VOL XLIX NO. 13

www.woodburnestatesgolf.com • Main Office 503-982-1776 • N&V Office 503-981-3313

Friday, July 10, 2020

by Stan Hiller

ast year we held a contest for the nicest front yard, sponsored by Lorrie Cox of WH Realty. (Lorrie is now at eXp Realty.) This year the plan is to have a contest for the nicest backyard. We're still working out the details, as we will need to see the backyards for judging. There was even the thought of the worst backyards surrounding our golf course as they may deter possible repeat paying golfers.

Covid-19 is creating some obstacles to judging, obviously. This article is to give you fair warning of the possibility of a backyard contest, so you could begin thinking about it if you're interested.

Unofficial and Informal Show and Shine Cruise-In

<u>July 12, 2020</u>

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

East side parking lot at Woodburn Estates & Golf

Bring your cars and join us

Masks and Social Distancing requested

No Host

Bring your own food or drink and chairs, if needed

This will replace the 2020 Show and Shine



Summer Scramble

July 18, 2020

Mixed Golf Tournament - Members Only

Sign up: Must Pay by Check or cash

7/6 thru 7/11 sign ups, entry fee is \$13.00

Flights and holes will be posted in golf lounge by July 16th.

Day of tournament you will check in on Hole #1 if you are on the front 9, if you are on the back 9, you will check in on Hole #10. When finished, 2 signatures required per scorecard and drop off in the box in front of the pro shop.

Game format: check in 8:30 am/shotgun start at 9:00 am

4 person scramble, minimum 4 drives each Men play from white tees, ladies play from red tees HDCP percentages: 20%, 15%, 10%, 5% of A, B, C, D players



Remember Social Distancing

Please pay when signing up

Backyard Contest COVID-19 Isolation Facility In Woodburn

by Sharon Schaub, City Councilor, Ward IV

ast week, I joined many of my neighbors in protesting the Super 8 Hotel ✓and its use as a COVID-19 Isolation Facility by Marion County. I was extremely upset with the idea of a COVID-19 center housing patients squarely in the middle of our vulnerable senior community, but also that Marion County brought this to our community without public outreach, no opportunity for community input and no effort to address our concerns. The City learned of the County's intent to open this facility just two weeks ago. As a county taxpayer, I'm upset our County did this without including us, the people most directly impacted.

My years on the City Council has taught that public outreach and community input is a fundamental responsibility and a critical part of any public project. Your City Council takes this responsibility seriously. Consequently, the Woodburn City Council voted unanimously to authorize Woodburn's City Attorney and the City Administrator to take all necessary steps, including legal action against Marion County, needed to enforce the City's Zoning Ordinances. Scott Derickson, Woodburn's City Administrator has described Marion County's Super 8 Hotel COVID-19 Isolation Facility as illegal under City rules.

It is a great honor serving as your Ward IV City Councilor and the City Council has heard your concerns loud and clear. I understand the need for isolation centers, and I am sympathetic for those who have no other alternative, but Woodburn's Super 8 Hotel is the wrong location selected by the County. There are many questions yet to be answered. It is my opinion that Marion County must forego the opening of this facility and work with the community on more appropriate alternative sites elsewhere within Marion County.

These are tremulous times not only for our City but our whole Country. I'm proud our Community is not silent, we are not compliant and our voices have been heard. Please stay safe, wear your masks and keep the faith.

Library News

by Heather Taylor, Library Coordinator

TELCOME BACK! THE LIBRARY IS OPEN!

Thank you to the Activity Committee for holding the book and puzzle give away. I know that this was very popular. The amount of books given away are as follows: Paper Backs about 480, plus hard backs of about 80 for a total of 560 books. Puzzles given away about 150. Goes to show that we have lots of readers and people who do puzzles. Now please do not return any of these books to the library. These were our overflow books we saved for the sale each year. Since it is looking like no book sale will happen this year, we do not want them back. Also do not bring back the puzzles. Just bring new ones you have at home to restock the shelves in the puzzle closet and make sure the puzzle has all its pieces. I would hope that all the puzzle pieces are there, but one never knows. When I say new, they will be used by whoever donates them. Since we have found at one time 40 puzzles with missing pieces and the person who had them wrote they had missing pieces. You do not have to include that statement if you do not want to.

