COVID-19 Daily Update 4-25-20

AT THE FRIEND

“Morning News” at Fishermen’s Friend has a different tone than it used to. In the pre-virus days, friends gathered and the local “news” was reported, interpreted, enhanced, and shared over laughs and coffee. Today, the chairs at the tables are gone, morning coffee sales are down, and the people gathering are not the customers.

Morning News is now a time for the staff to check in with each other and make sure everyone’s doing OK. Sharing the local news now includes working to achieve “facts over fear”. Some days are harder than others, but for the most part the staff has been able to support each other and maintain good spirits and healthy attitudes.

Operations at The Friend are well controlled. Only 5 people are allowed in the store at one time, face coverings are required, and the traffic flow is one-way and marked on the floor, so there is no need to pass any other customer in the same aisle. The disinfecting team makes the rounds at least once per hour, wiping down door handles, refrigerator handles and countertops. This is done more frequently if they have had many customers.

Curbside delivery is also an option. You can call ahead with your order (207-863-2140) and pick it up at the curb. Staff delivering those orders are wearing masks, just as they are in the store when interacting with customers and each other.

Economically, officer manager John Hildings reports that the store is doing well, and he has not had to lay off or furlough any staff. The store has added some produce to their inventory, so you may find eggs, bacon, and other new items on the shelves.

When asked how we customers can best support the store, John asked we consolidate our orders to make one stop a day, rather than multiple stops. John hopes that the store will not have to limit operations to curbside only, but he is prepared to do so if it comes to that. When waiting to enter the store, please remember to stay six feet apart!