# **SEQUIM OPEN AIRE MARKET**

Saturday, April 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Guy Cole Center, Carrie Blake Park Opening on Cedar Street on May 5

by Lisa Bridge

Get ready for the Spring Fling! This Saturday is the fourth annual indoor market



nity and get the sunny vibes of the Sequim Open Aire Market shining. This is a great time to visit the market indoors at the lovely Guv Cole Center.

The room will be teeming with new and returning vendors, new products, a

bounty of fresh, locally grown produce, fun and useful items for the yard and garden, handmade jewelry, delicious tamales, hot coffee and oodles of smiling faces.

Have you met Jim Queen, our chocolatier? His one-man operation, Chocolate Serenade, has single-handedly taken on the task of making you happy. I recommend trying his dark chocolate covered caramels sprinkled with sea salt. The caramel is exquisite and the sea salt tantalizing. He also carries an extraordinary line of truffles made to perfection.

If it is tamales, salsa, guacamole and ceviche you crave, Jose's Famous Salsa also will be there! Grab some hot tamales for the family and picnic in the park.

If you are looking to bring a bit of spring into your home, be sure to visit Ruthann Toney of Pacific Northwest Naturals. She has an abundant harvest of new delightful pussy willows. They are available in two types, the French and the florist pussy willows and they come in short- or longstemmed bunches. Plants are also available, so you can grow the shrubs and trees yourself. Of course you won't want to miss her lavender product line or her fancy fun jewelry line, cleverly termed "Slinkyware."

Two vendors who were new last season have joined our board this year. We are grateful to Dee Green and Sonja Younger for stepping forward and participating in this important aspect of the market. Both will be at the "Spring Fling." Be sure to express your gratitude as you browse the hand-thrown pottery that Green of Studio by the Creek brings. Younger will be there with her creation "KidDo"; this is sparkly scented play doh she makes. She also makes chalk in fun molds and sells up-cycled chalk boards. Thank you both.

Buck Ellard will be playing guitar and fiddle from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. This is one talented individual who will leave you impressed with the quality and skill of his musicianship.

A warm thank you and welcome to our newest proud sponsors, Discovery Memory Care and Sequim Lavender Growers Association. We are thrilled to be working together.

We are looking for new vendors.ContactLisaBridge.market manager, at 360-460-2668 and check us out on the web at www.sequimmarket.com.



Nancy and Val Jackson operate Whimsical Woods as a hobby business in addition to Val's electronics consulting business, Val Jackson Associates, Inc. They offer gnome homes, birdhouses and bird feeders.

Sequim Gazette photos by Matthew Nash

### Food From page C-1

### Do I buy organic seed?

Growing organically is a choice not to use synthetic chemical fertilizers or pesticides to enhance the soil or to combat weeds, pests or disease. In the context of a backyard garden, whether or not you choose organic seed is a choice made mostly by your conscience. By choosing organic seed, not only are you ensured the seed was produced using organic



methods, you are supporting organic practices in general.

Is non-GMO important? The Safe Seed Pledge was created in 1999 by The Coun-

as a way for seed companies producing non-GMO seed to connect with consumers concerned about this issue. An excerpt from that pledge gives the reason for concern:

"The mechanical transfer of genetic material outside of natural reproductive methods and between genera, families or kingdoms, poses great biological risks as well as economic, political and cultural threats. We feel genetically engineered varieties have been insufficiently tested

prior to public release." Planting a seed, watching it grow, tending it and reaping a harvest is one of life's most simple rewards. People have many excuses for not growing a garden, and we've probably heard them all.

People often see space as an obstacle. Solutions include container gardening and vertical growing, but our favorite is renting a 10-foot by 10-foot plot from one of the two Community Organic Gardens of Sequim. The fee is only \$45 for the entire growing season and includes free organic growing classes, seeds, tools, water and the camaraderie of fellow gardeners. Call Liz Harper at 683-7696 for information.

If a vegetable garden is in your plans this year, heed the words of Gertrude Stein: "A vegetable garden in the beginning looks so promising and then after all little by little it grows nothing but vegetables, nothing, nothing but vegetables."

Eat well, grow well and be

### Jackson From page C-1

Nancy said they've done well at the market because they're there every week from May through October.

"People come back because they know where to find us," she said.

Val said they plan to

continue being a part of the market and local festivals, making and selling the houses because it's what they like to do.

For more on Whimsical Woods, visit www. whimsicalwoods.net or call 452-7308.

Reach Matthew Nash at mnash@sequim gazette.com.



Birdhouses made of found wood and moss still are a mainstay in Val Jackson's repertoire after 12 years.



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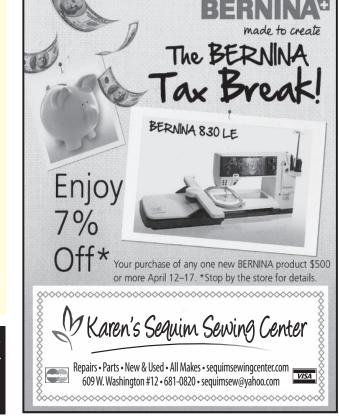


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