bob Severns, Capt. Matt Arney of NAS Whidbey Island, and Eric Marshall, who was planned to be the grand marshal for last year's parade, as they drive by Oak Harbor's Blarney Stone on Pioneer Way and Ireland Street. Besaw said rumor has it the Whidbey Island Chicken and the Whidbey Island Unicorn may also make an appearance downtown. Besaw said safe practices, including social distancing and wearing masks, will all be part of the event while also providing a fun atmosphere for community members of all ages.

"We are trying to have ways of getting people out to have a little bit of fun for the holiday but not gather crowds and things like that," she said.

Shannon Bly, another member of the Irish Wildlife Society, said Oak Harbor's Blarney Stone is a special part of the celebration of St. Patrick's Day on Whidbey Island, and the event returning this year after last year's cancellation makes this year an important one.

"It was really, really sad not to be able to do that (the parade) and everything (else) that got canceled," she said. "I think right now with a lot of things, anything, in any form, if it is

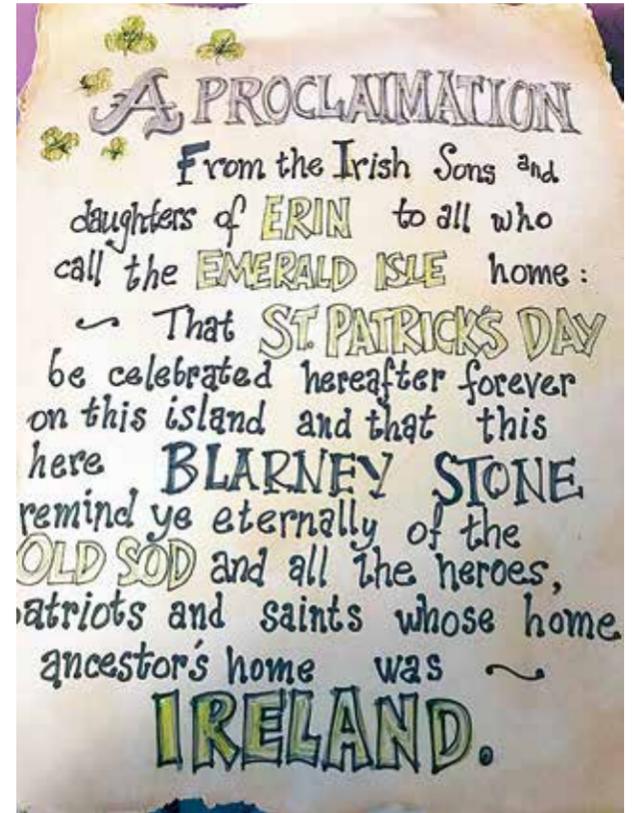


Photo Courtesy of Shannon Bly
The original proclamation for the Blarney Stone was made by Tony Turpin, according to Shannon Bly, a member of the Whidbey Island Irish Wildlife Society.

happening, it feels so special just to be able to continue it in any way."

Bly, the granddaughter of former longtime Whidbey Island Irish Wildlife Society members Leigh and Milly McWilliams, who also owned Whidbey Stationers, said the Blarney Stone has played a key role in St. Patrick's events. She said each year, the stone is washed in Guinness, and in years with a parade, the stone also served as a gathering point. This year, the Blarney Stone will serve as a landmark for people to drive by and wave to the grand marshal and mayor. Bly said the stone came to the Irish Wildlife Society when her grandparents got a call from a Whidbey Telephone Company (now Whidbey Telecom) worker who knew the society was looking for a Blarney Stone. A large green stone had been dug up and was later delivered to its new home at City Beach, where it would take part in many St. Patrick's Day celebrations until its move to Pioneer Way.

"I think this is kind of fun to have it (the cruise) this way, because people are really going to know about the Blarney Stone," she said. "There is no parade, but because we have a Blarney Stone, we are going to rally around that."

Editor's Note: Eric Marshall is the publisher and owner of Whidbey Weekly & Printing; Teresa Besaw is Whidbey Weekly's graphic designer.



Photo Courtesy of Oak Harbor Main Street Association
Oak Harbor's very own Blarney Stone serves as a focal point of the community's annual St. Patrick's Day festivities, which this year includes a decorated "cruise" through downtown.



Photo Courtesy of Shannon Bly
The Blarney Stone has long played an important role in Oak Harbor's St. Patrick's Day Celebrations. Before it was moved to its current home on Pioneer Way and Ireland Street, the stone sat next to the windmill at City Beach.

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ON TRACK

with Jim Freeman



To paraphrase the African proverb, "It takes a village to get two vaccine shots."

My arm-felt thanks to Island Drug and the EMT teams and firefighters who volunteered at Oak Harbor High School to administer and facilitate last Saturday's gathering of masks.

It was an amazing display of efficiency. The line outside and inside the Oak Harbor High School gym moved way faster than the line for Disneyland's Pirates of the Caribbean.

In fact, the line moved so fast I never got cold.

The lady in front of me said "hello" or was said hello to by dozens of masked Oak Harborites. She must have been a teacher or in law enforcement.

The gentleman in front of me in the Moderna #2 line was admiring the gym walls with the many OHHS banners for athletic prowess.

"Did you play for any of those teams?" I asked.

"No, I was the coach of the tennis team that won all those awards."

A nice lady named Vicky at table 14 tried to get me to relax my arm before the shot. Apparently being relaxed can expedite needle entry. Unfortunately, anytime a female touches my arm, I automatically flex to impress.

Not happening. It was BS – Before Spinach.

After my pain-free, just-a-little-bit-of-blood shot, I sat in a folding chair socially distanced from the other folding chairs.

During most of my 15 minutes of waiting, I stared at the In-N-Out t-shirt worn by the fellow sitting in front of me.

In my fantasy imprisonment, In-N-Out is my final meal.

I was so hungry by the time my time was up, I drove straight to Wendy's.

While the square Dave patties plus excess condiments are not as tasty as In-N-Out burgers, I did not have to drive to Wenatchee, Ephrata, or Grants Pass.

I felt proud after shot #2. Proud that I enjoyed my first needles since 1969, on Parris Island.

That's it. I only do shots on an island. Am I starting a cancel culture?

Sno-Isle rocks

Sans printer, I took advantage of the Sno-Isle library's internet services last week.

Technical liaison and library guru Keith Bowers walked me through the process. Easy peasy.

I uploaded my document to the Sno-Isle system. In short order, my printing had been done and packaged for pick-up in Freeland.

Without being a pest, I may request some more printing. It is a great way to feel important.

Non PC reader joke

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.' The florist was pleased and left the shop.

When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop came in for a haircut, and when he tried to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.' The cop was happy and left the shop.

The next morning when the barber went to open up, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a Congressman came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you. I'm doing community service this week.' The Congressman was very happy and left the shop.

The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen Congressmen lined up waiting for a free haircut.

And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.

As Mark Twain said: "Both politicians and diapers need to be changed often and for the same reason."

Hot Clubs

Thanks to Kristi O'Donnell of Hot Club of Troy fame, www.thehotcluboftroy.com/, we now have the latest info about what our local stellar artists are doing without live audiences.

"The Hot Club of Troy (Kristi, Keith Bowers, and Troy Chapman) is formulating a re-entry plan to play live music this summer when we get the green light. In the meantime, we are rehearsing and recording.

"One project I have had the honor to participate with is my virtual European band, The Hot Club of Lockdown. I met the stellar violinist, E. Sarah Carter, when she and we were performing in the Django Sur Lennon Manouche festival in Ramelton County, Donegal, Ireland. (I am a granddaughter of Donegal.)

"Sarah was the lead violinist with *Riverdance* for 10 years, and prior to COVID, was performing around the globe. She lives in Brighton, England.

"She had played with guitarist David Ahmed from London along the way.

"So, we assembled The Hot Club of Lockdown last spring.

"David is truly a creative alchemist with his video/performance integration software. As well as a great guitarist!

"Here's the link to our latest Django tune, *Daphne*: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR1UD7DHISF4dIYNi5K-9SeeWeQj-Y7uKZlvMrTMQMawaKj6ge1WAAx-okCAG&v=ZJ3KamPYWeE&feature=youtu.be>.

"And your gonna love this one: <https://youtu.be/53gHC4vYrZ8> (Played with Seattle drummer Tom Dostal on this one and a James Bond magician).

"How exciting is this? If you are reading a print copy, go to our web site to access the links above."

Thanks Kristi for the update and for being you.

If any of you readers are ready to bust out of this isolation, contact Kristi. If you are interested in booking the band, their musical variety covers 100 years, from the roaring 20s until now.

Ready to have live music for your summertime party or festive day? Contact Kristi to book your date at www.kristio.com. Their joy will be your joy.

New Definition Jokes

Part of the fun of reading the *Washington Post* is being able to enjoy the winners of two annual contests which involve interacting with the skills of readers.