The library **cannot have more than 7 people in it at one time** and everyone needs to wear a mask and, if possible, use hand sanitizer before you take books off the shelf. Also, remember to wash your hands after you leave the library.

Library will be happy to get back any books you took out before the library was closed. Also any new books you may have gotten over the last year. If you have more than ten books you would like to donate to us, please call me before you drop them off. We have limited space. My number is 503-981-0285.

Looking forward to seeing everyone. All the book ladies have missed you. Thanks for all their hard work.

News & Views Publication Schedule July and August 2020

Copy due by 9:30 a.m. Thursday, July 16, 2020 Thursday, Aug 6, 2020 Thursday, Aug 20, 2020

Publication Date Friday, July 24, 2020 Friday, Aug 14, 2020 Friday, Aug 28, 2020

Thank you, everyone, for your cooperation.

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Coffee Hour Photographer: Don Robarge (503-981-3313)
Distribution: Jim & Linda Hoover (503-380-8422)

Volunteers are always needed to help with preparation of copy, proofing, and delivery. Each of the 70+ carriers should have an alternate. Please email, if possible, all photos, articles, free ads, or reports. If email is not an option, please submit your information to the N&V office. Use the mail slot in our door. All submissions must include name and member number. Thank you.

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Rules Committee 12/12/2016



CLASSIFIEDS

Next Publication of NEWS & VIEWS

July 24, 2020

Deadline for Articles, Thursday, July 16, 9:30 a.m.

We LOVE to have your free ads and articles.

The BEST way to get your information in *News & Views* is to send us this information by e-mail to nv@WoodburnEstatesGolf.com.

When submitting free ads be sure to include your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER.

FREE: Red Rock, you rake and haul. Call 503-982-5621.

FOR SALE: Office Chair, excellent condition, leather, mushroom color \$25. Call 503-982-5621.

FOR SALE: HP ink #564 new \$45. Call 503-902-5540.

FOR SALE: 1936 Singer treadle electric industrial sewing machine built into a table. All one piece and works great. I paid \$275, but will entertain a reasonable offer. You haul. Call Christina at 503-916-9612.

56th Plus Day of Isolation & Social Distancing

Submitted by Manny Litwick

Some thoughts on the last eight (8) weeks...

- I hope they give us two weeks' notice before sending us back out into the real world. I think we'll all need the time to become ourselves again. And by "ourselves" I mean, lose 10 pounds, cut our hair, and get used to not drinking at 9:00 a.m.
- New monthly budget: Gas \$0, Entertainment \$0, Clothes \$0, Groceries \$2,799.
- Breaking News: Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to stop COVID-19, but to stop eating.
- We low maintenance chicks are having our moment right now. We don't have nails to fill and paint, roots to dye, eyelashes to re-mink, and are thrilled not to have to get dressed every day. I have been training for this moment my entire life!
 - When this quarantine is over, let's not tell some people.
- I stepped on my scale this morning. It said: "Please practice social distancing. Only one person at a time on the scale."
 - Not to brag, but I haven't been late to anything in over 8 weeks.
- It may take a village to raise a child, but I swear it's going to take a vineyard to home school one.
- You know those car commercials where there's only vehicle on the road? Doesn't seem so unrealistic these days.
- They may open things up next month -- I'm staying in until July to see what happens to you all first.
 - Day 56: The garbage man placed an AA flyer on my recycling bin.
- Appropriate analogy: "The curve is flattening, so we can start lifting restrictions now." Or could it be... "The parachute has slowed our rate of descent, so we can take it off now."
- People keep asking: "Is corona virus REALLY all that serious?" Listen y'all, the churches and casinos are closed. When heaven and hell agree on the same thing, it's probably pretty serious.
- Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.
 - Putting a drink in each room of my house today and calling it a pub crawl.
- Okay, so the schools are closed. Do we drop the kids off at the teacher's house?
- For the second part of this quarantine do we have to stay with the same family or will they relocate us? Asking for myself.
- I was in a long line at 7:45 a.m. today at the grocery store that opened at 8:00 for seniors only. A young man came from the parking lot and tried to cut in at the front of the line, but an old lady beat him back into the parking lot with her cane. He returned and tried to cut in again, but an old man punched him in the gut, then kicked him to the ground and rolled him away. As he approached the line for the third time he said, "If you people don't let me unlock the door, none of you will ever get in to shop."

