

JULY 2020

MADISON PARK **LIVING**

A Social Publication for the Residents of Broadmoor,
Denny Blaine, Madison Park and Washington Park



introducing the
BELLS!



around town By Gwen Hughes

Bert's workers



Amidst the great uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic, the workers and managers of Bert's Red Apple have continued to serve our community tirelessly to provide food and other necessities in a safe and welcoming environment.

While abiding by Governor Jay Inslee's safety initiatives, Bert's management has taken extra precautions to ensure employee and customer safety. Manager Terry Short said that management has been able to provide masks to employees, alter work schedules for those with underlying health conditions, and have delayed opening until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays so staff can stock the shelves safely.

Short said that the pandemic requires constant adjustments and extreme vigilance: "Each step navigating through this pandemic has been difficult. Normal business practices are no longer normal. New policies to protect the public and employees have been initiated. It really has been a day-to-day process."

Bert's has also instituted senior hours on Mondays and Thursdays, from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. Plastic guard boards have been installed at checkout and staff clean high traffic surfaces multiple times a day with bleach.

In addition to new policies, customers' shopping behavior has also changed as they brace for what is to come. Zachary Wolford, who has worked at Bert's on and off for almost two years, has felt the pressure of changes in customers' shopping habits: "It's just

been double the work, I'd say. People are stocking up so much that the days just fly by. Everyone's doing \$500 and \$600 purchases constantly so we're working a lot harder." On top of this, he experiences the universal stress of getting sick every day.

Wolford said that the Madison Park community has also been very supportive of Bert's staff. One community member made masks for the staff a few weeks into lockdown before the city was requiring them. Customers have also given staff gift cards and donuts from Madison Park Bakery.

Bert's employee, Jesse Velasquez, said that customers have also been very good about following tape on the floor directing traffic, but if there is one thing he'd want customers to know it would be that stock is more limited: "If it's out on the shelf, most likely we're out at the warehouse. We don't have anything downstairs."

This pandemic certainly has a steep learning curve and Short and his staff appreciate the Madison Park community's cooperation: "Madison Park residents are smart, patient, very understanding, and very generous. They respect our workspace and respect others, too. It is a great community."

While this time is high stress for everyone, people on the front lines are putting themselves at higher risk to keep our community running. Thank you to the amazing Bert's Red Apple workers for their hard work and bravery.

giving back

By Gwen Hughes

BECKY WITMER of ACT Theatre

For 55 years, ACT Theatre has been producing contemporary theater for the Seattle community. This year, however, the Mainstage season will look very different. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, productions have been halted for the foreseeable future. Madison Park resident and Managing Director of ACT, Becky Witmer, is working with her team to stay afloat.

Along with her regular duties of overseeing finance, marketing and overall operations, she said, "My job is to make sure we survive it, and that we don't try to open too soon."

When asked about the possibility of productions later in the year, incorporating social distancing, Witmer was unsure: "The wonderful thing about our venues is that they are intimate spaces, from the lobbies to the theaters...so we will assess if it's realistic and certainly financially viable for us to produce in that scenario."

All of this comes during a busy and exciting chapter for ACT. In August 2019, ACT rewrote its mission and vision statements with a "new commitment to equity and inclusion." The year 2025 will be the 60th anniversary of ACT Theatre and the centennial celebration of their historic landmark building.

The theater also has many other programs to keep in mind. Among them is ACTLab, a program that supports partner artists and their new works. Since 2007, they have produced a remarkable 240 unique productions. The theater also helps creatively support a Core Company of actors each year and hosts a Young Playwrights Program every fall.

Despite the rise of online productions, television specials and movies released at home during quarantine, Witmer believes that the future of theater is as bright as ever: "I think that theater has survived for thousands of years because it is essential, the art of storytelling and gathering in a space where someone is telling a story to you and your response



is meaningful to [that person]. There is an exchange there that you just can't replicate on a screen or through film."

Becky's enthusiasm and dedication, along with her many colleagues on the ACT staff, will keep the theater vibrant for years to come. If you'd like to support ACT Theatre during this uncertain time, hold onto your tickets, which can be used as a credit for future productions. You can also donate at acttheatre.org.