One challenge is for readers to take any word from the dictionary, modifying it by adding or subtracting or changing one letter, as well as providing a new definition.

My four faves of the many winners were:

Intoxicaton: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

The other *Washington Post* contest I enjoy challenges readers to submit their suggestions for alternate meanings for common words.

Three of the recent best are:

Coffee, n. The person upon whom one coughs.

Gargoyle, n. Olive-flavored mouthwash.

Balderdash, n. A rapidly receding hairline.

Thanks to the *Washington Post* reader for sharing the entire winners' list. Most all were hilarious, but trying to slide some of the adult humor by my favorite grandmas might be riskier than attending a super spreader event at a fertilizer festival.

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

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Bits & Pieces

Whidbey Island Arts Center Films Popular Online Program with Live Studio Audience

Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA) presents *98260: Live!* March 20.

"We began producing *98260*, a streaming program designed to keep us connected through conversations, news, and entertainment, in March 2020," says WICA Artistic Director Deana Duncan. "This very special, anniversary episode will be filmed in front of a live studio audience!"

Travel writer Sue Frause hosts the evening featuring special guests Jenn Jurriaans, sharing how she adapted her restaurant businesses in 2020, Dan Gulden, offering insights about the region's real estate market, and telecom executive George Henny, discussing how COVID-19 has changed the way we communicate.

The event also includes live music, improv artist Billy Tierney, audience participation, an update about the State of the Arts, and a Best Mask Competition.

"During the past 12 months," says Executive Director Verna Everitt, "we have remained committed to producing, presenting, and supporting artistic endeavors and cultural events. Producing *98260* and curating online experiences for our patrons are two of the many ways our staff has been working to keep us connected and engaged in the arts. We're now able to welcome artists and audiences back to our stage and the most important message I want to share with our community is 'we're ready when you are.'"

Learn more about upcoming events, WICA's physically distanced seating and new HVAC system, and "What to Expect When You Arrive" at www.WICAonline.org.

[Submitted by Jason Dittmer, Communications Director, WICA]

Take Time to Review Your Medicare

It's worth taking a few minutes to review your current Medicare and ask if you want to make any changes. Now is the time to review the following options:

Did you miss your initial enrollment period for Medicare Parts A and B? If you missed your Initial Enrollment Period (when you turned 65), or your Special Enrollment Period (when you lost your employer coverage after turning 65), you have another chance to enroll in these important parts of Medicare. You can sign up for Medicare Parts A and B through March 31, so your coverage will start July 1. You may have a late enrollment penalty, depending how long you went without Medicare after you were eligible.

Do you think your Medicare Advantage Plan is not working for you? Now is the time to look at other plans. If you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan and want to switch to a different Advantage Plan or return to Original Medicare, you have until March 31 to make that change. One reason to switch may be a doctor you want to see is not part of your plan's network, or a medication you need is not covered by your plan. SHIBA can help you identify your best option based on your individual needs.

Are you struggling to pay your Medicare out-of-pocket costs? Now is the time to see if you qualify for help! New eligibility guidelines determine who qualifies for help to pay Medicare-related costs. If your monthly income is no more than \$1,630 for a single person or \$2,198 for a couple, and you have limited assets, you may qualify for assistance. Some income from active employment may be exempt from these limits.

Do you have questions about your Medicare? Now is the time to ask! Island County has a cadre of trained volunteers who will guide you through your individual Medicare. Contact SHIBA, the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors, for free, unbiased, confidential

assistance on all matters related to Medicare. SHIBA is a program of the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner, sponsored by Island Senior Resources. Call 360-321-1600 ext. 0 for information.

[Submitted by Jean Mathisen]

WVRC Scholarship

Our kind and dutiful veterans at Whidbey Veterans Resource Center have instituted a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2021 school year. High school seniors and other scholarship applicants who are interested in the qualifications and requirements may contact the WVRC via email, whidbeyvrc@gmail.com, or phone, 360-331-8081. Deadline for submission is April 1, and that's no joke.

[Submitted by Whidbey Veterans Resource Center]

Larsen Invites Second District Students to Participate in 2021 Congressional Art Competition Art submission deadline is April 30

Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) is inviting high school-aged students who live or attend school in Washington state's Second Congressional District to showcase their artistic talents in the 2021 Congressional Art Competition. Art submissions and forms are due to Larsen's office by Friday, April 30 at 4:00PM.

The U.S. House of Representatives holds the annual high school visual art competition to encourage and recognize artistic talent in each congressional district. All art entries must be original in concept, design and execution. The winning entry will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol. Last year, Oliver Rinne from Sedro-Woolley High School won the district-wide competition with his piece, "Breathe."

"I am encouraging the many gifted young artists in Northwest Washington to submit their artwork to the 2021 Congressional Art Competition," said Larsen. "I am excited to see this year's submissions and highlight the talent Washington's Second Congressional District has to offer."

Since 1982, hundreds of thousands of students nationwide have participated in the Congressional Art Competition. The competition is open to all high school students (grades 9-12) who live or attend school in the Second District; students can check whether they are Second District residents or attend school in the district at www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative. Interested students can find details and a full list of contest rules on Larsen's website (<https://larsen.house.gov/helping-you/art-competition-zip.htm>) or by calling Kevin Phan in Larsen's office at 425-252-3188.

Entry forms must be signed by the student, a parent or guardian and a school faculty member. Forms and art submissions are due by Friday, April 30 at 4:00PM. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, submissions and completed forms may be emailed to CongressionalArt.WA02@mail.house.gov by the April 30 deadline.

Forms can also be mailed or delivered with art pieces to Larsen's Everett office:

Office of Rep. Rick Larsen - Everett
Re: Art Competition
Wall Street Building
2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 9F
Everett, WA 98201

Students needing assistance in delivering their artwork to Larsen's office can call Kevin Phan in Larsen's office at 425-252-3188. Participants will be honored at a date to be determined.

For more information about the 2021 Congressional Art Competition, visit <https://larsen.house.gov/helping-you/art-competition-zip.htm>.

[Submitted by Joseph Tutino, Office of Rep. Rick Larsen]

Oak Harbor Lions Start Bags to Benches Recycling Program

The Oak Harbor Lions Club has recently started collecting bags as a way to beautify our community and give people something to contribute to during the pandemic. For every 500 pounds of bags collected, Trex will donate a park bench for use in our community.

Items being accepted are grocery, ice, and produce bags; bread, cereal, and Ziploc and other re-closable bags; newspaper sleeves, bubble wrap, and plastic mailers. Materials must be clean, dry and free of food residue.

Please bring your plastic bag recycling to one of the convenient donation locations: Oak Harbor Chamber or Wallin Funeral Home. Larger pickup scheduling is available by calling 360-320-7066

[Submitted by Teresa Addison, Lions Marketing Communications Chairperson]

WhidbeyHealth Meets Financial Challenges Head-On

WhidbeyHealth is committed to continually informing the community about the financial standing of our island healthcare system and this press release provides an update about changes currently underway.

To briefly recap the current financial situation: WhidbeyHealth's approved 2020 budget called for approximately \$100 million in net revenue from its many health care services, with a surplus of 2.8 percent, or \$3 million, which was to be invested in needed capital improvements and cost of living adjustments for WhidbeyHealth employees, which would have led to additional services to the community. Of course, this was before the onset of the novel coronavirus pandemic. WhidbeyHealth has reported the impact of COVID-19 regularly at monthly board meetings. As of January 2021, WhidbeyHealth's response to COVID-19 has exceeded \$3 million in unplanned expenses. In addition, WhidbeyHealth experienced a \$12 million loss of net revenue due to closure of services during the initial months of the pandemic. FEMA support will offset some, but not all, of these costs. It is easy to understand how WhidbeyHealth's original financial plan has been devastated by the pandemic.

Increasing and sustaining its net revenue is always a priority for WhidbeyHealth. Eighty-eight percent of its income comes from health-care insurance. WhidbeyHealth is continuously negotiating with insurance companies for higher reimbursement rates and struggles to get timely payments from them. Managing insurance reimbursement revenues is a major issue for every American healthcare system and Whidbey Island is not immune. WhidbeyHealth analyzed its financial situation compared to national trends in the healthcare industry, and have identified several opportunities to strengthen its long-term financial position, which will ensure continued quality care for the community. In addition to continued negotiations with insurance companies, WhidbeyHealth has identified cost reduction as another priority to reach a sustainable financial position. It is reviewing all lease agreements and service contracts. In the very near future, some clinical care services in rented space will be relocated to other buildings WhidbeyHealth owns, allowing it to eliminate some rent expense.

Payroll represents the majority of WhidbeyHealth's costs. One of the actions it must take to continue to provide healthcare to the community is a reduction in its workforce. This was not an easy decision, as WhidbeyHealth knows it will deeply impact members of its WhidbeyHealth family. Every WhidbeyHealth employee is truly valued and contributes to the organizational success. Senior leaders and managers have taken voluntary pay reductions and WhidbeyHealth has instituted a hiring freeze for all non-critical positions. It will prioritize those who volunteer for layoff and those who decide to take retirement. These actions are necessary steps for WhidbeyHealth to remain financially viable and available to continue to provide excellent patient care to our island community close to home.