Stay safe, stay well and sane.

60 Years of Women's Golf (1961–2021): Part Two

by Diana Lindberg

There is little information about the start-up of the Men's and Women's golf clubs during the early history of what is now Woodburn Estates & Golf. However, it is possible to track the timing of events around homes at that time.

Advertising under the moniker of "Happy Days Ahead", brochures and updates about the construction were in newspapers in major and minor cities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California. They advertised home styles and a future 9-hole golf course.

"At Woodburn Senior Estates you can retire, buy a lovely, modern new home and live a comfortable, full and active life with friends of your own age."

"Here you can golf, fish, pursue your hobbies, shop with leisure, visit the beaches or mountains...indulge in all the pleasures you have wished for...your retirement dollars go farther here."

Although originally owners did not own the lot upon which the home was located, changes in ownership were reported by one of the "Happy Days Ahead" articles written in September 1961 in various newspapers. A "Happy Days Ahead" article dated December 1961 in Klamath Falls advised people to GO NORTH to Woodburn Senior Estates.

It was reported that <u>you own your own house and lot</u> with a new home for only \$250.00 down - \$60.00 a month – including principal, interest, and taxes. 19 models were available at that time. By May 1962, the price had increased to \$275.00 down and \$67.00 a month for purchases.

Shortly after, in October 1961, the *Statesman News Service*, the *Capital Journal* and *Woodburn Independent* reported that George Marshall, representing the Brice Corporation, the developers of the Woodburn Senior Estates, had requested ten street lights for the recently annexed acres on the west side of Woodburn. It was also reported in various newspapers that well drilling for water and digging for water mains for a Senior Estates golf course was being done at the Woodburn Junction. One well had been drilled and connected to the city water system to serve the residential area. (Reference - Statesman News Service, November 25, 1961.)

Because of high demand, the first two sections of the development were filled ahead of schedule and a deadline was set for completion of the street and sewer work for the third section as of October 1, 1961. Leo C. Rush Inc., the general contractor, planned to start construction immediately. Leo was pictured with a large sign saying, STEP ON IT! *

In an interview with George Marshall on May 4, 1962, the *Capital Journal* reported that the course at Woodburn Senior Estates was nearing completion with plans to open by midsummer. This was the first official announcement of the progress of the course construction, as noted in the article.

The same article reported that a small amount of associate memberships was planned to allow players outside of the community to join and play at the course and golf facilities at the Woodburn Senior Estates Club House.

Marshall added that over 500 trees had been planted, greens had been molded and planted, automatic sprinkling installed, and the fairways set up in fescue and highland bent grass..."This is only the second course in Oregon to have a complete automatic sprinkling system."

The golf course, when finished, would be a nine-hole course on 50 acres of land with a total of 3150 yards designed by Bill Blackburn Graham who had developed other northwest courses.

* For your information – The area that is now called the Dining Hall was originally named Rush Hall after Leo C. Rush.

Knock! Knock!

Origins of superstitions like knocking on wood or the custom of touching wood!

Submitted by Robert TenEyck

Fear often haunts people, not least in moments of happiness. They are afraid that some jealous agency, real or imagined, may try to deprive them of their good fortune.

Churches in various parts of the world treasured pieces of wood which, they believe, were once part of the real cross and to touch them would ensure sustained happiness

Another interpretation recalls the ancient days when a church offered sanctuary to pursued persons. Once these reached the holy precinct and touched the church's wooden door, nothing could happen to them. They were under the protection of the cross. No one would have dared to apprehend them there, as that would have been tantamount to sacrilege.

