

The Flying Squirrel celebrates Shark Week

Owners want to help chef get over irrational shark fear

By [CHLOÉ MORRISON \(/AUTHOR/CHLOE-MORRISON\)](#) - Published on July 6, 2015

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(<https://noogacms.s3.amazonaws.com/assets/32ae93a48f825focdf36317fo7381ede39889.jpg>)

The Flying Squirrel, 55 Johnson St., is located on the Southside. (Photo: Contributed)

It's the Discovery Channel's [Shark Week](http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/shark-week/) (<http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/shark-week/>), and The Flying Squirrel is using the occasion to help their chef overcome his fear of the toothed animals.

On Tuesday, they are hosting an event called Shark Therapy with Chef. Participants have a chance to win a \$50 gift card to The Flying Squirrel if they try to help chef Philippe Van Grit overcome his fear of sharks.

"He is actually afraid (borderline irrationally) of sharks and made the mistake of letting his co-workers know about his weakness," co-owner Max Poppel said via email.

Customers will get paper and crayons so they can draw a shark-related portrait to help the chef get over his fears.

The event starts at 5:15 p.m. and lasts one hour. Participation is limited to 48 people, so organizers said people should come on time to get crayons.

The idea for this event came to Poppel while he was in Los Angeles last month to receive an award (</170114/the-flying-squirrel-recognized-with-national-design-award/>).

"I'd had way too much Red Bull and found myself lying on the hotel bed when a Shark Week commercial came on," he said. "The rest is unfortunate history for chef Van Grit."

Click [here \(https://www.facebook.com/events/1424802094514494/\)](https://www.facebook.com/events/1424802094514494/) for more information about the event.