The entire leadership team at WhidbeyHealth is committed to making these changes to the



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organization to ensure clinical services will continue without a reduction in access to care, when and where you need it.

WhidbeyHealth continues to be the island's leader in vaccinating family and neighbors. To date, WhidbeyHealth is nearing 9,000 vaccine doses administered. The Vaccine Clinic is operating six days a week, with more than 20 dedicated staff and volunteers involved every day, who ensure you have a safe and smooth experience.

WhidbeyHealth commissioners, leadership and staff are committed to overcoming these challenges by being flexible and continuously evaluating opportunities to improve efficiencies and expand services to the community. WhidbeyHealth resolutely believes it will emerge from these challenging times stronger than ever and appreciates the island's support.

WhidbeyHealth encourages everyone to follow and engage with it online via its website and Facebook. Meetings of the Board of Commissioners are open to the public and are recorded and posted on WhidbeyHealth's website so anyone unable to attend the meeting can stay up-to-date.

COVID-19 continues to be a major threat to our health. WhidbeyHealth encourages everyone to wear facial coverings, maintain social distancing and to wash hands frequently.

Stay connected with WhidbeyHealth at Facebook.com/whidbeyhealth or at whidbeyhealth.org.

[Submitted by Conor O'Brien, Manager, Marketing & Public Relations, WhidbeyHealth]

Opinion

'Call it what it is,' says Muzzall - 'An income tax'

If it walks, swims and quacks like a duck, it's a duck not the goose that laid a golden egg

Despite strong revenues and billions in federal funds coming to Washington State, legislative Democrats pushed through a controversial state income tax bill, under the guise of

calling it an "excise on capital gains." Senate Bill 5096 would impose a seven percent tax on proceeds above \$250,000. State Sen. Ron Muzzall voted against the measure which was approved Saturday evening by a vote of 25 to 24.

"I'm a farmer and so I come at things from a sometimes-simple approach. My father taught me a lot and one of the biggest lessons was on integrity. Say what you mean and mean what you say," Muzzall explained. "If it walks, swims and quacks like a duck, it's not a chicken, and definitely not the goose that laid a golden egg. It's very clear that this is an income tax."

Advocates for the bill were careful to sidestep using the term income tax, but every state with a capital gains tax classifies it as an income tax. Responding to a Congressional inquiry about the semantics, the Internal Revenue Service responded, "You ask whether tax on capital gains is considered an excise tax or an income tax? It is an income tax."

While Republican amendments to provide clarity, protect small business or provide additional tax relief to working Washingtonians were rejected, Muzzall was pleased one particularly problematic provision was amended.

"It's such bad policy, but I'm happy we were able to have bipartisan agreement on removing the emergency clause," Muzzall said. "I am saddened though to see the constituents of the state of Washington saddled with an income tax. Because, mark my words, this is just the beginning, we will see this expanded to all the citizens of Washington. With budget surpluses looming, it is unbelievable that we are seeing taxes being raised. Our state government has an addiction to spending. I can only hope the citizens see the problem and move to correct it. This is a sad day for Washington."

When asked, Washington voters have rejected efforts to impose various types of income taxes at the ballot box a total of 10 times in the past 80 years.

[Submitted by Laudan Espinoza, Senate Republican Caucus]

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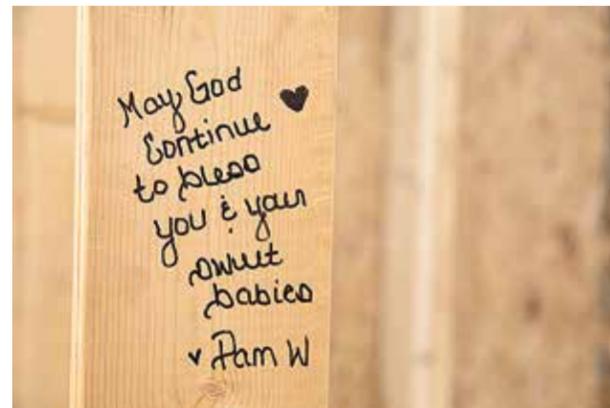


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Photo Courtesy of Habitat for Humanity of Island County
Members of the Meyers family help break ground for their new home being built by Habitat for Humanity of Island County. A community conversation about affordable housing and its impact on women is being held online from 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday as part of Habitat's Women Build Week events.



Photos Courtesy of Habitat for Humanity of Island County
All those interested are encouraged to come by Habitat for Humanity of Island County's current build site in Oak Harbor Friday and Saturday and leave positive "Messages in the Walls" for the new homeowners.

Habitat for Humanity events help build awareness, positivity

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

It is "Women Build" week for Habitat for Humanity, and while COVID has forced the national organization to re-imagine many events, Habitat for Humanity of Island County has a couple of notable happenings taking place this week.

WOMEN AND HOUSING

First, all those interested are invited to attend a virtual community conversation on Women and Housing, Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. The topic will be affordable housing in Island County and specifically how it affects women. The panel will feature local female leaders and Habitat homeowners. Information about how to join this Zoom presentation online can be found at islandcountyhabitat.com.

"It's about how affordable housing is really the foundation for all other things," said Kathy Blair, resource development director for HHIC. "You can afford food, but not if 60 to 70 percent of your income goes toward paying rent. Habitat believes housing should be no more than 30 percent of someone's income, which allows people to save, get a better education, have less illness, all kinds of things. We'll look at what is going on in Island County now."

"The topic that people contact me about the most is COVID vaccines. The topic they contact me about second-most often is affordable housing," said Island County Commissioner Melanie Bacon, who will be one of the panelists speaking Thursday. "Many people are concerned about this. And as the housing value has increased (up 15 percent in just the last year), so has that concern."

According to figures from Habitat for Humanity, in 2019 one in seven households in Washington state was spending at least half of its income on housing. The severe cost burden put on those households leaves little room for expenses like food, health care and other necessities. In 2019, the fair market rent for a two bedroom apartment in the state was \$1,445. In order to afford that and meet the 30 percent benchmark Blair mentioned, someone would need to earn \$27.78 per hour, working full time, or \$57,783 annually. The state minimum wage is currently \$13.69 per hour, so someone earning minimum wage and working 40 hours a week makes less than half that amount.

That adds up to a big problem with a ripple effect felt in many other areas.

"Housing is the number one cause of financial insecurity here and nationwide," said Carol Squire, executive director of

Good Cheer Food Bank in Langley. "And financial insecurity is the largest cause of food insecurity. It sounds obvious, but we need to help more people and their representatives in government recognize this very direct cause and effect link.

"Let's put it this way: this is the primary reason for the existence of food banks," Squire continued. "Because of our generous community support, we are able to make sure people don't go hungry. But that doesn't take away our food bank shoppers' financial insecurity and all the emotional and physical difficulties this causes."

"The workforce on the island basically has no place to live, and that's true from one end of the island to other," said Blair. "Employers don't want their employees commuting on the ferry – and what \$13-an-hour employee is going to take the ferry? I think the community is aware it's an issue, but I don't think they realize how it affects the community economically."

Affordable housing is a huge problem in Island County as it is virtually everywhere. But it's a problem that impacts women more than men, something else of which Blair said people may be unaware.

See HABITAT continued on page 10



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Your Island Transit

Willow is an Island Transit dispatcher and bus operator on Camano Island. She began her career over a dozen years ago as a full-time paratransit bus operator. During her tenure, Willow also trained for a job in dispatch assisting other bus operators as well as answering rider phone calls. This cross-training opportunity gave Willow the advantage of being available to fill in as staffing needs required.

In one particular instance, Willow was preparing to drive her bus from Terry's Corner to Stanwood, a female passenger in the back of the bus pulled out an E-cigarette that exploded. The E-cigarette shot over Willow's head, hitting the dashboard and causing the bus to fill with smoke. Willow quickly got the passenger off the bus then turned around, grabbed an extinguisher and put the fire out. She won an award from the Washington State Transportation Insurance Pool for her quick thinking.



Did You Know...

Many Island Transit employees cross-train, which helps give employees gain a broader perspective of the organization. Cross-trained employees are also essential in providing back up to fill positions as day to day staffing needs require.

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Life Tributes

David Allen Macys II, Capt., MSC USN (Ret.)



David Allen Macys was born Nov. 30, 1947 to John and Anna Macys in Philadelphia, Pa., and passed away unexpectedly Feb. 21, 2021 at Providence Hospital in Everett, Wash.

After graduating from the University of California, David joined the U.S. Navy, where he earned a master's degree through the University of Rochester. During his 31 years in the Navy, he served as a Toxicologist, Industrial Hygienist, Safety Officer, Environmental Officer and Executive Officer, which allowed him to travel to many parts of the world. He would often say, "I have the best job in the Navy, I get to watch people work."