Yet further explanation dates back to the more distant past, when people lived in wooden huts. Those who were prosperous were afraid of talking about it, lest evil spirits would envy their luck and try to interfere with it. Thus, when discussing their good fortune, people knocked loudly on their wooden walls. The noise was meant to drown their conversation and prevent any ill-meaning eavesdroppers hearing what they were saying about their luck.

So, if you ask me if I won the lottery, I will whisper the answer and pound on the wall.

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Sunshine Caravan Know Your **Rides Again**



Babara Rose & Bill Jorgenson

by Karen Linton

The Sunshine Caravan (aka the Activities Committee) rode again, but this time only to the Senior Estates Park! We wanted to do something to brighten the day for our community and decided that weeding the gardens at the park would be just the thing! Bill Jorgenson has done an incredible job literally by himself planting, fertilizing and maintaining the lovely gardens at both ends of the park. However, this year, with the abundant rain, he couldn't keep up with the weeds.

It's a medical fact that walking, enjoying the outdoors and contemplating beauty all help to reduce stress—and there's been a lot of that lately. So we are hoping to bring all those elements together to provide a place to do all that... the park. On Friday, July 3, we gathered our gardening equipment and proceeded to free the park from the tyranny of weeds! (July 4 reference!!!) Bill was there to inform those of us not into much gardening what was a weed and what was a flower! We accomplished a great deal and it certainly is an improvement. However, we did not finish the front bed and didn't even start the rear bed (on Astor). So we are doing it again on Friday, July 17, from 10 a.m. until noon. We invite all community members to join us. We promise healthy exercise, fresh air, comradery, laughs and a lot of satisfaction in a job well done! Bring your own gloves and equipment.

For those of you who can't join us, or those who just want to contribute, there is a GoFundMe set up to reimburse Bill for the thousands of dollars he has spent on plants. This is a city park and they mow, but don't spend any money or labor for the garden. You can go to GoFundMe.com/senior-estates-park to contribute. We hope to see you on the 17th! (Refer to map on page 10 of the 2020 directory to find Senior Estates Park.)



Neighbors



Alice and David Weaver

by Karen Linton

When native Oregonian Alice, working in California, and native Californian David, working in Florida met, they should have guessed they were ordained to travel!

They both worked for GTE (and continued to through many buy outs and changes), David in data processing for 32 years and Alice in engineering for 25 years. In working for the company, they lived in Florida, California, Virginia and Kansas before retiring and really traveling!

They lived in an RV for 25 years, traveling around the country, including several summer-long sojourns in Alaska, plus Canada and Mexico. When they really felt wanderlust, they would hop on a plane and visit locations not accessible by RV. They have visited Russia, China, and Japan, most of Western Europe, Central America, the Amazon and actually circumnavigated South America. They had lengthy stays in Peru where they have extended family. They've also been on many cruises.

In 2012, they bought a house in WEG they had only seen online! So if the traveling didn't convince you that they are risk-takers that certainly should have! Since settling down here, they keep busy with volunteering with the Activity Committee and gardening – almost their entire yard has been re-landscaped. They are also building an N-gauge railroad layout, bird watching and are into genealogy for a reason. Alice comes from a huge family – she has 8 siblings and over 200 cousins, but David was adopted as an infant and had no real information about his biological background. All of his adopted family died so he felt an increased need to find his biological family. He joined Ancestry.com, and researched the 1940 census when it became available. He then found clues to his birth parents and ultimately his siblings. He has recently been in touch and visited some of his "new" family and there are still siblings yet to meet.

Together for 39 years, the Weavers have 5 children between them, 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Their idea of a perfect evening is enjoying fine, gourmet dining at home with wine and listening to smooth jazz. After all that traveling, that does sound relaxing!

DRIVE-THRU BBQ



Drive thru picking up their BBQ lunch from Melissa. There were also coupons to fill out for a drawing of the flower basket on the table.



