

Sublimity delivering masks to every resident

Samantha Swindler
The Oregonian/OregonLive

The city of Sublimity has taken on an ambitious public health project. After a local nursing home reported 16 positive coronavirus tests, the town is leading an effort to provide every city resident with cloth face masks.

The project, Masks for Neighbors, expects to make 12,000 homemade masks to distribute not just door-to-door in Sublimity, but to surrounding communities in the North Santiam Valley of Marion County.

City Councilor Greg Atkin, a retired firefighter, medic and department of corrections supervisor, is leading the effort.

"We had a small outbreak at a local retirement home," he said. Numbers re-

leased from the Oregon Health Authority show 16 known cases at Marian Estates in Sublimity, and one death.

"It's always been my worst nightmare that something like that would run through our retirement center," Atkin said. "So we were talking, what can we do to help them?"

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says having access to washable cloth masks can help slow the rate of infections because wearing a mask can help prevent a sick person from spreading the disease to others. So Atkin put out a call on NextDoor and the city's Facebook page, asking for help sewing masks.

"Almost immediately, with 10 minutes, we had people saying, 'I've got fabric, I'll donate it,'" he said. "I contacted a number of sewers and quilting guilds in

our area, and said, 'If we put a project together would you be willing to help us?' And of course everybody was overwhelmingly, 'Yes, we can certainly do that.'"

Atkin received some 400 yards of donated fabric and purchased another 1,300 yards online.

The scope of the project quickly expanded from the community's elderly residents to everyone in town. About half the residents of Sublimity, Atkin estimated, are senior citizens.

Local businesses have stepped up to help, too: Bernina Stretch and Sew in Keizer is cutting fabric, Santiam Cleanery in Stayton is washing it, and Silver Fall Engraving in Silverton and Cruise Master Engraving in Sublimity are using their laser cutting machines to cut fabric patterns.

"Sublimity has always been that kind of community," Atkin said. "I've lived here for 35 years and I've never not been amazed. When there's someone with a need, the community steps up to fill it. It is that kind of community where there's that strong volunteer spirit."

The project launched on April 6, and so far volunteer sewers have completed more than 2,000 masks. Masks have already gone out into the community, with priority given to the town's front-line workers, retirement homes and residents at a 55-and-older mobile home park. Atkin wants to give workers multiple masks for use throughout the day.

Then, members of the Stayton/Sublimity Community Emergency Response Team will go street by street, door to door – stepping back at least six feet, of course, after knocking – offering cloth masks to households. Police and



Oregon Corrections Enterprises is making 30,000 face masks made for Department of Corrections staff and inmates and hopes to soon make masks for health care professionals.
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firefighters also will help with distribution.

Atkin anticipates it will take three more weeks to sew another 10,000 masks.

"I think we're up to 50 sewers in the community, as far as Keizer all the way up to Lyons and points in between," he said. "Sublimity, Stayton, Aumsville, Turner. Just a lot of folks who have stepped up and said, 'We're home, and we'd love to help you.'"

Atkin learned the city received a \$5,000 grant from the Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation to help cover costs of the project, namely the purchase of fabric.

"It's definitely a labor of love with neighbors who want to help neighbors keep safe during this virus," Atkin said. "As long as there's a need there, we will fill it."

To get involved, or to request a mask, contact Atkin at greg.atkin@cityofsublimity.org.

Obituaries

Lorin Johnson

SILVERTON - Lorin Johnson September 4, 1953-April 5, 2020

Lorin Johnson passed away in her sleep, peacefully, of natural causes in the early hours of Sunday, April 5th. She was born on September 4, 1953 in Los Angeles, California to Kathryn Hines Johnson and prominent Los Angeles architect S. Kenneth Johnson. One of four children, Lorin was free-spirited woman and highly driven in her education, moving to Scotts Mills, Oregon from Los Angeles, California, when she was 17 years old after graduating high school early to attend Mt. Angel College. She purchased and developed Sunset Mountain Farm, which is where she raised horses, chickens, sheep, and had incredible vegetable gardens and fruit orchards.

Lorin met and married Robert Brier, and adopted his daughter Sinaloa from a previous marriage. Later in life, she met her soulmate, Jerry Hinsvark. They lived together for years, raising Jerry's children, Amber and James, from his previous marriage on the farm, and eventually married on the island of Maui in 1989. They were together for 31 years, until death parted them.

Lorin had a lifelong passion for education. She was a psychiatric nurse in her first career, working for the Oregon State Hospital and later Salem Psychiatric, before she decided to attend the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine to become a Chinese Medicine Doctor. She had a great interest in medicine and health, and she loved helping people.

Lorin's favorite pastimes include riding her horses on the trails behind her farm and by her creekside cabin. Horses were her lifeblood; she adored riding and had wonderful stables and a large arena on the farm. She shared her interest in horses with many friends in the surrounding Willamette Valley. She and Jerry had a wonderful beachfront abode in San Pancho, Mexico, and they would spend much of their time there to escape the wet, dark winters of Oregon. There was nothing she cherished more than sipping a fresh margarita on the beach or lying in her hammock between two palms, reading one of her novels. She was a gourmet cook who adored creating incredible meals for her family and friends, and their Thanksgiving feasts were legendary and included all who could attend. She had a big generous heart and loved children and animals. She raised Bernese Mountain Dogs and always had several of this breed by her side.

Lorin is survived by her daughter, Sinaloa Brier, and grandsons Damien Cunningham and Sabastian Shideler of Portland, OR. She is also survived by her brother, Kenneth Johnson, of Oakland, CA; her niece, Corey Martin Evans, of Los Angeles, CA; stepdaughter Amber Hillman, of Portland, OR; grandson Chandler Gilges and granddaughter Isabelle Gilges of Portland, OR; stepson James Hinsvark of Portland, OR; stepson Brian Hinsvark, of Washington DC; and grandsons Arthur and Zachary Hinsvark of Austin, TX. She is predeceased her husband and soulmate, Gerald Hinsvark; by her parents, Kathryn and S. Kenneth Johnson; brother Mark Johnson, of Los Angeles, CA; and her sister, Jana Pretzel, of Pasadena, CA. Arrangements by Unger Funeral Chapel – Silverton.



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