

FUNERALS

'Trying to be creative'

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shields are also allowed, though not provided.

“We are trying to be creative and welcome ideas,” said Patrick Cornelius, director and embalmer at Anderson’s. To protect those entering the buildings, Anderson’s has hand sanitizer at the front door, is spacing its seating in the chapel, opening doors to increase ventilation, offering individually packaged refreshments for receptions and scheduling appointments for viewings or rotating groups, as well as offering viewings and services on virtual platforms, he said.

Spencer, Libby and Powell Funeral Home, located in The Dalles, follows the same state guidelines. Hand sanitizer is available at multiple locations throughout the facility, and masks at the front desk.

“We have a universal protocol that is taken very seriously in all situations and this is no different,” said Spencer, Libby and Powell co-owner Julie Harris. “We are following any and all state guidelines in this situation as well ... Our arrangement room chairs are spaced appropriately to minimize safety concerns. We do have the ability to do all arrangements remotely as well if people are uncomfortable in person.”

As of presstime Aug. 10, both Hood River and Wasco counties are in Phase 2, but on the watchlist due to increasing COVID infections.

Washington shrinks crowd sizes

In Washington, Domonique Krentz, co-owner of Gardner Funeral Home of White Salmon and Columbia Hills Memorial Chapel of Goldendale with husband Derek Krentz, said they are able to accommodate a maximum of 30 people in their facility while still maintaining social distancing guidelines.



Anderson's Tribute Center's Mayra Sandoval, office administrator, models one of her handmade masks, available for clients at the funeral home. Submitted photo

“We also have an outdoor venue with the same capacity, but with a little more area to spread out,” she said. “Receptions, however, are prohibited.”

Most people are already wearing masks when they come in, she said, but they have masks on site, as well as hand sanitizer. Frequent disinfecting is another way the facility aims to keep its visitors safe.

“We are constantly disinfecting the doorknobs and other items people may touch while in our facility,” Krentz said. “We also meet outdoors in our garden area. This seems to put a lot of people at ease, not just because of social distancing, but because it feels good to be outside — especially on nice days.”

As of Aug. 6, Washington

Gov. Inslee’s office put new wedding and funeral guidelines into effect: Occupancy is limited to 20 percent or 30 people — whichever is lower — and only if facilities are able to maintain a six-foot physical distance. While ceremonies are permitted, receptions are not.

According to the Washington State Governor’s Office, “The changes target activities that data have shown provide a higher risk of COVID-19 exposure.”

'Biggest heartbreak'

While it’s not quite business as usual for any of the Gorge area funeral homes because of crowd limits and constant disinfecting, it’s the grieving families who have had to show the greatest flexibility during the past five months.

“The amount of people we are able to accommodate is dictated by the state guidelines we have to adhere to at any given moment; our gathering hall is large enough for plenty of social distancing when allowed, however, so we are fortunate there,” said Harris. “The biggest heartbreak for us has been the fact that many families have not been able to have the proper closure that they need. Not being able to gather for a celebration of life or memorial of their loved one is very

difficult on families.”

“We haven’t had to change our business, really; the families are the ones who have to make sacrifices,” Krentz said. “So many want to have funeral and memorial services, but because of COVID-19, they have had to postpone the celebrations. That’s the sad part.”

And social distancing with the clients they serve can also be hard. “Because we know so many of the families we serve, we all want to hug,” she said.

“I think it’s important that we educate our community with concrete information before they are in their time of need or walk into our facilities,” said Cornelius.

“We’ve seen that folks forget we are also a business with a moral responsibility to our community, vulnerable populations and ourselves and fall under specific guidelines mandated by the governor.”

Bingen-WS students make UW Deans List

Students from the White Salmon area have been named to the Dean’s List at the University of Washington for the Winter 2020 Quarter.

To qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must have completed at least 12 graded credits and have a grade point average of at least 3.50. The local students are:

Bingen — Haley Alex Blair, sophomore;

White Salmon — Valerie

Fischer, sophomore; Carolyn Carmen Gimenez Laberge, freshman; Chloe Gail McLaughlin, freshman; Nora Felicita Robison, sophomore; Audrey Slater, senior; Rosalyn Marie Slater, sophomore.

named to the Champlain College President’s List for the Spring 2020 semester.