Drive thru completed but a few more diners to feed.

by Stan & Kathy Hiller

The Drive Thru BBQ at Cascade Park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Friday, July 3, found Melissa Fisher, the new Sales Director, handing out either a hot dog or hamburger lunch. We drove up in our golf car and ordered the hamburger lunch which came with burger and bun, slice of tomato, lettuce, onion slices, catsup, and mayonnaise, along with potato salad, half an ear of corn with butter, and two cookies. It was an excellent FREE picnic lunch! Thank you, Cascade Park!!!

Author Unknown

A man was sitting on the edge of the bed, watching his wife, who was looking at herself in the mirror. Since her birthday was not far off he asked what she'd like to have for her birthday.

"I'd like to be eight again," she replied, still looking in the mirror.

On the morning of her birthday, he arose early, made her a nice big bowl of Coco Pops, and then took her to Adventure World theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park; the Death Slide, the Wall of Fear, the Screaming Roller Coaster, everything there was.

Five hours later they staggered out of the theme park. Her head was reeling and her stomach felt upside down. He then took her to a McDonald's where he ordered her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake.

Then it was off to a movie, popcorn, a soda pop, and her favorite candy, M&M's. What a fabulous adventure!

Finally, she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed exhausted. He leaned over to his wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, "Well Dear, what was it like being eight again?"

Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed. "I meant my dress size, you idiot!"

The moral of the story: Even when a man is listening, he is going to get it wrong.



Drive thru picking up some pop from Melissa.

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History of 1964



by Stan Hiller

Chapter 5 for 1964 President Henry Fields, Senior Estates Country Club.

Chapter 5 for 1964 President George F. Brice, Jr., Senior Estates Inc.

1964 starts another year, but no reference to the Board of Directors.

Management Council.

President Henry Fields
Vice President Pat McLaughlin
Secretary Charles R. Schuler
Other Board members were Allen
Dryer, William Fair and John Locke
Treasurer Mark Thompson
Golf Pat McLaughlin
House & Planning Henry Field

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Recreation Orrin Bliss
Social Activity Albert Meicho

Activities Planner Jessalee Mallalieu was an employee position.

Rules & Regulations

Marvin Bolland, as attorney of record; assistant secretary of the Board

Senior Estates Inc. President – George F. Brice Jr
Senior Estates Inc. Vice President – George Marshall
Administrator the president
Office Coordinator Jacque Opitz
Golf instructor Bill Graham 9-1-1961
Golf Course Super Bill Graham 9-1-1961
Golf Shop store Denny Homes 4-1-63

N&V Editor: Margaret Dryer 4-1-63–12-19-64; Luhr Jensen 12-19-64

Travel Office Jacque Opitz 1-1-1962
Type Assessment for 1964

Home Owner Membership (age?)

Estates Recreation single \$ 1.00 per month or \$12.00 Estates Recreation doubles \$ 2.00 per month or \$24.00 Golf & Recreation single \$ 4.00 per month or \$48.00 Golf & Recreation doubles \$ 6.00 per month or \$72.00

Associate Membership (age?)

Estates Recreation single \$

Golf & Recreation single \$ 78.00 per year

Green Fees

For 9-holes week day \$0.50 for 18-hole \$1.00 For 9-holes weekend \$0.75 this includes holidays

For 18-holes \$1.25

February 22, 1964 the organ club started their group.

March 14, 1964 a contract awarded to work started on the second part of the clubhouse. At the dedication later in the year, Dr. Fleming, President of the University of Oregon, gave an address which was followed by a reception and musical program.

July 1964, Jessalee Mallalieu hired as the first Activities Director of Senior Estates Country Club. The number of residents had grown to such numbers that it was suggested that all members wear name cards or pins when attending social functions.

April 3, 1964 the formal opening of the shuffleboard court brought out a large number of people to watch and or play.

April 25, 1964 with the additional population, the golf club had a few new problems. A new score card was issued. The rules printed on the back reminded players of the rules of the game.

May 9, 1964 the opening of the Fairway Shopping Center. The shopping center began to take shape. Safeway and Sprouse-Reitz stores were established. Fairway Plaza Beauty Shop opened its doors. The Woodburn 1st National Bank opened in temporary quarters, a mobile home, next to Sprouse-Reitz Variety Store.

