

Thank you to Area Businesses

Good morning Woodstock. It is a beautiful sunny Monday morning. Week number eight begins! I have heard a lot of about quarantine fatigue. I witnessed it firsthand when I took the dog down the driveway and headed on my favorite route that passes three lovely ponds, two large empty homes, and creek that winds through a wooded area alongside the road.

Sadly, we made it less than ¼ mile and Jojse (YOSHA) stopped in her tracks. She looked up as if to say – “enough walks”. We turned around. I dragged her up the hill and lo here I am writing my weekly column while she walks around with a shoe in her mouth.

I do go into the office a few times a week. This past week there was a little too much traffic in the building due to tax bill deadline and walkers looking for bathrooms. So here we are back in the kitchen.

I fully support the measures the state has taken to keep us all safe and healthy. Clearly the decline in new cases proves that social distancing and other precautions work to slow the spread of the virus.

Having said that, I do look forward to the day when we can safely open the theatre, and can resume our free Music by The River Series. We have postponed the July concerts but hope to bump some performances into August. Stay tuned!

The coronavirus has hit the movie industry hard, with dozens of films around the world halting production or seeing their starts delayed as the outbreak continues to spread. Most summer releases have been bumped to the Fall and beyond. But we can still screen blu-rays, and stream online features that are in the public domain once we have the green light to open!

I have to remind myself to be patient and positive, which is hard when we continue to hear the word cancellation. Sadly, but understandably, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra cancelled their Summer Festival Tour. We co-present the annual concert with the VSO and the Woodstock Inn every summer.

If the theatre remains closed during the months ahead but *can* be open for a limited number of performers on stage, we will look for streaming opportunities spotlighting Vermont artists.

There are in this time of COVID-19 some rays of sunshine. Thanks to the folks at Mascoma Bank Pentangle secured a Federal Payment Protection Loan. I was impressed by the quick turnaround, especially given the lack of direction the bank received from the Feds following the roll out. This loan will help us meet some payroll expenses and other operating expense through the end of June.

Other bright lights include higher than normal contributions to the Woodstock Food Shelf, neighbors helping neighbors, and of course the folks on the front lines continue to be there for all of us. At our house we are so thankful for the folks at area restaurants doing take out, and stores doing curbside pickup.

A shout out to the Yankee Bookstore and Farmers Market for making online ordering such a breeze. We have also enjoyed take out from The Worthy Kitchen, Prince and Pauper, and Brad’s Crazy Side. Brad gives a \$20 donation to the Food Shelf when you purchase a meal. Very cool.

I hope folks continue to take the recommended safety precautions when in the stores that are open. I find I have a terrible case of shopping cart rage when I am in Macs and see folks shopping with no mask, and no gloves putting the health of those amazing worker bees at risk. Be safe. Be Well.