During David's active career in the Navy, he first met his wife-to-be in 1984 at a "Wetting Down" party for a mutual friend at Oak Knoll, the Naval Hospital, Oakland. Marti and he dated long distance for nearly two years and finally tied the knot at a beautiful garden wedding in 1986. Amazingly, they were still not able to live together for the first five years of their marriage, which only heightened the romance. Marti retired from the Navy in 1991 so they could actually live together, and once David retired in 2001, they retired to Whidbey Island.

Since their move here to the Island, he volunteered for several Island County community committees: Community Health Advisory Board (2005-2017), Environmental Health Assessment Team (2002-2006), and Restoration Advisory Board Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

He was preceded in death by both of his parents, Anna and John Macys. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Margaret "Marti" L. Macys; his son, David Allen Macys II (Kristen); sisters, Mary Anne Lischer and Catherine Neff; and brother, John J. Macys (Linda).

His unexpected death was too soon and too sudden for us all. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. We plan to have a Celebration of Life at a later date where we can all get together to say our good-byes.

"Fair winds and following seas," Captain.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Gary Sinise Foundation at www.garysinisefoundation.org.

Family and friends are encouraged to share memories and condolences at www.whidbeymemorial.com.

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

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.

SPRING BRINGS NEW LIFE!

"If people did not love one another, I really don't see what use there would be in having any spring."

~ Victor Hugo, Les Misérables

Merciful Father,

As we move into a new season of Your creation coming to life again, may our own hearts be renewed out of the death and dormancy of this plague's winter. May love flourish in our hearts again, where it had been stolen by troubles, tensions, turmoil and countless tragedies. As each season affords a time for a new beginning, so may we also find cause and reason, hope and opportunity, to begin afresh with one another. Let us lift up our eyes to You, O God, and let us reach out our arms of friendship to one another. Where there has been enmity or hate, suspicion or violence, let there now be the birth of magnanimous love and the stream of justice flowing until it becomes a mighty river. Marshal us all, by Your Spirit, back into life again!

In the name of Jesus who is our hope we pray, Amen.

"For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water."

Revelation 7:17



FRIDAY, FEB. 5

12:21 am, S Main St.

Male and female heard talking; heard talking about the "f-ng police department," now female heard talking about how she just dialed 9-1-1.

2:42 am, Cedar View Dr.

Additional call referencing same issue reporting party has been calling about; states there continues to be individuals "360 degrees around the house." Listing off multiple names of people from south Whidbey.

3:48 am, Cedar Point Rd.

Snohomish 9-1-1 advising female caller who gave address of Cedar Point Road; female was whispering and gave no further information; female shushed call-taker and then said she overreacted by calling.

6:37 am, SR 20

Reporting party advising female jumped out in front of reporting party's truck right before calling; was near solid waste center. States was walking northbound in northbound lane and then suddenly jumped in front of reporting party's vehicle.

12:53 pm, Keystone Ave.

Requesting call to report theft of keys, bath towels and large amount of toilet paper. Suspects cleaning lady.

SATURDAY, FEB. 6

1:20 pm, Hilberg Ln.

Reporting party got an email within the hour from neighbor. Neighbor told reporting party he was going to throw fireworks at reporting party's dog.

3:47 pm, Hazzle Ct.

Reporting party states neighbor two houses away is burning; smoke going into reporting party's house. Reporting party went over and talked to neighbors, who told him to "f*** off."

6:19 pm, Nubian Way

Reporting party states someone poisoned his property. Asked reporting party who did it, he said nobody

6:25 pm, Soaring Eagle Ln.

Advising male subjects in vehicle are shining green lasers, yelling at reporting party; acting belligerent; small SUV, no plate.

11:04 pm, West Beach Rd.

Caller advising was parked at West Beach and vehicle came up and started taking pictures of caller and are now following caller. Now driving past Safeway.

SUNDAY, FEB. 7

11:19 am, Pine Wood Way

Reporting party advising was digging and fell into a hole.

3:38 pm, SR 20

Reporting party following vehicle that is brake-checking, throwing stuff out window. Jeep.

6:13 pm, Garfield Ct.

Reporting party advising subject ran someone over with vehicle, drove off.

MONDAY, FEB. 8

12:06 am, Heller Rd.

Reporting party states subjects outside the trailer are beating on walls. Does not know how many subjects are outside.

12:09 pm, Torrence Ln.

Reporting party advising occurred yesterday around 4 pm; vehicle was burning out, sped off. Male returned later that night accusing reporting party of going to his property and messing with things.

12:35 pm, Perry Dr.

Reporting party states concerned about young kids driving around on mechanical battery toy. Currently driving on road.

5:28 pm, Ridgeway Dr

Caller advising daughters were walking dog in area, male threatened to shoot dog; daughters returned to tell father.

TUESDAY, FEB. 9

8:01 am, Terry Rd.

Advising black and white cow is chasing cars.

8:07 am, Heller Rd.

Reporting party advising this morning was riding bike to work and an F-150 tried to run reporting party off road. Ongoing issue with this vehicle for last two years.

11:21 am, Cedarcrest Ave.

Reporting party states yesterday around 3 pm neighbor was at back garage door with moving dolly at reporting party's house. Reporting party states she roams neighborhood with the dolly. Nothing stolen from house.

1:13 pm, Lyle Ridge Cir.

Requesting call. Advising estranged fiancé took reporting party's dog and is refusing to give her back.

1:32 pm, Timberline Rd.

Caller states someone needs to come pick up her children; are disrespectful little brats.

1:36 pm, Childrens Ave.

Reporting party states someone has spray painted "dicks and the n-word" on trees at address. Nobody there now.

2:54 pm, NW Coveland St.

People in verbal fight over mask-wearing. Two males.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10

5:56 am, Heller Rd.

Reporting party advising subjects knocking on trailer and trailer doors again this morning. Reporting party states has not seen anyone, heard car doors.

10:51 am, SR 525

Subject at pump one at gas pump appears to be "super high."

12 pm, Pioneer Park Pl.

Advising menacing dogs at location; aggressive to caller's wife, just occurred. Wife not injured. Caller went to location and made dog owner aware of situation, she was not receptive.

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



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What's Going On

All entries are listed chronologically, unless there are multiple entries for the same venue or are connected to a specific organization (such as Sno-Isle Libraries) in which case all entries for that venue or organization are listed collectively in chronological order under one heading.

Messages in the Walls

Friday, March 12, 1:00-4:00PM
Saturday, March 13, 11:00AM-3:00PM
1725 SE 10th Ave, Oak Harbor

Come by Habitat for Humanity of Island County's current build site to decorate a stud with a message to the family who will be purchasing the home. Your message will be incorporated into the building of the home so the family will always be surrounded by love and hope. <http://bit.ly/HabitatCWB2021>

Spring Nursery Opening

Saturday March 13, 10:00AM-4:00PM
Sunday March 14, 10:00AM-4:00PM
Meerkerk Gardens, Greenbank

Are you ready to plant your spring garden? Meerkerk Gardens is the place to get your rhododendrons and azaleas on Whidbey Island. Shop early to get the best selection. There are hundreds of rhododendrons to choose from and companion plants too. Individuals will be available to answer your questions and help you select the perfect plants for your garden. Members Day is March 12 from 2:00-5:00PM. Garden members always receive 10 percent off any plant purchase.

42nd Street

Saturday, March 13, 7:00PM
Sunday, March 14, 2:00PM
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, Langley
All Seats: \$20

Broadway's beloved classic comes to the big screen in its largest-ever production featuring great music and show-stopping dance numbers. A Broadway HD stage-to-screen (film) production. For tickets or more information, visit www.wicaonline.org or call 360-221-8262.

98260: Live!

Saturday, March 20, 7:30PM
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, Langley
All Seats: \$35

Travel writer Sue Frause and improv artist Billy Tierney host a fun-filled evening of comedy and music featuring local celebs and a Best Mask Contest. For tickets or more information, visit www.wicaonline.org or call 360-221-8262.

Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below
Cost: Free

Lit for Fun Online Book Group - "Eruption"

Thursday, March 11, 9:00-10:30AM
Online event

We will read and discuss *Eruption*, 2017 winner of the Washington State Book Award

for history and nonfiction and the 2021 Whidbey Reads book. Discover the history and science behind the 1980 eruption in this page-turning account of an iconic Washington event. To register: <https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/>.

Mount St. Helens - A Return to Life

Wednesday, March 17, 6:30-7:30PM
Online event

Join Mount St. Helens Institute volunteer lecturer David Newcomb to discover how plants and animals recovered following the devastation of the May 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. To join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662670438?pwd=dE-JHN21BbFRZDBib3o2Rm1oY0c0QT09>.

