

Market quiet for Thanksgiving, comes alive for holidays.

By John Livingston

The merchants and vendors at the Pike Place Market will get a well-deserved rest on Thanksgiving day (Thursday, Nov. 24) – when the market will be closed. But it's just for one day.

"All business will be closed Thanksgiving—even some restaurants," said Scott Davis, a public information specialist with the Pike Place Market Preservation & Development Authority (PDA). "Even the indoor parking garage will be closed."

He explained that the open-air self-pay parking lot (off Western Avenue north of the Joe Desimone Bridge) will be open Thanksgiving day. However, the main inside parking structure will be closed, as the staff of the ticket booths will have the day off.

Even the Pike Place Bar and Grill and other restaurants will be closed on Thanksgiving day.

The Market will spring back to life on Friday, Nov. 25. The staff will light the Market Christmas Tree at 4:30 p.m. that day. No ceremony is planned, but it's always an enchanting sight.

Once the Market reopens, holiday festivities will begin. The Fruitcake Follies get underway Friday, Dec. 2, according to Davis. You can take part in a Fruitcake Relay, Fruitcake Beauty Pageant, and Fruitcake Toss.

"Teams of four will walk a race through the Market, carrying plates of fruitcakes in a relay event," Davis said. "In the beauty pageant, people will create beautiful cakes and enter them in the contest – we're looking for fruitcakes that most resemble Seattle. And in the toss, individuals will catch as many fruitcakes as they can. We're hoping to recruit the folks at Pike Place Fish (home of the flying fish)!"

Dec. 2 also marks the Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition, Stage Show, and Community Sing-A-Long competition. The caroling gets underway from 6L30 to 7:30 p.m. with an awards ceremony

to follow.

Go to <http://www.pikemarketseniorcenter.org/figgy pudding 02.html>.

The event will benefit the Pike Market Senior Center and the Downtown Food Bank.

Well past the eight decade mark

Tina Ordino, a cheerful and familiar Market face, celebrated her 81st birthday last month. Ordino, who's been in the Market since 1949, can tell a million Market stories. She fondly remembers her first day in the summer of 1949 selling turnip greens and onions. She made \$11 that day, which was big time! (With inflation, nowadays it would be over \$100.) Now she is a familiar smiling face selling flowers on the line. Stop by and wish her a happy belated birthday!

Photo/Gary Goedecke



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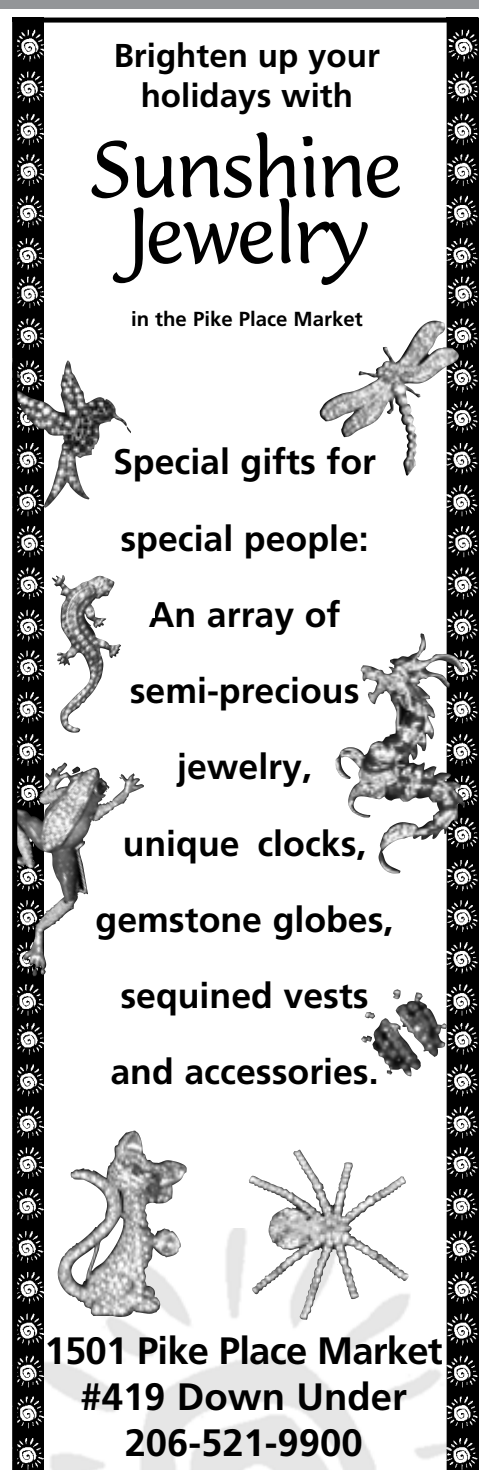

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