

Life changes whether we are ready or not

My 85-year-old mother in law is moving into a condo.

I certainly did not see that coming. During a conversation I had with her a few months ago, she said she intended to stay in the small town she was living in and move into a retirement center once it was time. Her daughter on the other hand, planned for her to move in with her and her husband when she could not live on her own. She did not seem sure about that because it meant moving 30 minutes from her church and friends.

That all changed, however, May 9, when my husband called to wish his mother a happy birthday. She told my husband that she was thinking about moving. Specifically, into a condo five blocks from her daughter’s home in Bloomington, Minn., that had been on the market for a week.

It came as a shock by both my husband and I, who living several hours away had no idea about his mom’s change of heart.

Larry’s parents moved to the outskirts of Waconia, Minn., a few months after Larry and I got married in 1994. At that time Larry’s dad had recently retired from the ministry in Standish, Mich.

Larry’s grandfather and both his sisters lived in Minnesota. That was also where the grandchildren were with plans for more on the way, whereas, in Indiana we had just gotten married and grandchildren were not in the immediate future.

It made sense, so off to Minnesota his parents went. They settled into the house where his parents have lived ever since. Larry’s dad died seven years ago, leaving his mom in the two-level home where she has fared well.

There had been talk most recently about moving her sewing machine from the basement to one of the three bedrooms in her ranch style home so that she did not have to make the trek to the basement when she wanted to sew.

We were not aware of any plans to sell her home in Waconia and move to Bloomington, however.

In talking to his mom, Larry got the sense the coronavirus had shaken her. The reality of aging and living by herself, 30 minutes from one daughter and 45 minutes from another had settled in.

So, one day after alerting Larry to the possibility of her moving, she looked at the condo on Mother’s Day. The next day she went to the bank and then two days later Larry’s sister texted Larry that his mom had bought the condo. Less than a week after considering a move, his mother is moving.

While this was not Larry’s childhood home, it of course, still has memories. For our children it has been the only home they have known for their grandparents.

The house hosted many Christmas and Thanksgiving get togethers for the family when we made our annual trip to Waconia.

As toddlers and young children, the girls always spent most of their time in the basement of the Waconia house where the games, crafts and dress up clothes were.

Yet today the large refrigerator box that was turned in to a makeshift closet still holds antique formal dresses, shoes and hats. Each of the granddaughters would put on a fancy dress for a fashion show for the adults routinely. There is also the hand drawn and stenciled pictures each of the girls made for their grandparents that adorn the closet in the basement and along the wall.

There was a great sledding hill in the backyard area of the house, that we all enjoyed. And on that rare summer special occasion, either a graduation or anniversary celebration, there was the large back yard and screened in back porch for lazy days and conversation.

Larry’s mom has always been quite the gardener too, planting multiple tomato and other plants. Last summer Larry and I took a long weekend to help her with some of her planting and other odd jobs, such as putting in a handrail in the garage and an additional step.

It is bittersweet to think about Larry’s mom moving, a reality of all of us getting older, as well as a reality of what Covid 19 can do to change someone’s perspective

I would venture to guess part of Larry’s mom’s thinking was if she went into that retirement home as originally planned would her children and grandchildren be able to visit? This way, she is close to her daughters and granddaughters, yet has the independence she can still maintain.

So, life goes on and adjustments will be made and we will gather in a new room, in a new house this winter and begin to create new memories, brought on by a virus that once again has drastically changed lives in a moment.



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



LifeStream services receives Henry County Community Foundation Grant

LifeStream Services was awarded a grant from the Henry County Community Foundation on April 28, 2020. This grant was part of the Choose Henry Fund – Community Grants which supports non-profit organizations serving Henry County.

LifeStream will use the grant funds to support its Adult Guardianship program to continue to represent and advocate for vulnerable and incapacitated adults who are unable to make personal decisions regarding their care. LifeStream is the legal guardian of 47 adults throughout central Indiana. Providing this service for adults allows them to remain safe, active members of their home communities.

Megan Velasquez, Director of Client Services, shared:

“We are grateful to receive support from the Henry County Community Foundation to be able to advocate for vulnerable



adults in the community.”

Learn more about LifeStream Services by visiting www.lifestreaminc.org or call 800-589-1121.

The Henry County Community Foundation, Inc. is a public trust which secures permanent funds for philanthropic purposes. Their mission is to help where the needs are the greatest, and the benefits to the community and its citizens are most substantial; provide public-spirited donors a vehicle for using their gifts in the best possible way now and in the future as conditions inevitably change; and provide excellent stewardship of those gifts which

it receives. Learn more about the Henry County Community Foundation at henrycountycf.org.