Food for Thought Online Book Group - "Eruption"

Thursday, March 18, 7:00-9:00PM
Online event

Discover the history and science behind the 1980 eruption in this page-turning account of an iconic Washington event. We will then take a look at some iconic Washington food purveyors in Washington Food Artisans. To register: <https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/>

Discuss the Classics with Rita Bartell Drum

Thursdays, 12:30 or 7:00PM

Enjoy a pleasant hour of shared wisdom and fellowship as we consider the words and hope of times past and weave a fabric of renewed hope by leaning on the "Classics." Contact: ritadrum777@gmail.com for ZOOM link.

Meetings & Organizations

Republican Women of North Whidbey

Thursday, March 11, 11:30AM
Oak Harbor Elks Club, 155 NE Ernst St.
Lunch: \$15

Come and join a great group of ladies for a nice lunch and learn more about current issues and making our voices heard.

Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers (WIGS)

Tuesday, March 16, 1:00PM
Zoom meeting

Jill Morelli will present "The Orphan Train Movement: The Tale of Three Riders." Between 1854 and 1929, the Children's Aid Society of New York City moved over 200,000 children to the Midwest. Three case studies will look in-depth at the range of materials available and the effort needed to identify their parents. Non-WIGS members wishing to attend, please send an email to whidbeygensearchers@gmail.com no later than March 14 to receive your zoom invitation. All are invited to join.

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HABITAT continued from page 6

"So, just from statistics we have, single parent households are predominately – 75 percent – led by women," she said. "Sixty percent of children living in poverty are in households led by women. Women pay higher rates for home loans and there is still a wage gap between men and women. Start throwing in race, gender identity, and it snowballs from there. Eighty percent of households in Section 8 housing are led by women. And this holds true for Island County."

"I don't know if there's as much awareness of how the lack of affordable housing disproportionately affects women," Bacon said. "I hope the conversation will serve two purposes: it will help bring that fact out more broadly into the public consciousness, and it will give the community an opportunity to talk through possible paths to solutions."

"I use every opportunity I can to raise awareness of the largest underlying causes of food insecurity: Lack of living wage jobs and lack of affordable housing," Squire said. "Of course, these two go hand in hand. This conversation is a very welcome public opportunity to spread this awareness."

"It's imperative everything be done...to ensure people have a safe, decent, affordable place to live," said Blair. "At Habitat, we're just one piece of the puzzle. We shouldn't be facing the [affordable housing] crisis we are. It starts with emergency shelter, transitional housing, fair market rentals and affordable home ownership."

MESSAGES IN THE WALLS

The second in-person opportunity during Women Build week gives those interested the chance to leave positive messages in the walls at HHIC's current build site. Swing by the site at 1725 SE 10th Avenue in Oak Harbor Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. and share a message with the families buying the homes by literally writing it on the wall studs.

"It's a Habitat tradition that's all about sending out positive energy and surrounding the families buying the home with love as well as a home," Blair explained. "When you do that, it creates an energy. The families will have seen it while it's being built, but it just feels good to know those good wishes are all around them. It feels good to do it, too. We want to be positive. We don't want to always focus on the situation these families are trying to overcome."

All are welcome to share a message. Masks and social distancing are required for anyone who participates in leaving Messages in the Walls.

"We're also doing our 'Cost of Home' photo contest," Blair added. "People can do it at the job site when they're leaving their message. There will be a bunch of things about the cost of home. People can take a picture with one of the message cards and post it to our Facebook page. It explains what having a high cost of home can cause, such as having to choose between paying the mortgage and feeding the kids."

For those who can't make it to the build site but want to enter the contest, the Cost of Home signs can be downloaded; participants just have to take a picture holding it and then post it. Three people will win a Habitat thermal bag filled with various treats. Details are available online at habitatlandcounty.com.

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Sunny Martini Photo Courtesy of Price Sculpture Forest
Pat McVay's original sculpture "Icarus Was Here" stands 12 feet high. Additional feathers have now been added and are suspended at different heights among the forest canopy at the Price Sculpture Forest in Coupeville.

Art goes airborne at Price Sculpture Forest

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

One has only to cast their eyes up into the trees at the Price Sculpture Forest near Coupeville to discover the latest addition to one of its displays.

The original piece, "Icarus Was Here," by Whidbey Island artist Pat McVay, was installed last November, but the piece wasn't finished until this past Sunday.

To understand the story behind the art piece, it's helpful to dip into one's knowledge of Greek Mythology: Icarus was the son of Daedalus, the craftsman. The two were imprisoned by King Minos in a tower above his palace. Daedalus created two sets of wings for himself and Icarus, made from feathers held together with wax. He taught Icarus how to fly and the two escaped the tower using the wings. However, even though Icarus had been warned not to fly too close to the sun, he did, causing the wax to melt. His wings fell apart and Icarus tumbled down into the sea and died.

So, as one looks at McVay's colorful piece, it represents the feathers from Icarus' wings floating to earth. The initial sculpture is about 12 feet off the ground. McVay and Price started adding additional feathers in January, but there are now 30 separate, hand-carved, cedar feathers gracing the completed piece. They range in size from two feet to 10 feet in length and float at various levels in the canopy – some as high as 80 feet in the air – held in place by cables mounted in the trees by arborist Jesse Brighten.

"Intertwining the art with the natural habitat was always part of my vision for the sculpture forest," said its creator, Scott Price. "The sculpture forest's tagline has even become 'Where Art Enhances Nature and Nature Enhances Art.' If you ask me why any particular sculpture is located where it is installed, I have a location-specific reason for it. There



Photo Courtesy of Price Sculpture Forest
Arborist Jesse Brighten and a helper adjust cable rigging to suspend feathers for Whidbey artist Pat McVay's sculpture, "Icarus Was Here" at the Price Sculpture Forest in Coupeville.

are no examples of 'Here's an open spot, so let's put it here.'"

Price said he has focused on and prioritized sculptors such as McVay, artists with great ideas which, in some cases, could only be constructed from a specific location within the forest.

"A month ago, Anthony Heinz May flew out here from New York City and was onsite for a week creating a fascinating sculpture from a large tree that was blown over in our big windstorm that occurred a couple of weeks before he arrived," Price said. "That sculpture has become a new favorite among visitors. The reactions we heard from visitors who walked by Pat's sculpture were similarly enthusiastic."

Since its opening, the Price Sculpture Forest has drawn a steady stream of visitors, something Price anticipates will only grow as the pandemic slowly recedes and people are able to travel more freely.

"The number of visitors has been steady and actually growing, and of course we are not even in official tourist season yet," he said. "Many locals have repeat visits as a pleasant place to walk or a fun outing with family. Many off-island tourists are hearing about it and coming to Whidbey specifically to visit it."

Price said they are saving up donations to expand the small parking lot, which fills up rapidly and means the overflow of cars must park along the street.

Price Sculpture Forest is open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset. It is free to visit and a self-guided tour of the entire forest is available for those whose phones have internet/data access. Donations are gladly accepted. The sculpture forest is located at 678 Parker Road in Coupeville. More information is available at sculptureforest.org and also on social media.



Photo Courtesy of Price Sculpture Forest
Pat McVay, Ken Price, and Bob Davenport manage cables to suspend additional carved cedar feathers, part of McVay's piece "Icarus Was Here" at the Price Sculpture Forest.



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





Community Counts

By Phil Semas
Retired journalist who lives on South Whidbey

A BETTER WAY TO GIVE

Whidbey Island has more than 300 non-profit organizations. They do wonderful work in a wide variety of areas: food, housing, clothing, education, health, transportation, the arts, the environment, and more. Their efforts are part of what makes the island a special place to live.

Some are tiny and run entirely by volunteers. Others are larger and may have some paid employees.

But they have one thing in common: They rely on donations for much, if not all, of their financial support. You probably give to one or more of these groups. (The average American donates to four or five charities.) That's admirable, but there may be a better way to support your favorite organizations and causes.

If you're like most people, you make a few donations throughout the year, but you do most of your giving around the holidays. Nationally 40 percent of donations are made in the last six weeks of the year, 30 percent in December, and 10 percent in the last two or three days.

There are several reasons for this phenomenon. The holidays are sometimes called "the season of giving." The charitable impulse is especially strong at that time of year, when we are called to think of the needs of others. A secondary motivation may be to make sure you have something to deduct on your tax return come April.

But that approach has its drawbacks. Not only are people busy at the end of the year but financial pressures are high. Holiday meals must be prepared and gifts must be bought. Many of us travel to see friends and family (unless, of course, there's a deadly pandemic). Finding money to donate may be challenging, no matter how much you may care about a cause.

So here's a better way: Set up recurring donations throughout the year. If you normally give an organization \$100 in November or December, give them \$10 month instead. Yes, that's \$120, but one advantage of this approach is that you can probably afford to be a little more generous. If you really can't afford more than \$100, you can make it \$8.33 a month. Or do \$10 a month for 10 months instead of 12. Or \$25 every three months.