May 23, 1964, there were approximately 850 residents of Senior Estates. An open house was held at the clubhouse to celebrate the opening of twenty-four new homes. Nearby streets still had only gravel surfaces, but plans were to pave.

June 13, 1964 recent tabulations shows 425 homes completed, 413 already occupied with 12 soon be occupied and 38 under construction. Total approximate population is about 777.

July 11, 1964 the new swimming pool became so popular with local residents that it became necessary for the Management Council to adopt a resolution that no one except residents and guests could use the pool.

July 25, 1964 Sue Emmons, Doris Coleman, and Lillian Meicho were instrumental in starting the KAFFEE KLATCH, a new women's group that began meeting at 10:00 a.m. on the second Monday of each month. Various members furnished refreshments. By August, it was known as the Coffee Break Club. In September, it was changed to Coffee Hour and the men were welcome.

September 26, 1964 at last the Big Week has arrived, and the many hours of effort, by our busy committees for the City of Woodburn 75 anniversary has put Woodburn on the map.

November 7, 1964 notice to Senior Estates residents: a Street Lighting referendum. PGE furnishes street lighting in Woodburn under tariffs filed with the Oregon Public Utilities Commission. The projections being made for lights estimated that as many as 127 poles will be required in addition to those already installed, to complete the project.

If you have any documents or pictures, please send to News & Views.

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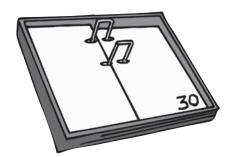
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CALENDAR POSTPONED

Due to the extension of the *Stay Home, Stay Safe* mandate, all activities are still currently postponed. We will resume our activities around the community as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then, we all must continue to do our part to flatten the curve.

WHETHER YOU HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR NOT, IF YOU CAN STAY HOME, PLEASE <u>STAY HOME!</u> WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

July 4 Mixed The Return of Tournament the Covid-19

by Pro Shop FLIGHT ONE

FLIGHT FOUR

1st James & Sally Carter, Mike Cranford, Carol Bettandorff 55.3 2nd tie Dick & Susan Hammond, Gene & Lynda Mickey 57.3 3rd tie Dave & Paula Christoff, Mark & Carolyn Forrest 57.3 FLIGHT TWO

1st Dick & Donna Jentzen, Dean & Vicki Lambert 58.5 2nd Ron & Janice Aiken, Kim & Paula Kilgore 59.1 3rd Don Gienger, Karen Halter, Martin Smith, Connie Cobb 59.8 FLIGHT THREE

1st Jim Hutchinson, Barbara Smelser, Felix Morales, Joanne Delnick 57.6 2nd Chuck & Marlene Johnson, Lon & Nancy Reed 59.7 3rd Kevin & Donna Burnside, Ron & Margo Sartin 59.7

1st Stan Hiller, Carol Bolton, Steve Hobson, Kathy Holland 57.9 2nd Dave Rushton, Bunny Buckwalter, Michael Wentworth, Marilyn Dykes 59.0

3rd Dennis & Olga McCaslin, Charlie Nilson, Sandi White 59.3

Quips and Quotes: Covid-19

by Rick A. Wehler aka "Hubber" and author of "North of Normal Minne-Sconsin Stories", "South of Superior More Minne-Sconsin Stories", and "East of Excelsior A Senior's Minne-Sconsin Stories"