LifeStream is an Area Agency on aging that works to improve the quality of life for people at risk of losing their independence. LifeStream serves over 23,000 seniors and people with disabilities throughout 12 counties in Indiana including Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph, Rush, Union, and Wayne. Programs and services include care management, transportation, in-home care, Senior Cafes, home-delivered meals, guardianships, caregiver support, home modifications, information and assistance, volunteer opportunities and more. For more about the organization call 800-589-1121 or visit online at www.lifestream-inc.org and follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lifestream-services.

Grant County officials see trend in decreased cases of COVID, look toward recovery for community

By Sean Douglas

After eight weeks of quarantine and social distancing, and with no major increases in positive cases, Grant County officials continue to look towards the future as the state slowly begins to open back up.

Grant County EMA Director Bob Jackson doubled down on what he said previously, stating that with the trending decrease in Grant County cases, the EMA has dropped from Level 2 to Level 3, focusing more on recovery.

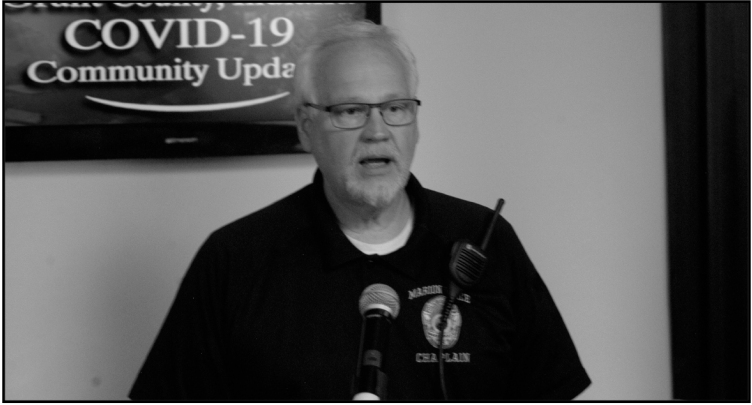
However, they will continue to monitor and maintain situational awareness of any new cases or outbreaks out in the county.

“Should we see an escalation in any activity, we can always pull [everyone] together pretty quick,” Jackson said. “We continue to operate and communicate with all of our emergency response partners in the county and also in the region.”

The Grant County EMA will also continue to support all the points of food distribution in the county, including Justice Intermediate School in Marion and Mississinewa High School in Gas City, as well as work to stockpile their reserve of PPE in the event of another outbreak.

Grant County Commissioner Mark Bardsley continued to praise the community for their adherence to social distancing guidelines, even with businesses and the economy beginning to open back up.

“Your resolve and your commitment have helped us during this difficult time to successfully flatten the curve as well as protect life,” Bardsley said. “This has been done with real sacrifice and financial loss to the members of our community and workforce, and as we are working to get back



Grant County Commissioner, Mark Bardsley, shares recent developments in the fight against COVID-19. **Photo by Sean Douglas**

on track with this health crisis and our economy, government, industry, business, manufacturing, and the private sector are all cooperating with us as we work together to move to brighter days.”

As we return to a sense of normalcy after nearly three months of chaos, Bardsley encouraged the community to continue physically distancing, washing hands, and wearing masks while out amongst the rest of the public.

“If we become careless now, we could see a resurgence. We could see a falling back and people getting infected again,” Bardsley said. “We want to make sure that we can continue to protect the members of our community.”

“As we are getting back to our norm...we have to be thoughtful for those around us. Those who may be at risk with health issues, or those who may be venturing out in our community for the first time, please be careful and give some space. Please be thoughtful, and please show each other that we have manners.”

According to Bardsley, Grant County offices are operational, but they remain closed to the public at this time. If members of the community need to reach someone in Grant County government,

they can contact them via phone. All contact information is located on their website at grantcounty.net.

While the buildings are closed, community members are still able to pay their spring property taxes. People can pay up to July 10 without penalty, either by mailing it in or dropping it off in the drop box at 401 South Adams Street.

Marion Mayor Jess Alumbaugh provided an update on City Hall, stating that employees have not returned to their offices at this time. City Hall ordered thermometers in order to test their employees daily for high temperatures and fevers but have not received them yet. The hope was to get everyone back in the building by Monday, May 18, but the new, tentative date is set for Monday, May 25.

Also, in a permanent move, plexiglass has been added to all city buses to protect both the drivers and the patrons. Buses continue to run on a 24-hour notice and will only transport community members for essential purposes including grocery store visits and medical appointments.

According to Marion Community Schools Superintendent Dr.