Students on the President’s List have achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vt., with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland.

Goldendale man makes Champlain list

Mark Greig of Goldendale, who is majoring in Cybersecurity, has been

Restaurant GUIDE

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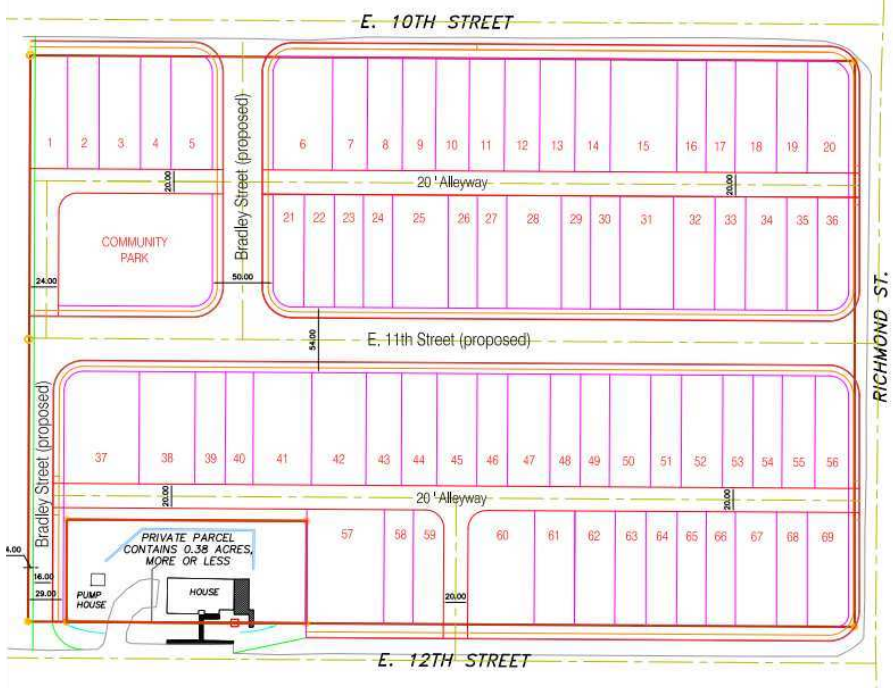
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WRONG: PLACE, TIME, SOLUTION

RETHINK - STOP NOW

The Grove: High Density Residential Development located on old Cherry Orchard land between E. 10th & 12th, Richmond & Morton

Families packed into 69 lots: 20 Triplexes, 40 Duplexes, 11 single family homes and 11 ADU's! this increases the population of this neighborhood by 5 times in one plat.



SAFETY

Additional 270-400 trips per day, increasing traffic on rural, unimproved roads and already dangerous intersections (197-Fremont-Columbia View and 10th-Thompson-Old Dufur and others. Narrow streets have poor visibility on hills.

SCHOOLS

An estimated 100 children will burden our already struggling school system.

NO SERVICES, OR INFRASTRUCTURE

No sidewalks, drainage, shoulders, bike lanes.

No grocery stores, public parks, health care or other services within reasonable walking distance.

LOCATION

High density in a rural, agricultural area, with narrow rural roads, far from services that families need, directly under the flight path of the Regional Airport??? Does that make sense?



WHAT CAN WE DO??

Our last chance to stop this high density development is at the City Council Meeting.

If you think this is not a good addition to our town, at this time of high unemployment, during a pandemic and an uncertain, changing world environment

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

This will change the entire feel of our rural town and environs forever.

IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU ATTEND AND SPEAK at the

CITY COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 24 @5:30

Please email your comments to: igrossman@ci.gov/the-dalles.or.us before AUG. 11 to be included in the meeting packet for council & public review. All public may speak at the meeting. We need to take time to STOP and PREPARE the infrasctructure, then plan development as needed, not based on 25 years old inaccurate population projections.

The link to the city council ZOOM MEETING will be posted on The Dales website “Live Meetings and Agendas” Please log in early.

PORTLAND SOLUTIONS WON’T WORK HERE!!!

PAID FOR BY DENISE BOKUM & NEIGHBORS