



SUMMER EDITION | JUNE 2023

Quarterly Newsletter



A Note from the Executive Director

Although the calendar may disagree, here at the Vashon Food Bank the busy summer season is upon us! From long-awaited service model changes, to planning for our much-loved summer meals program to bringing our long-term vision for VFB to life, we are constantly adapting to meet the evolving needs of our community. Meeting people where they are at, and offering dignified choices, is critical to our mission of working with our community to increase the island's food security and connecting people to supporting resources that help them thrive.

Read-on to learn more about the exciting things to come, this summer and beyond!

EMILY SCOTT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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A NEW ADDITION TO OUR SERVICES

In-Person Shopping

You might recall that the last few years, at the Vashon Food Bank, like everywhere else, saw a lot of COVID-related program adaptations. We shifted from in-person grocery shopping to having orders packed by volunteers for pick-up on Wednesdays and our Home Delivery program expanded from 25-30 households per week to a current average of 125/week. These shifts allowed us to offer customers plenty of choice in the kinds of groceries they receive AND the way they receive them (because we believe there is dignity in choice and that options reduce barriers to service).

After more than three years, we're **extremely excited** to announce that we have opened back up for customers to shop for themselves inside the grocery store on Wednesdays! Thanks to funding through a pilot program of the Washington Department of Commerce, we've revamped the grocery store with new shelving, a fresh coat of paint, and a new customer and inventory database. After a successful soft-opening last week are ready to offer folks an easy in-person shopping experience for the foreseeable future. We will continue to offer home deliveries to anyone who needs them, and we will even pack orders for curbside pickup! We're ready and willing to serve people in the way that works best for them, because we believe that access to nutritious food (and other supporting services) is not a privilege, but a basic human right.





LA BIONDO FARM + KITCHEN PRESENTS

A Summer Pizza Party

Join Karen Biondo at La Biondo Farm on Friday, June 17, from 4-7pm for a pizza party in support of the Vashon Food Bank! Featuring a pizza buffet, salad bar, and fruit and dessert. Tickets are \$60/person and all proceeds go to the Vashon Food Bank to increase the island's food security and connect people to supporting resources that help them thrive.

Don't Miss



To purchase tickets, go to www.vashonfoodbank.org/pizza-party.



20602 111th Ave SW, Vashon, WA
Presented by La Biondo Farm + Kitchen

LET'S RAISE SOME DOUGH FOR VASHON FOOD BANK!

PIZZA PARTY FUNDRAISER

WITH CELEBRITY CHEF DRE NEELEY OF GRAVY WORKING THE PIZZA OVEN

 <p>Pizza Sides Dessert +1 Drink</p> <p>More Wine/Beer Available for Purchase</p>	<p>JUNE 17 4-7PM</p>	 <p>Live Music with Tim Couldn't Make It</p> <p>Plus a Silent Auction + a Photo Booth!</p>
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TICKETS: \$60/PERSON



SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE or visit www.vashonfoodbank.org/pizza-party



BACK FOR SUMMER 2023

Picnics in the Parks

Now in its 10th year (what?!) Picnics in the Park(s) is back and better than ever! From Tuesday, June 20th – Friday, August 25th, we will be serving nutritious lunch and offering engaging activities for youth all across the island. We will be serving lunch at Ober Park from 11:00am- 12:30pm and at BARC from 12:45pm-1:45pm every weekday throughout the summer.

We're also excited to be collaborating with partner agencies like Vashon Parks District and Vashon Youth and Family Services to provide lunches for kids who are signed up for their summer programs (you see the "meet them where they are at" mantra coming through here?).

If you'd like to help out with food prep at the Vashon United Methodist Church or lunch distribution at one of the parks, contact our Program Coordinator, Sam Dawson, at sam@vashonfoodbank.org. We look forward to seeing you in the parks!



Strawberry Fest 2023



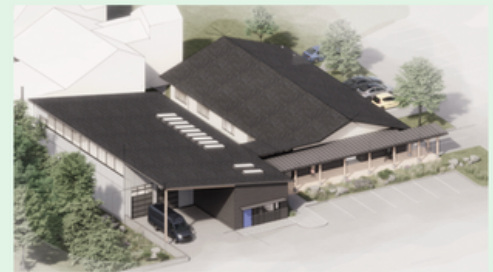
Believe it or not, the 2023 Strawberry Festival, July 14-16, is right around the corner! As is recent tradition, the Vashon Food Bank will have a booth in the festival and a presence in the Grand Parade on Saturday 7/15. We'll be spreading the fruit and veggie fun and would love for **you** to join us! If you have a penchant for parades and want to show your public support for food justice on Vashon, contact our Volunteer Program Manager, Leslie, at volmanager@vashonfoodbank.org.



EXCITING PROGRESS

Site Relocation Project

As we adapt our programs and engage our community in real time, we are also making big moves toward a brighter, and more food secure future. We've embarked on a multi-year project to relocate the Vashon Food Bank to 17928 Vashon Hwy SW (the property owned by the Vashon United Methodist Church, just a few blocks from town). Our vision is to work with our community partners to build a new food bank and community resource hub where people find easy and dignified access to nutritious food and supporting resources that help them thrive. Stay tuned for project updates and email our Executive Director, Emily Scott, if you would like to learn more or be involved in our Campaign for Food Security and Community Connections.





Volunteer Service Spotlight:



Home Delivery Drivers

The Vashon Food Bank has approximately 15 home delivery drivers each week, sent out in pairs. Altogether, they complete an average of 128 deliveries.

“Neither rain, nor snow, not heat, nor mile-long driveways, nor mud, nor deep potholes, nor incorrect GPS directions will keep our faithful home delivery drivers from their appointed routes.”

Thank you so much for all you do!

Food Systems Policy & Advocacy Resources

If you are interested in staying up to speed on national food assistance policy, sign up for the weekly newsletter from the [Food Research and Action Center \(FRAC\)](#). National policy issues all have an impact on the ground right here on Vashon, so get in the know!

Read [Work Requirements and SNAP Benefits Article](#)

Read the [2023 WA State Legislature Session Summary](#)
