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Shaffer's Catering continues to be community staple

By Matt Welch The Northern Virginia Daily
Jun 5, 2020



Martha Dalton, a deli clerk at Shaffer's Catering and Deli in Woodstock, packages a sandwich during lunch on Wednesday.
Rich Cooley/Daily

WOODSTOCK — As residents continue to support local business through COVID-19, staff members at Shaffer's Catering in Woodstock said they've realized how important they are to some folks in the community.

Though catering events have slimmed down to almost nothing, Shaffer's Catering Coordinator Raya Trail said the community has "been important" to keeping staff busy throughout COVID-19.

“That’s why we’re here and why we keep doing what we’re doing,” Trail said, noting the business has been in the community for more than 60 years. “We’re a staple for people in the community. Some people consider stopping here a weekly thing.”

Shaffer’s continues to offer delivery and takeout options of their offerings, which include deli items, deli salads, trays, pimento cheese, made-to-order sandwiches and more. The shop is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

The shop continues to push its family dinner packages from the deli as well as daily lunch specials.

Trail said the staff has remained in good spirits.

“Everyone’s still happy. We’re here, and we’re doing what we need to do,” she said. “We haven’t lost anyone and no one’s left. We know we have to do what we’ve gotta do to get through it.”

In addition to the takeout and delivery options, Shaffer’s has been taking donations and delivering food to front-line workers such as hospital staffs and those who have been considered essential employees throughout the pandemic.

“At first it was for nurses and doctors and hospital staff but we’ve branched out and have been able to feed other businesses in the area,” Trail said. “It’s something we wanted to do for front-line workers, and we wanted to expand what a lot of people consider front line.”

While continuing to take safety measures with signage for following social distancing as well as ensuring masks and other materials are worn by the staff, Trail said the community has responded well and has been vigilant in following the rules.

She said she was a little surprised at how many people have faithfully continued to support Shaffer’s and other businesses during shutdowns.

“We’ve learned that people are still stuck in their ways regardless of what’s going on. People are going to continue to come, no matter what anyone says,” she said. “We’re a little more important to people than we thought we were.”

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