You may already make regular donations by, for example, putting a few dollars in the collection plate at church every week.

But wait, you say, putting money in the collection plate is easy, but who wants to write a \$10 check every month? This is where today's technology comes in. Most charities have a place on their website where you can donate and most offer an option for monthly or other recurring donations. You can set up a regular donation that will be automatically charged to your checking or bank account, usually through PayPal, Network for Good, or some other service.

My wife and I did this with our donations last year, and it has made life much simpler. We don't have to remember to give, and we are supporting organizations we care a lot about. Giving is now a regular part of our expenses, like paying the mortgage, buying groceries, or subscribing to the newspaper.

And not only will monthly donations make it easier for you, they are also better for the groups you support. Nonprofits may get most of their donations in the fourth quarter, but they have to operate year around. It's much better for them to have a steady cash flow throughout the year.

And it may reduce their fund-raising costs: They don't have to keep coming back to you asking for money.

Monthly donations may be especially important now, when the pandemic has put a dent in many organizations' other sources of income. Special events have been canceled or gone "virtual," which often means less revenue. Thrift stores were closed for months, and if they have reopened, it may be for shorter hours. Good Cheer Food Bank, for example, used to get 80 percent of its income from its thrift stores. Now it's 25 to 30 percent. Fortunately, donations have made up the difference.

Any donations help, of course, but monthly gifts are especially useful.

"When everyone went into quarantine because of COVID, we started getting a lot more online donations," says Carol Squire, executive director of Good Cheer, "and quite a few people set up monthly gifts. We're always happy to get any gifts at any time, but it's much better to know we have a steady stream of donations throughout the year. I wish more people would do this."

Most other groups would tell you the same thing. So try this approach if you can. It's better for you and — even more important — better for the causes you care about.

What you can do: Go to the website of your favorite nonprofit. Click on the "Donate" button.

Put in the amount you want to donate. There should be a box to check saying something like "make this a monthly donation." Check that, enter your payment information and you're done.

You can usually use either a credit card or your bank account. Using the bank account may avoid any fees. If your organization doesn't have a monthly donation option, ask them to add it or set up a recurring payment through your bank or investment account. Your ongoing support will make an ongoing difference in our shared community.

This Weekend!
FRIDAY, MARCH 12 THRU SUNDAY, MARCH 14

RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON (PG)
BEETHOVEN (PG)

ARCADIE & GO KARTS OPEN! FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 4PM, SAT AT 3PM

BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 4PM FRI & SUN, 3PM SAT, FIRST MOVIE BEGINS AT 6:30PM
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Food Bank & Thrift Stores

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Thursday, March 11
OHHS Football vs Mt Vernon, 7pm

Friday, March 12
OHHS Volleyball vs Sedro Woolley, 7pm

Saturday, March 13
OHHS Volleyball vs Burlington-Edison, 12pm

Monday, March 15
OHHS Girls' Soccer vs Ferndale, 5pm

Tuesday, March 16
OHHS Football @ Nooksack Valley, 7pm

Wednesday, March 17
Girls' Soccer vs Ferndale, 6pm

All home games are dual cast with Wildcat TV on YouTube

www.soundsportsnet.com



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





Let's Dish!

with Kae Harris



LET'S HAVE A BALL OF A TIME!

It's hard to believe we are already into the third month of 2021! The New Year came and went, days snowballed through January and February and now we're into the merry month of March, which happens to contain one of my favorite days: National Meatball Day! (March 9). Yes, dear readers, there is an entire day dedicated to the comfort sphere we all know and love, drenched in a rich tomato sauce served over a bed of perfectly al dente spaghetti. The meatball is a quintessential staple of Italian-American cuisine and is synonymous with family gatherings and cultural identity. Global variations exist for a number of foods, and the meatball is no exception. Enjoyed as koftas throughout the Middle East and in Lion's Head soup in China, all meatballs share one common theme – they are the definition of comfort food. So, let's start our foodie trek around the globe and see how this simple, yet delicious, treat is enjoyed by a myriad of cultures!

The origin story of the meatball is ambiguous, with many cultures laying claim to having created the first dedicated meatball recipe. One of the oldest verified recipes is that for kofta, which originated in Persia, before being spread throughout the Middle East, Asia, North Africa and Europe, where adaptations resulted in regional specialties. Koftas are generally made from lamb, beef or fish and can be cooked in a variety of ways. One of the most iconic kofta dishes comes from Turkey (which has become the land of kofta, where over 200 varieties are served). Izmir kfte is a casserole made up of baked meatballs, tomatoes, potatoes and peppers liberally seasoned with spices like cumin and chili flakes. The torpedo-shaped koftas are a unique take on the meatball, both in terms of shape and flavor and are sure to be a welcome addition to your culinary catalog on a cold winter's night!

While the Italian-American meatball is iconic in the food pantheon, being immortalized in books and film, recognition must be given to the recipe that gave birth to this classic: polpette, or, the original Italian meatball. Meatballs have existed in Italian cuisine from the time of the ancient Romans, but the first recorded recipe for polpette appeared in 1881 in Pellegrino Artusi's culinary manual, *La scienza in cucina e l'Arte di mangiar bene* (Science in the kitchen and the Art of eating well). This recipe was developed to use leftovers and was the definition of food for the poor. Today's recipe is a far cry from its humble beginnings, with ingredients such as freshly ground veal, pork and beef making up the bulk of the recipe, which is fortified with Parmesan cheese, milk and bread crumbs. The polpette is a fraction of the size of its American cousin and is usually served as an appetizer or as a main dish with a salad or sautéed vegetables, but never with pasta, which is a uniquely American tradition. Deep-fried or baked, served with or without sauce, polpette is a perfect bite-sized treat that is guaranteed to give pleasure regardless of the course!

Food origins are often intertwined with history and this is obvious with the Spanish dish albondigas. These tiny meatballs made from a mixture of veal and pork, are poached in sauces ranging from a standard tomato and garlic sauce to a rather unique almond sauce. Often served as tapas, albondigas were introduced to a variety of regions throughout the world via Spanish colonization and are now a staple in the Spanish-speaking world, featuring prominently in the cuisines of Mexico to the Philippines. In Mexico, they are made from pork, stuffed with egg and are usually served in a sauce made of chipotles or in a light pork broth; the Filipino version, known as almondigas, are served with broth and rice noodles. Regardless of the variety, albondigas are

versatile and are the perfect dish to start off a meal where they can be served in a wide array of sauces that will please any palette.

Meatballs in Europe and the Middle East tend to be made from ground meat; this is not the case in Asia, where meatballs are almost exclusively made from meat paste. Popular meatball variants include fish balls used in noodle dishes throughout China and Korea, bò viên (bouncy meatballs served in pho in Vietnam) and the Indonesian bakso. Although all these meatball examples are delicious, in my opinion, there is only one king of the meatball jungle in Chinese cuisine: The lion's head! As its name implies, the lion's head is a large, soft meatball made from a mix of fatty pork and water chestnuts. Originating in the eastern Chinese Yangzhou region, they're served with cabbage (the mane!), seasoned with ginger, rice wine, and sesame oil and are usually stewed, braised, steamed or simmered in soup. The shape of the meatball is said to resemble the head of the Chinese guardian lion, making it a popular dish when ushering in the Chinese New Year.

After travelling the globe, it only seems right to conclude our meatball adventure in the United States. Spaghetti and meatballs have become a staple of "Italian" cuisine in the United States; while having Italian culinary roots, this dish is proudly American. It was innovated by Italian immigrants in New York City during the 1800s; having access to much more plentiful meat supply at a fraction of the cost compared to their native Italy, the resulting meatballs were much larger than the golf ball sized polpettes associated with true Italian cuisine. While many families claim to have their unique recipe, the standard meatball recipe is made up of

ground meat (usually beef), bread crumbs, herbs (basil, parsley and oregano), eggs and milk; the addition of parmesan cheese is always a welcome inclusion! The meatballs are added to marinara sauce before being served with pasta, usually spaghetti (although other shapes such as rigatoni can be used as an alternative). This meal has pleased countless homes across our nation over multiple generations and makes for a great Sunday dinner! Included below is one of my favorite recipes for spaghetti and meatballs; I hope it will become a firm favorite in your home too! As always, write to me at letsdish.whidbeyweekly@gmail.com with your comments, questions and Dish!-worthy anecdotes! The ball is in your court!

Spaghetti and Meatballs

Combine 1 lb. of ground beef (80 – 85% lean) and 1 lb. of ground pork with ½ cup of bread crumbs (preferably use 2- or 3-day old stale bread)

Add fresh basil, parsley and oregano to the mix, along with ¼ cup of finely minced onions and garlic.

Mix an egg into the mixture with 1/3 cup of whole milk.

Add ¼ cup of parmesan cheese along with salt and pepper to taste.

Mix the mixture thoroughly before using a medium cookie scoop to measure out the mixture to be shaped into balls.

