



GATEWAY

Gig Harbor fall market features local farms, seafood



Windrunner Gardens will sell fresh vegetables at the fall farmers market hosted by the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance from Sept. 8-29, 2026, in Gig Harbor, Wash.

BY JULIA PARK
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Sad that the summer farmers market season is coming to a close? You'll have a few more weeks to shop for local produce this September.

From 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings, Sept. 8 to Sept. 29, around a dozen vendors will set up shop in the parking lot of B's Bagels & Butters at 3308 Uddenberg Lane, according to Clare Dunis, executive director of the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance.

The market will feature "local farms and homesteads offering late-season favorites — including peak-season tomatoes, sweet corn, zucchini, crisp greens, root crops, winter squash, and fresh herbs — alongside dinner-ready staples like pasta, artisan sauces, local seafood, and live music each week," a press release says. B's Bagels & Butters will also remain open during market hours

to sell their bagels, spreads and drinks, according to the press release.

The first 50 shoppers to stop by the information booth at the market and show proof of purchase from any vendor there will receive a free Waterfront Farmers Market tote bag, according to a market e-newsletter.

In an interview Aug. 27, Dunis explained that the Waterfront Alliance organized the market in response to feedback they received from certain produce vendors. A local farmers' co-op, the Peninsula Female Farmers Network, expressed interest in extending the market season to accommodate more of their local produce.

"Our (summer) market finishes at the end of August, and some of them mentioned that produce on this side of the Cascades is often just coming into its peak, and there's wonderful things that are still coming," Dunis said. Other vendors with full-time jobs or home-steads mentioned that the timing of the summer market on Thursdays and the logistics of unloading their goods at Skansie Brothers Park made it difficult to participate, she continued.

"... we're testing sort of that accessibility and also you know, a little bit more of like a nighttime market that might allow

SEE MARKET, 4A

Social media posts linked to Gig Harbor AD's removal

BY JULIA PARK
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Three months after Gig Harbor High School's athletic director resigned and one month after the district hired a replacement, the position is open again.

The district's recent hire, Erick Counts, confirmed to The News Tribune in a phone call Sept. 2 that he no longer holds the position. The district informed him on Aug. 27, Counts said, but didn't provide a reason.

"They simply provided a letter that the position was no longer mine to accept," he said.

The GHHS athletic director role was posted Aug. 28 with an application deadline of Sept. 4, according to the district's job board. The posting said that the salary range is roughly \$64,470 to \$129,650 a year.

Gig Harbor Now first reported that residents had raised concerns and posted screenshots online of a social media account that allegedly belonged to Counts but used an alias. The screenshots showed posts that used profanity and vulgar language to criticize Immigration and Customs Enforcement and President Donald Trump's commemoration of Columbus Day, Gig Harbor Now reported. The article did not quote the posts directly and the account does not appear in Facebook search results.

Counts declined to confirm to Gig Harbor Now whether the account was his. Asked by The News Tribune about the posts, if the account belonged to him, and if the posts were related to his removal, Counts told The News Tribune that he couldn't confirm that at this time but that "people can draw the conclusion that they are related."

The News Tribune called and emailed district administrators on Sept. 1 and Sept. 2 to request comment. In an email Sept. 2, district spokesperson Shana Nash wrote that administrators were making school visits and asked for the questions via email. She followed up with an email Sept. 3 saying that she had spoken with Chief of Schools Michael Farmer, who said: "At this time, the district cannot comment beyond what we have already shared. We will follow up when we have more information to share."

The News Tribune had asked the district to confirm the status of the athletic director position and Counts' employment status, as well as to explain why he was removed, whether his removal was related to his social media activity and what policies the district has about staff use of social media, if applicable. The News Tribune also asked when the district reopened the job posting, when they expect to hire a candidate, if Counts will continue to teach and if there are any open personnel investigations or procedures ongoing.

The school's athletics department has seen turnover in recent years. Former GHHS Athletic Director Blair Suek resigned at the end of the last school year, The News Tribune



Owner Brittany Erwin prepares a burrito toast with tomato jam at B's Bagels & Butters, on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, in Gig Harbor, Wash.

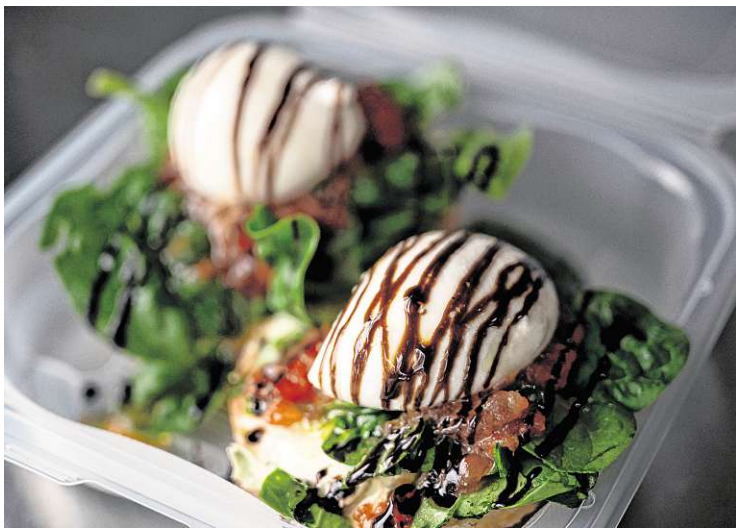
B's Bagels expands menu with new Gig Harbor site

BY JULIA PARK
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B's Bagels & Butters, a busy bagel stop that specializes in East Coast-style bagels and creamy schmears in downtown Gig Harbor, is relocating to a bigger space with an expanded menu.

"I've been keeping a secret over here but I can finally announce: B's has a future home that is all ours!" business owner Brittany Erwin posted on social media Sept. 1. "There is SO much work to do so please bear with me as I split my time between our current space and all of our construction projects. There are so many exciting things to look forward to and I will share progress regularly."

A photo in the post showed a building in the background, cluing customers into the new location. In a phone call Sept.



The open-faced burrata toast with pumpkin seed pesto, tomato jam at B's Bagels & Butters, on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, in Gig Harbor, Wash.

2, Erwin said the guesses are correct: B's Bagels will move into the former O'Looney's Irish Pub space at 3222 56th St.

The building is in a great location and "fell into our lap at the perfect time," she said.

"... we're sad to be leaving the waterfront area, but it's a

very accessible, busy part of Gig Harbor, so it's exciting," she said.

At a little over 3,500 square feet, the new space will double their square footage, Erwin told The News Tribune. Their existing location at 3308 Uddenberg Lane, Unit B takes up about 1,600 square feet of a building that's 3,400 square feet total.

The expanded area will allow the business to add wholesale to their operations by adding a bagel production bakery, said Erwin. The menu will also expand: Erwin said the business will bring back sides like soup and expects to bake challah bread on the daily, not just on holidays. She also plans to add smoothies to the drink menu.

O'Looney's Irish Pub closed its doors May 30 after over four years in Gig Harbor, The

SEE B'S BAGELS, 4A