- I mentioned to my wifey, Cora, "The federal bailout offers \$1,200 per adult and \$500 per child." She replied, "We'll receive \$1,700: \$1,200 for me and \$500 for you."
- While walking, I spotted a lady pushing a baby buggy heading towards me on the sidewalk. She passed within my six-foot, social-distancing boundary. No problem. I'm sure her perfume killed off any Covid-19 floaters.
 - I'm tired of social distancing. Cora should invite me over for a play date.
 - Cora, you jigsaw puzzle people need medication.
- I filled up on gas for 99 cents per gallon, and a Culver's milkshake for \$3.89 per quart.
 - It's been a good day. I woke up...twice.
- To get some outside time; I asked Cora to go for a walk with me. I wasn't planning on a 5K.
 - A first: my dentist cancelled my appointment before I did.
- During the stay-at-home order, the local cable service is offering a couple weeks of free movie channels. I surfed the selection and found a late night movie entitled, "Scared Topless." No thanks. Not the right time for horror movies.
- Covid information is like toilet paper. When you need it, it's better to have too much than not enough.
- While on a social-distancing walk I asked, "Who was that masked man?" Cora replied, "The Lone Stranger."
 - The world is ending. No frickin' garage sales. I need underwear!
- "Forget this Covid crisis. I need to get outside. It's our first warm spring day. I'm going to wear shorts and a tank shirt, and cut the grass." "Hubber, the neighbors will be gone soon. Why don't you spare them and wait for a bit." "Wifey, sure, then it'll be warmer and I can go barefoot too." "Hubber, Covid crisis or not. I'm leaving the area."

by Don Knight

Just as Star Wars had a sequel, most likely so too will the Coronavirus.

During the Spanish Flu pandemic, the flu hit in three waves. The first wave was March through June, the second, and most lethal wave occurred the fall of 1918 and the third wave, the least lethal, in the winter of 1918-1919. By the summer of 1919, the pandemic was pretty much over. What made the second wave so lethal is that the virus had mutated and become more virulent. Also, people felt so bad about quarantining and social distancing that when they we lifted, they celebrated in the streets (sound familiar?).

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the CDC and other health experts predict another wave of Covid-19 to strike again in the fall. With the recent and continuing protests, and their lack of physical distancing and many without masks, we may well have another spike in cases this summer. (Somehow, social distancing and protests just don't seem to belong together in the same sentence.) If the next outbreak occurs in the fall, it will likely coincide with the regular flu season, which in an average year accounts for around 70,000 deaths. This could very easily overwhelm an already exhausted health care system.

What we do have going for us is experience. If a covid-19 outbreak does reoccur, we may be able to just drop down a phase or two instead of doing a complete "Stay Home, Stay Alive" reaction. As businesses have reopened, they have figured out how to conduct business safely in the different phases so the impact may be less. We, as the general population, also know what would be expected of us.

We may or may not have a covid-19 vaccine by that time. The current population of the world is approximately 7.8 billion people (or 7,780 million). If 50% of the population wants a vaccine shot, that is 3,890 million people. Even if the pharmaceutical industry can produce 100 million vaccines a month, it would still take over three years to produce enough vaccine for everyone wanting a shot. If the percentage of people wanting a shot is higher, it will take even longer. The other issue is if there will be enough qualified people to provide the shot to all who want it. How the governments of the world decide how much each country gets and who gets a shot is a very big unknown and fraught with uncertainty.

We all remember the panic buying that occurred in March when the first serious warning and effects of the impact of the virus were brought forth. Panic buying ensued (although why someone needs 150 rolls of toilet paper is beyond me). Stores were crowded, people waited in long lines, not only to get in, but to get out. Scuffles and fights broke out over products and general mayhem ensued.

This naturally brings up the question of what we can do in the next few months.

First: Don't get rid of your masks. With the recent rise in cases, it is beginning to appear that we may need them for some time in the future. Even once a vaccine is available, we are most likely to need them again, and maybe again after that. Some scientists are speculating that the virus may never fully go away, but will change into an annual event like the current flu season.

Second: Many of us on our occasional trips to the grocery store stocked up extra supplies to make fewer trips. We now have pantries that are fairly full. Instead of just eating our way through those supplies in the next several months, as you use something out of your stock, purchase it again for your pantry. Eat your oldest item first and put the newest behind. This way if and when the virus strikes again, you will not need to fight the crowds in the stores and will have a better selection now rather than later.

Third: Maintain your stock of cleaning items, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizers and other things needed to keep you safe.

I know most of us are tired of this and would really like to get back to "normal" or even the "new normal". The problem is we don't really know what the "new normal" is going to look like and when it is going to appear.

The Boy Scout motto is "Be Prepared". In this time of health uncertainty, it may be in our own self-interest to adopt it as our own.



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