

COMMUNITY

Gift spring blooms for the holiday

by Melinda Myers

Give the gift of spring this winter to gardeners and non-gardeners alike. A pot of tulips, daffodils or other spring flowering bulbs is sure to brighten a dreary winter day and elevate the recipient's mood.

Spring flowering bulbs need 12 to 15 weeks of temperatures between 35 and 45 degrees to initiate flowering. This happens naturally in areas with cold winters. Bulbs are planted in the fall, receive the chill they need, and add welcome color to the spring garden.

Those in warmer climates, typically zones 8, 9 and 10, need a different approach. In those areas, low chill bulbs that don't need as long a cold period or pre-cooled bulbs are grown. The pre-cooled bulbs also sold as pre-chilled, have received the needed cold period and can be grown like annuals.

No matter where you garden, spring flowering bulbs can be chilled in a spare refrigerator. Keep bulbs away from apples and pears. These

fruits give off ethylene gas, a natural hormone that does not harm people, but can hasten ripening and interfere with flowering when bulbs are stored in the same refrigerator compartment. Check the pots occasionally and water when needed to keep the soil slightly moist, but not soggy wet.

Some friends and family may appreciate a DIY bulb forcing kit as their gift. Spring flowering bulbs, potting mix, and a container with drainage holes are all that is needed. Provide directions for assembly, suggestions for providing the cold treatment if needed and proper care.

Others may prefer a gift that requires mini-



GIVE A GIFT OF MONTHS OF BLOOM, pre-planted bulbs to brighten up the recipient's home during the winter months or all year long.

Photo courtesy of Gardener's Supply Company/gardeners.com

mal care like Gardener's Supply Company's Months of Bloom.

Order once and these pre-planted bulb gardens are delivered to the recipient monthly for 3, 6 or 12 months. Just water when the potting mix starts to dry and enjoy watching the spring flowering bulbs sprout, grow and flower.

Keep spring flowering bulb gardens in a cool, bright location to extend their bloom time. Once the plants are done blooming, you can add them to the compost pile.

For those that prefer to enjoy them a second season and beyond, provide some post-flowering care. Remove the

faded flowers and move the container to a sunny window. Keep watering thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil begin to dry. Pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer to prevent root rot and apply a dilute solution of any flowering houseplant fertilizer.

Once the leaves turn yellow and die or the soil in the garden warms and the danger of frost has passed, you can move them into the garden. Tulips and hyacinths perform best in sunny areas with well-drained soils. These two bulbs tend to flourish for a year or two and then produce few or no flowers. Keep that in mind as you plan for the future.

Daffodils and grape hyacinths will grow in sun or shade and a variety of soil types. These tend to be long lived as they grow and spread over time.

It may be two years before you have flowers but it's a great way to extend the enjoyment of a holiday gift.

Join Prestige Senior Living for a Free Webinar on Caregiving in the "Sandwich Generation"

KITTITAS COUNTY – For millions of Americans with aging parents and growing children, the demands of caring for both the older and younger generations can be overwhelming. It often requires more than just time; the demands are physical, mental and emotional. Those who are facing this situation are part of the "Sandwich Generation," a term that refers to caregivers who are

caring for both their children and their parents.

For caregivers who find themselves struggling to balance meeting the needs of both their growing children and their aging parents, Prestige Assisted Living at Hearthstone is hosting a free webinar on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 11:00 a.m.

This webinar will be hosted by Christy Yates, the author of the book "Building a Leg-

acy of Love: Thriving in the Sandwich Generation." Yates will touch on the various hurdles that are common in caring for an aging loved one, while offering strategies to overcome the difficulties experienced by the Sandwich Generation.

To RSVP for the webinar or for additional resources for caregivers, please visit www.PrestigeCanHelp.com or call 509-925-3099.

LWVWA Calls for Reform of the Washington State Redistricting Process

WASHINGTON – The League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) calls for reform of the Washington state redistricting process. The fact that the Washington State Redistricting Commission failed to reach an agreement on the maps before the constitutional deadline and forced the decision to the Washington Supreme Court confirms the need to reform the redistricting process in Washington. The LWVWA calls on the public, the legislature, and the media to push for more transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness in the process and for a structural change to the makeup of the commission.

"We are disappointed in the transparency of the negotiations and the lack of results. The trust of our election systems starts with redistricting. If we can't see what the commissioners are discussing along the way, then we don't know if our input has been heard and considered. This poor result calls for both process and structural reform," says LWVWA Redistricting Issue Chair Alison McCaffree.

In the 2019 legislative session, with HB2575, we called for modernizing the process by starting earlier, providing better training, offering salaries for the commissioners, and increasing transparency and outreach. The LWVWA commends the 2021 commission for the job they did with outreach and equal language access. The commissioners did the best they could do with a system that was not effective. The League is now asking for more openness in the discussions, and greater access to public comments and the elections data the commissioners used.

After our own statewide transparent and nonpartisan feedback process, the LWVWA released legislative and congressional redistricting map alternatives in September that put communities of interest first and submitted them to the commission for consideration. To view the process and maps, visit the LWVWA website atlwvwa.org/redistricting, lwvwa.org/maps, and lwvwa.org/speakup. We sincerely hope the Washington Supreme Court will take our process and the resulting maps into consideration.

While redistricting relies on technology and data analysis, ultimately human judgment must balance representation among disparate groups – with many needs that sometimes

overlap or conflict. The League hopes that the Washington Supreme Court will study the district lines and use them to develop the best solutions for the people of Washington.

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... all for the (furry) little ones' Christmas joys!

Reminder: If you usually support ARRF Animal Rescue through one of their annual fundraiser events that got cancelled this year due to Covid, here's your chance to help them out!

An Easy (AND FUN!) Way to Help Local Pets in Need

BUDDY'S BUDDIES

Pet Giving Tree

In memory of the Tribune's famous adopted orange tabby feral cat and official Greeter, "Buddy Davis"

You are invited to support local pets in need! Donate on behalf of your current pet(s), in memory of treasured past pets, in your name and/or your company or organization's name. All proceeds benefit ARRF & HopeSource.

"Future Meals" extends freshness and limited storage capacity at ARRF and the HopeSource's Pet Food Bank. Thanks for your ongoing support!

SUGGESTED DONATIONS TO ARRF & HopeSource's Pet Food Bank:

Future Meals

Help feed local pets throughout the year!

The Tribune and ARRF have partnered with the local pet supply stores listed below to accept cash donations to pre-fund ARRF's pet food & supply needs all year long.

- Jeb's Pet Supply & Feed** (707 E 1st St, Cle Elum)
- Whole Pet Store** (201 W Washington Ave, Roslyn)

Enter Amount =====>

From: _____ (Your name(s) or Family name)

Organization: _____ (Company or Club name, optional)

On behalf of _____ (pet's name, optional)

In memory of _____ (pet's name, optional)

Example Cash Donations

- \$10 Vaccination
- \$20 Microchip
- \$30 Cat Neuter
- \$45 Cat Spay
- \$60 Dog Neuter
- \$90 Dog Spay
- \$40 Wellness Check

Choose Your Own Amount
Gift to ARRF (for any shelter needs, enter any amount below)

Enter Your Donation Amount:

\$

Return to the Tribune

Please place Cash or Check (payable to ARRF Animal Rescue) with this form in an envelope and return to: N.K.C. Tribune, 807 W. Davis, by Safeway in Cle Elum. Please put your gift in our special gift giving container on the front counter. Future Meals donations may be made directly at one of the pet suppliers listed. For an online ARRF Donation Link (credit cards accepted there), visit the website below

For more info, visit nkctribune.com/buddy