

Community garden opens for 2020

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

After a pandemic-induced delay, Hermiston's Lovin' Spadeful community garden is open for the 2020 season.

Registration is open at the garden, located on the Elm Avenue side of the Good Shepherd Health Care System Campus, May 26-28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eighty plots are available for \$10 apiece.

"We're about three weeks behind schedule, but I think it's certainly still feasible for everyone to still garden," organizer Chelle Hankinson said.

The garden got a late start while visitors were prohibited from Good Shepherd's campus under COVID-19 restrictions, but the hospital has given the garden the go-ahead. Participants are asked to stay 6 feet apart from people not in their household and to wear masks. Gloves are encouraged when touching shared items, such as the water spigot.

Overall, however, Hankinson said the garden should be a fairly safe family activity, given the nature of each family or individual having their own plot to work at on their own schedule, and the outdoor environment.

"It's so freeing," she said. "It's kind of a sense of therapy, especially after people have been locked up."

The garden will be getting a greenhouse partway through the summer donated by Head Start. Hankinson said she also still has donated seeds left for people to use.

She said there is a lot of weed cover in the garden right now because volunteers haven't been able to get in to get them cleared out, but they have been working hard the last few days to make up for lost time.



A zinnia blooms at the Hermiston Community Garden in 2019.

HH file photo



The Hermiston Community Garden is located at the base of Hermiston Butte on property owned by the Good Shepherd Medical Center.

HH file photo



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Sharron Reis, 90, waves from the window of Avamere at Hermiston during a drive-thru birthday party in her honor on May 19, 2020.

Celebrating 90

HERMISTON HERALD

The family of Sharron Reis wanted a safe and fun way to celebrate her 90th birthday at the Avamere at Hermiston assisted living facility, so they created a small parade of cars to drive past her window.

Reis has been at Avamere for about a year and has lived in Hermiston for

more than four decades, according to her daughter Nolan Quinn. She has four children, lived through the Great Depression, and is a polio survivor.

Quinn said her mother felt like queen for a day during her social distancing birthday celebration on May 19.

"She had a ball," she said. "She thought it was the most fun."



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IN BRIEF

Hermiston library resumes partial on-site services

The Hermiston Public Library resumed limited services on May 26 and will begin lending physical materials in June.

The library is accepting returned items that were checked out before the library's closure in April. Borrowed materials may be dropped at the north side of the library into the labeled receptacles under the eaves of the building near the bench. The drive-up, stainless-steel drop will not be used for now, allowing library staff to safely receive and quarantine returned items. Returns

will be received between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

On June 1, library staff will begin offering curbside service for the checkout of library materials. Phone requests and online holds will open on Friday.

"We are excited to begin lending and sharing physical materials, including books, audio and video," library director Mark Rose said. "We look forward to a full reopening as soon as it is safe to do so."

There is no set date for the public to enter the library, and library programming will continue via electronic means throughout the summer. Library staff are planning a Summer Reading Program

and will provide additional information before its launch.

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