

ANNAPOLIS ROTARY BEATS CORONAVIRUS BLUES WITH 'CRABS TO GO' INSTEAD OF ANNUAL FEAST

By Lilly Price, *Capital Gazette*, August 7, 2020 [Excerpted]

Chesapeake Seafood Caterers served meaty crabs at over 120 parties and events last summer. This year, because of the coronavirus, they served one.

The Rotary Club of Annapolis purchased more than 220 bushels of steamed crabs and 4,000 ears of corn from Chesapeake Seafood Caterers for its first "Rotary Crabs To Go" fundraiser. The pandemic moved the traditional crab feast, known for attracting thousands of people to dine at tables overflowing with crabs, to a drive-thru only option.

Crabs are scarce and expensive this season. And people can't always travel or crack crustaceans at popular restaurants because of coronavirus restrictions. For some, the Rotary Club's drive-thru could be the first chance residents had to participate in one of Maryland's favorite pastimes.

The Rotary Club was set to celebrate its milestone of serving the Annapolis community for 75 years on Friday. Organizers decided to save the official 75th celebration for next year so it can be properly recognized and enjoyed in close company. Friday marked the civic organization's first "Rotary Crabs To Go," where customers could pick up crabs to eat at home.

The event was still held at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium but in the parking lot rather than beneath the stadium bleachers. Volunteers hustled to pack crabs, steaming in 36 large pots, into paper bags and place them in the trunk of customers' cars. The drive-thru smoothly shepherded 360 cars through two stations in a process meant to avoid any physical interaction between customers and volunteers.

Classic food items are featured each year

at what Andracchi describes as the "block party of the community," such as crab soup, barbecue and watermelon. Friday's event was a simplistic version that stuck to the basics of crab and corn.

Despite the changes, other tell-tale signs of the feast were present. The scent of Old Bay seasoning clung to the air while volunteers talked spiritedly among themselves hauling heavy paper bags loaded with fresh crabs into car trunks.

"It's a lot of fun. It's a lot of work, but a bit easier this year," said Pam Urnowey, a Rotary Club member who's volunteered at the crab feast for nine years. "It's rewarding to give back to the community and raise money for the community."

METROBETHESDA ROTARY CLUB'S 14TH ANNUAL PURPLE TEE GOLF CLASSIC

WHISKEY CREEK GOLF CLUB

4804 Whiskey Court Ijamsville, MD 21754

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

8:30am Registration

9:00am Breakfast

10:00am Shotgun Start

4:30pm Dinner Start

5:30pm Silent Auction

Event Beneficiaries Include:

The Salute Military Golf Association (SMGA)

Team River Runners

metroBethesda Rotary Foundation

<https://birdease.com/rotarypurpleteegolf>



[Above] Rotarian Gordon Hewitt carries crabs and corn to the tables, which will be placed in cars when guests pull up. The Rotary Club of Annapolis held their first ever "Rotary Crabs To Go" event at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium to replace the COVID-19 canceled annual Crab Feast. (Paul W. Gillespie/Capital Gazette)



[Above] Rotarian Bob Reedy loads a bushel of crabs into an SUV. (Paul W. Gillespie/Capital Gazette)

OCT. 3, 2020

THE ELLICOTT CITY ROTARY CRAB FEAST
IS NOW THE



1P-6P PICKUP

The Howard County Community Crab Feast will be held on Saturday, October 3rd, 2020, with scheduled pickups from 1:00pm to 6:00 p.m. at the Howard County Fair Grounds in West Friendship, Maryland. This one of a kind Howard County event is a major fund-raiser that benefits our local non-profits. <https://ellicottcityrotary.com/the-howard-county-community-crab-feast/>