

Official Newsletter of Pride of the Lakes - Douglas County, MN | April 2020

WAY TO GO!

The only way to get through these challenging times is to support each other! Numerous businesses have been stepping up to help other businesses. Here are some examples:

Viking Plaza Mall offered free rent for up to one year to businesses who were victims of the downtown Alexandria fire!

Zimny Insurance Agency bought pizza for the Geneva Capital staff. In return, **Geneva Capital** sent lunch from Pike & Pint Grill to Winning Edge and from Mi Mexico to Bursch Travel, encouraging them to pass it on!

The Dashery worked with Helping Hands to open a "Pantry" in its store for a short period of time for anyone in need of essential items!

Winning Edge provided free signage for food establishments in a 30 mile radius to promote pick up and/or delivery!

Karrow Jewelers took in Diekman's Jewelry inventory and kept it safe during the downtown Alexandria fire!



MANY RESTAURANTS ARE OPEN WITH DELIVERY OR TAKE-OUT OPTIONS!

Per an executive order by Gov. Tim Walz, bars and restaurants, among many other businesses, have been shut down. However, take-out, pickup and/or delivery options are still available at many of these businesses.

Head to www.echopress.com/business/5003069-Heres-what-bars-restaurants-are-doing-in-the-area for an up-to-date listing of businesses in Douglas County. Support these businesses!

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS RESPOND TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

A fire that destroyed some of our historic downtown buildings and now the COVID-19 pandemic have posed some challenges for our community.

But the reason our community is able to overcome adversity so well is because of the amazing organizations we have serving our every need, like the following:

The United Way of Douglas and Pope Counties offers services all year, but is especially needed during challenges like these.

The Central Minnesota Chapter of the Red Cross is called upon less often in our area, but when it is needed, it is there to offer valuable aid.

The Alexandria Area Community Foundation created the Alexandria Response Fund to serve those impacted by the fire, COVID-19 and any future challenges.

The Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission and **Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce** are there to connect businesses to valuable resources.

And of course, there are many, many other local organizations offering services.

Together, they make this community strong enough to overcome anything!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Don't assume all businesses are closed! Most have some options to continue operating at least minimally at this time, so you can still support local.

Buy gift cards, see if local entities have online purchase options, give a shout-out on social media and flood them with your business WHEN (not if) they are again fully operating!



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