Place the meatballs on baking sheet with parchment paper and place into a 425°F oven for 10-12 minutes (internal temperature of 160°F).

Serve with your favorite marinara sauce and al dente pasta!



Dining Guide

See Us For Shepherd's Pie To Go on St. Patrick's Day!

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OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What is the best book you have read this past year and why?



Debby Colfer, Clinton

The last book I finished is frequently my favorite book, until I read the next one. I just finished a memoir by Dani Shapiro titled *Inheritance: a Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love*. Have you spit into a plastic tube to discover your ancestry? What if you found out your dad was not your biological dad? Does it change who you are? Join Dani's journey as she discovers she is a donor-conceived person. This is a thoughtful exploration of the impact DNA discoveries can have at any age: identity, family dynamics, family secrets, medical ethics, and genetics. This memoir reads almost like fiction.

She addresses everything from such an honest perspective it pulled me into her story, cheering her on as she searched for answers. Her book highlights meaningful relationships and connections. I found it meaningful that she has taught master classes at Hedgebrook, a women's-only writer's retreat center on South Whidbey.

Maria McGee, Oak Harbor

I read a lot of great books. The book that stood out for me this past year was *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, by Lisa Lee.

I thought it was well written and compelling.

You felt each character's loss and love. This book increased my understanding of Chinese customs, superstitions, and family traditions that still exist today for many people who live in remote areas as tribes and survive by farming teas from China's mountain regions.



Kelly Jolly, Oak Harbor

One of my favorite books I have read this past year is *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak. The first thing I noticed was the beautiful way it was written and narrated. The narrator is Death. The descriptions and details are the work of a word-smith. It takes place during World War II in Germany. The main character, Liesel, finds her very first book, but is unable to read at that time. She soon learns to read and falls in love with books. The story is harrowing at times but there is much hope and inspiration throughout the book. The characters are beautifully described and memorable. This is a book I would reread over and over again.

Kathryn O'Brien, Clinton

Hands down, this is the BEST book I have read this past year. It's exquisite, every detail. I felt the land with all my senses. I fell in love with all the main characters and felt true empathy for even the toughest of the bunch. Plot twists and turns through out the novel kept me enrapt. Several nights I read deep into the night because I could not put the book down. Oh my, I cannot sing enough praises. Let the closing line of *This Tender Land* seal my love for William Kent Krueger: "Far better, I believe, to be like children and open ourselves to every beautiful possibility, for there is nothing our hearts can imagine that is not so."



Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21		22				23			
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36				37				38			
39						40				41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49					50			51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

- Volcanic crater
- Long times
- Swedish rock group
- Having the means to do something
- Rods or spindles
- La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- Missing soldiers
- Measuring instrument
- All of the components considered individually
- Play " __ Irish Rose"
- Gene
- Barrels
- London-based soccer team
- Feline
- Breed of sheep
- Body part
- Doctors' group
- One who follows the rules
- Cigarette residue
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Polish yeast cakes
- Promotional materials
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Completed perfectly
- Photo
- A peninsula in SW Asia
- The common gibbon
- Disfigure

- Ribonucleic acid
- Japanese honorific
- Pieces of music
- Expressed pleasure
- Having ten
- Type of sword
- Humble request for help
- Eating houses
- Italian Seaport
- Cain and __
- Measure the depth
- U. of Miami's mascot
- Political outsiders
- Greek sorceress
- Body part

- Scandinavian god of battle
- Expresses surprise
- Secret political clique
- Yields manila hemp
- River in central Italy
- Brain injury science acronym
- Mental illness
- A person from Asia
- Father
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Cooked or prepared in a specified style
- Large terrier
- Hillsides
- Golf score
- Not or
- Type of student
- Flower cluster
- Closes tightly
- Saudi Arabian desert
- Famed vaccine developer
- Multi-function radar (abbr.)
- Actress Jessica
- Pay attention to
- Beloved big screen pig
- __ Clapton, musician
- Take a chance
- Cost per mille
- Helps little firms

CLUES DOWN

- Mother
- Jewish calendar month
- Jai __, sport
- Establish again
- Swiss river
- Racetrack wager
- __ but goodie
- Closeness
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- At right angles to a ship's length
- Women's undergarments
- Mountain stream
- Expresses pleasure
- Painful places on the body
- Automobile

Answers on page 15

CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...5.2

Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9

Answers on page 15

9	2		4		1	5		
7	1		3					
			6	9		1		
		7	1				3	
		5				4		
	9				6	2		
	7		6	9				
				8			2	7
		3	2	7		5	9	

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, March 11	Fri, March 12	Sat, March 13	Sun, March 14	Mon, March 15	Tues, March 16	Wed, March 17
North Isle H-50°/L-40° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-51°/L-40° Mostly Sunny	North Isle H-53°/L-40° Partly Sunny PM Showers	North Isle H-49°/L-36° Chance of Rain	North Isle H-48°/L-37° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-48°/L-39° Partly Sunny	North Isle H-49°/L-40° Partly Sunny
South Isle H-49°/L-34° Partly Sunny	South Isle H-52°/L-38° Partly Sunny	South Isle H-54°/L-38° Partly Sunny PM Showers	South Isle H-48°/L-36° Chance of Rain	South Isle H-47°/L-36° Partly Sunny	South Isle H-50°/L-36° Partly Sunny	South Isle H-49°/L-38° Partly Sunny

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- ✓FREE Differential & Fill
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- ✓FREE Windshield Washer Fluid & Fill
- ✓FREE Battery Fluid & Fill

- ✓NEW Oil & Oil Filter
- ✓LUBE Chassis
- ✓INFLATE Tires
- ✓VACUUM Interior
- ✓WASH Front & Rear Windows

- ✓Wiper Blade
- ✓Air Filter
- ✓Belts & Hoses
- ✓Headlights & Signal Lights

Most cars up to 5 qts. 5W20, 5W30, 10W30. Other grades extra. Some filters cost extra. Vehicles with Skid Plates may be extra. Plus \$1 Environmental Disposal Fee.

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Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Surplus instructional materials from the Oak Harbor School District will be available for review and purchase through March 31. Contact Brian Hunt at 360-279-5960 (2)

REAL ESTATE WANTED

All cash. Looking for a perkable lot in Oak Harbor. Call 360-668-9300 (2)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Accounting, math students and others interested: Begin your career working with numbers and making a difference as a part-time volunteer Treasurer for a local nonprofit. You can build experience working with a dedicated team as well as earn a glowing job reference when you are ready! Contact Michele C. at 360-929-0281 (3)

Island Shakespeare Festival is seeking new members to join our Board of Directors. We're looking for people who are passionate about high-quality live classical theater and can devote time and energy to support the work of Island Shakespeare Festival's important cultural, social, and fiscal position on Whidbey Island. Our current needs include individuals with backgrounds in the following areas: human resources, donor relations, finance, as well as other skills related to overseeing a performing arts organization. Board members are asked to provide input and feedback to the Board and staff of ISF, attend one full board meeting per month, serve actively on board committees, and attend activities and events sponsored by ISF. Women and persons of color strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact jeff.natter@islandshakespearefest.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County (BBBSIC) is actively seeking new member(s) for its Board of Directors. Join the board's exciting array of professionals! BBBSIC is seeking individuals who are committed to defending the potential of youth in our community through their time, skill sets, and influence in the community. To complement the existing board, candidates with expertise in accounting, law, nonprofit management, networking, or fundraising are of particular interest. Committed to diversifying its board to better represent our community, BBBSIC encourages BIPOC and LGBTQIA community members to inquire. Please contact admin@bbbsic.org

bbbsislandcounty.org for more information.

The Island County Medical Reserve Corps (ICMRC) is a local network of volunteers organized to improve the health and safety of communities on Whidbey and Camano Island. Volunteers include medical and public health professionals as well as other community members with no prior healthcare background. ICMRC utilizes volunteers to strengthen community health, enhance emergency response capabilities, and boost community resiliency. They prepare for and respond to natural and manmade disasters such as winter storms, flooding, earthquakes, as well as public health emergencies such as disease outbreaks. If you are interested in volunteering please go to the Island County MRC website for more information or contact s.ziemer@islandcountywa.gov

If you are looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, look no further! When you volunteer at one of the Habitat for Humanity of Island County stores, you are helping local families attain decent, affordable housing. Income from the stores is vital to giving families a path to homeownership. We need people who can commit to help out in our Oak Harbor or Freeland store at least two-hours per week. Schedules are flexible. Our friendly volunteers provide customer service, help with receiving donated household items and furniture, and maintain the store. We also need drivers and driver helpers who will professionally represent Habitat as they pick up donated items using our trucks. Please call either store for more information. Oak Harbor: 360-675-8733, Freeland: 360-331-6272.

