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Bowers Dental Group is excited to introduce you to the newest member of our team, Dr. Meharry.

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Mason Transit Authority's reinstated service beginning Monday includes Route 6 to and from Olympia. Journal photo by Gordon Weeks

MTA reinstating service reduced due to coronavirus

By Gordon Weeks
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Starting Monday, Mason Transit Authority will reinstate some of the service that was reduced due to the coronavirus threat, including Route 6 to and from Olympia.

Service hours were reduced by 66% in response to low ridership and the lack of available drivers caused by the pandemic. On April 6, MTA for the second time reduced services.

"People were not using public transportation due to the stay-at-home order and concerns over the spread of the virus on public transportation," MTA General Manager Danette Brannin said in the news release Monday. "Additionally, drivers in the high-risk group that needed to self-isolate for a time to protect themselves or a family member were not available to drive. This added strain on our ability to provide service and we had no option to make reductions."

The restored service beginning Monday includes Route 6 to and from Olympia.

The agency states that more Dial-a-Ride services will be available, and more drivers will be available to back up routes that exceed the limit of pas-

sengers, so riders will not have to wait for the next bus on the route to come around again.

Mason County is in phase two of Gov. Jay Inslee's four-phase plan for reopening. The Board of Mason County Commissioners on Monday announced the county will apply for phase three reopening, and hope to be in that stage on June 22.

MTA has planned phases for reinstating service to precoronavirus levels.

"It will be difficult to predict how fast ridership will return, but we are ready to meet demand," Brannin said.

MTA has incorporated social distancing practices that include limiting the number of passengers on each bus, and having passengers enter and depart from the rear door. Free out-of-county fares remain in place through at least June 30, the agency states.


The agency asks that passengers wear face masks and avoid riding the buses if they are experiencing coronavirus symptoms. The buses are cleaned regularly and as "often as possible" between routes, MTA reports.

For the most updated information, go to MTA's website or call customer service at 360-427-5033.

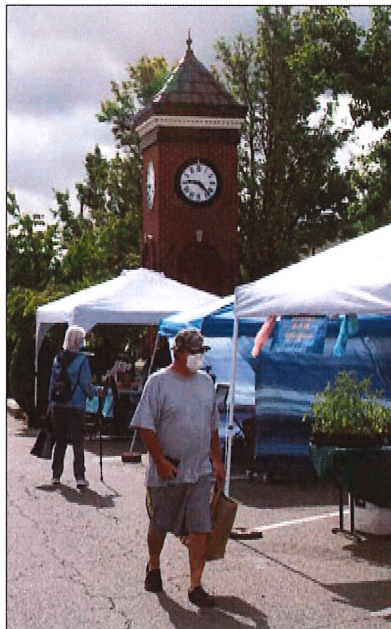
STARTING JUNE 15TH!

ROUTE 6 WITH SERVICE TO KAMILCHE & OLYMPIA WILL RESUME.





**MASON
TRANSIT
AUTHORITY**



Shelton Farmers Market

The Shelton Farmers Market opened Saturday morning for the season on West Railroad Avenue between Third and Fourth streets. Vendors and farmers offer their products from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays until mid-October. Journal photo by Gordon Weeks