College student? Student of history? History buff? Opportunities are available to spend constructive volunteer hours at the Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum. Go to www.pnwnam.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

JOB MARKET

HOA Property Manager: Sierra Country Club HOA in Coupeville is seeking a part-time property manager to provide facilities and grounds maintenance, repair, and oversight. Applicant should have: knowledge of swimming pool operations, general construction principles, facility repair and maintenance, and groundskeeping; experience supervising part-time and seasonal staff. Varied schedule, average 15-20 hours weekly, \$25/hour. Application available at: http://sierracountryclub.net/index.php/Jobs_&_Volunteering (3)

RECEPTIONIST: Branch Business Services, Inc. in Coupeville is looking for a Receptionist to manage the front desk on a daily basis and perform a variety of basic office and clerical tasks. Applicant must be a self-motivated individual with the ability to multitask and have great time-management skills. This position requires a professional attitude and appearance, ability to be resourceful and be proactive when issues arise and have excellent organizational skills. Qualification would include dependability, good work ethics, basic knowledge of Microsoft Office software. high school or equivalent, full time. If you are able, please hand deliver your

resume to Branch Business Services, Inc., 404 S Main, between the hours of 9am and 5pm. If you are unable to hand deliver your resume, please email it to dawn@branchbusinessservices.com (1)

Assistant Gardener—Meerkerk Gardens: We are seeking a reliable and capable Assistant Gardener to perform, under general supervision, gardening and grounds keeping functions for a private garden open to the public in Greenbank, Wash. An ideal candidate will be physically fit, friendly, possess excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work as part of a team, professional, and have a passion for gardening and working outdoors. This position reports to the Garden Manager. Job to begin March 1.

Duties & Responsibilities: Oversight and maintenance of the permanent and seasonal plantings: Weed management, watering, fertilizing, mulching, dead-heading, transplanting, pruning; Pests and diseases management as needed; Assist in the nursery. Walkway Maintenance: Weed management/edging; Gravel raking. Assistance with non-horticultural projects: Brush pick-up; Fencing/light carpentry; Irrigation and minor construction projects as needed; Special event preparation such as garden tours; Safe use and maintenance of standard garden equipment including tractor, mowers, trimmers; and leaf blowers, following health and safety regulations. Work Conditions – Outdoor physical work in all weather conditions; proper footwear required: Able to traverse uneven ground and moderate to difficult site conditions; Able to lift 40 pounds. Compensation: \$20/hour, part-time with opportunity for additional hours from March-Oct. and fewer hours Nov.-Feb. Some work on weekends may be required. Qualifications and Experience:

High school degree or GED; at least 1 year experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified; Valid driver's license and good driving record; Ability to read, understand, and follow directions and safety procedures with precision and attention to detail.

Desired Skills: Knowledge of local climate, area history, regional plant life, and local pests and controls; Knowledge of horticultural best practices and effective garden techniques; Basic fluency with computer and MS Office. To apply, email your resume, cover letter and three garden-related professional references to: rmclung@meerkerkgardens.org or mail your resume to: Meerkerk Gardens - Garden Manager PO Box 154 Greenbank, WA 98253 (0)

Island Transit is Hiring! If you are looking for a solid career with great pay and benefits including two retirement plans, we are hiring. Visit www.islandtransit.org/employment to apply. Island Transit is a drug and alcohol free workplace and an equal employment opportunity employer.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stand for a Dewalt Scroll Saw. Assembled, used once, \$50 OBO. Call 360-331-5241 Freeland (1)

Honda generator, 2000 watt peak, 1600 watt continuous, \$700 OBO; Kenwood TS 2000, \$700 OBO. For more info, call 360-679-9001 (0)

RECREATION

Otter Box 45 Qt. cooler. This incredible cooler will keep ice for 4 or 5 days or longer. It's an expensive cooler but I need to let it go. Asking \$50 obo.

Call Stone at 360-774-0168 (1)

ANIMALS/SUPPLIES

Hay for sale: North Whidbey Island. Locally grown Rye Grass, Orchard Grass & Timothy Mix, \$5.50 per 50-lb. bale. Leave message or text 360-320-9650 (0)

Excellent grass hay, no rain, good for horses, \$7 per bale. 20 bale minimum. Good quality round bales available also. 360-321-1624

WANTED

WANTED - We recycle cars, trucks, motorhomes, travel trailers, motorcycles, boats, tractors, dump trucks and much more. Free estimates on junk removal and junk vehicle removal. TJ's Recycling, 360-678-4363

Art, Antiques & Collectibles. Cash paid for quality items. Call or text 360-661-7298

Was your Dad or Gramps in Japan or Germany? I collect old 35 mm cameras and lenses. Oak Harbor, call 970-823-0002

Always buying antiques, collectibles, sporting goods, tools, garden equipment, furniture, vehicles, tractors and boats. Cash paid at loading out. 45 years experience. 360-678-5888 or text 360-969-1948.

How'd you do?

9	2	8	4	7	1	5	6	3
7	1	6	5	3	2	8	9	4
5	3	4	8	6	9	7	1	2
2	4	7	1	5	8	9	3	6
8	6	5	9	2	3	4	7	1
3	9	1	7	4	6	2	8	5
1	7	2	6	9	5	3	4	8
6	5	9	3	8	4	1	2	7
4	8	3	2	1	7	6	5	9

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

US Postal Mail

Whidbey Weekly Classified Department PO Box 1098 Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Email.....classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com
Telephone.....(360)682-2341
Fax(360)682-2344

PLEASE CALL WHEN YOUR ITEMS HAVE SOLD. Please try to limit your classified to 30 words or less, (amounts and phone numbers are counted as words) we will help edit if necessary. We charge \$10/week for Vehicles, Boats, Motorcycles, RVs, Real Estate Rental/Sales, Business Classifieds and any items selling \$1,000 and above. We do charge \$25 to include a photo. The FREE classified space is not for business use. No classified is accepted without phone number. We reserve the right to not publish classifieds that are in bad taste or of questionable content. All free classifieds will be published twice consecutively. If you would like your ad to be published more often, you must resubmit it. Deadline for all submissions is one week prior to issue date.

No Cheating!

M	A	A	R		A	E	O	N	S		A	B	B	A		
A	B	L	E		A	X	L	E	S		B	R	E	A		
M	I	A	S		R	A	D	A	R		E	A	C	H		
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C	A	T			R	Y	A			E	A	R		A	M	A
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B	A	B	A	S			A	D	S		B	L	I	N	I	
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R	A	D	S			M	E	D	E	A		N	E	C	K	



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



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Staying Streak-Free, Socially Distant and Safe, with Crystal Clean Windows and More LLC

By Kae Harris

Getting into gear for all the beauty spring and summer bring to us is as easy as enjoying the beautiful Washington views from the comfort of our own homes. What better way to make sure our viewing pleasure is as clear as can be than making our viewing portals streak free and crystal clean? Since 2010, Crystal Clean Windows and More LLC has been a veteran owned and operated business, bringing indispensable services to Whidbey Island. Owner Jason Leman and his team take the utmost pride in their work and ensuring a "job well done" is just par for the course when they're called to work their magic on your home or place of business.

Using non-toxic, eco-friendly cleaners safe for use around all your loved ones, Jason and his staff ensure your windows reach their full potential and glimmer in all their glory. While we're all practicing social distancing and helping our communities stay as safe and healthy as possible, Jason places the wellbeing of his customers above all else and so, on the advice of health authorities, he continues to offer his invaluable services, with the exception of interior window cleaning for the moment. He will revisit this service in the future when it is safe and appropriate to do so, but in the meantime his exterior cleaning is still going strong. Using the RODI (reverse osmosis deionization) system and water-fed poles, removing sediment and contaminants that dull your windows has never been easier. Crystal Clean staff are able to maintain a socially-acceptable distance, whilst delivering a spot-free shine to your windows, each and every time.

And it doesn't stop at windows, because Crystal Clean Windows and More LLC, does just that – more! Gutter cleaning to sweep your gutters clear of debris and get them going and flowing again is just another day at the office for this crew. Make those gutters even more gorgeous by getting them whitened too – all adding to the aesthetic value of your abode or place of work. On top of all that, the functional flow of water around the building means you'll avoid potential costly repairs back-ups and clogs can bring.

Don't need to get the gutters groomed? What about your roof? Moss is messy and the time is just right to make a move on the lichen now! His eco-friendly practices mean non-toxic cleaners are the order of the day, and no-pressure washing will put your mind at ease that not even a single shingle will be damaged. Moss is merely swept clear off your roof with Jason's method, maintaining the structural integrity of your building and what's better than peace of mind, especially lately?

Crystal Clean's team brings professionalism and expertise, all in one go, so you can rest assured no job is too big or too small and whatever it is, expect nothing but the best from Jason and his crew. Now, getting in touch with Jason is even easier. Call or text him at 360-675-3005 and find out just how they strive to give your home a fresh feel while keeping you and yours safe. For more information online, visit www.crystalcleanwindowswhidbey.com and wipe away the weary feel today!

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