

Grant County Central Dispatch announces new dispatch center

Grant County Central Dispatch, along with the Grant County Commissioners and the Grant County Central Dispatch Operations and Policy Board, announce that at 6 a.m. June 8, operations will commence at the new home of public safety communications for all of Grant County.

Grant County Central Dispatch is the merging of three current dispatch centers: Grant County Sheriff's Department, Marion City Police, and Gas City Police (which merged with the Grant County Sheriff's De-



partment Center in November of 2019), and Marion General Hospital's EMS Dispatch.

Grant County Central Dispatch will employ 15 full-time 911 Dispatchers, 3 911 Communications Supervisors, 1 Operations Manager/IDACS Coordinator, and a Public Safety Communications Director.

This center is the result of years of planning and work by the public safety agencies, councils, and commissioners who have worked diligently to bring this idea to reality, along with those who help make 911 work behind the scenes between vendors and the various Information Technology Departments of the centers involved in this endeavor.

Violence doesn't justify violence

We say we are all in this together and I want to believe that we are.

Nationally, we have had more than 100,000 people die from the corona virus and another 40 million diagnosed.

Thirty million Americans have filed initial unemployment claims since Mid-March.

We are just starting to reopen the country amidst cautions of social distancing to avoid a resurgence of the virus. Some businesses in Marion County were just this week planning to reopen.

And then, a Minneapolis Police Officer is shown on national news suffocating George Floyd, a black man, as Floyd can be heard stating he cannot breathe. There were also three other police officers standing watching.

I cannot begin to understand why the Minneapolis police officer did not stop when George Floyd announced he could not breathe. I do not understand why the other three officers who were right there did not intervene.

I also cannot begin to understand why cities across the nation have had violent protesting that includes shattered windows, graffiti on monuments and buildings, along with fires and even deaths. As the news coverage continues the depth of destruction just continues to mount.

I get that people are angry and people are hurting.

As the Chicago mayor stated in a news report, peaceful protestors do not bring bowling balls, hammers, and bottles of urine to throw at police officers to a protest.

I know there have also been peaceful protesting and that I believe is important. I



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



believe that something does need to change in society. I do believe there continues to be racism around us.

As the son of Martin Luther King Jr being interviewed Sunday morning, said there is something wrong with the criminal justice system when 13 percent of the population comprises 60 percent of the jail. I must agree, something is wrong. It was also Martin Luther King the Third who said if his father were still alive, he would not approve of the violent outbursts. He believes his dad would have accomplished the change that is needed in our society.

So many have stated on so many levels that all of this is wrong.

As a white woman with privilege I struggle with what to do. I have white guilt as I sit and write this column, praying that what I say will be heard appropriately.

As hard as I work to be fair and just in all my interactions and beliefs, I know I have bias, we all do.

So, where do we go from here? How do we as a nation come together in this time of too much loss and tragedy and move forward? Can we? Is this again

God's way of saying pay attention? What will it take for us to truly do what God commands us to do, to love one another?

Locally, I believe we must support one another through our words and actions. We must get out and vote for leaders who will work to change the system. And when those elected officials do not work to ensure all people are treated equally, we must be vocal. We also must look at our own lives and our own biases and we must work to change ourselves. It is time for us to do more than say how terrible what has happened is. We must have conversations with those who are different than us and find out how they perceive what is happening so we can work to change things. We must be patient as this is a systematic change that will take time.

We also must support our local law enforcement and all who are doing the right thing, along with ferreting out those who do not do things right. We must reach out to local law enforcement and ask them how we can assist, what we can do to show our support to improve things for all.

We must come together as a city and a nation and have the conversations and make the changes that must be done beyond talk so that there is not another death or need for more protests that turn violent.

The corona virus attempted to tear us apart and what I have seen is that it has brought us many times closer together. My prayer for this senseless tragedy and the violent protests that have erupted, is that we will rise beyond and learn and change for the betterment of all.

COVID-19 relief initiative coming to Grant County United Way

United Way of Grant County is pleased to announce the request for funding proposals is now open for the Economic Relief Initiative. The Economic Relief Initiative, has been made possible through a partnership between Lilly Endowment, Inc. and Indiana United Ways. These special funds will be used to boost the efforts of selected area human and social service nonprofits on the frontlines of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Economic Relief Initiative is designed to address relief from and transition to a routine after COVID-19 pandemic. The United Way is driven by the mission to build stronger families by focusing support on Health, Education and Financial Stability to achieve measurable results by uniting community resources. COVID-19 has aggravated many of the root causes and circumstances of poverty and increased the challenges faced by Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) families in Grant County. Now as before the pandemic United Way of Grant County is focused on addressing root causes that are barriers to strengthening families in the community.

Applicants to the Economic Relief Initiative Grant processes are encouraged to be creative and collaborative in explaining or designing programming to address barriers that working families face in Grant County that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The investment of Economic Relief Initiative Funding is designed to

track a measurable change in conditions. Plans should address and begin to create long term support for families facing barriers to employment like childcare, transportation, mentorship, financial/budget training, skill development, shelter, access to nutrition, access to technology (for adults and children), quality of life experiences, coping and stress reduction techniques.

"United Way of Grant County has been a key convener and coordinator of our community's response to meet human needs for decades in partnership with Grant County organizations. Even before this crisis, we knew that 19% of families in Grant County were living in poverty and an additional 23% were not able to make ends meet - despite working. Without a robust local nonprofit network, those circumstances are bound to become even more dire," said Brett Carey: Board Chair for United Way of Grant County

United Way of Grant County will open application for Ramp-Up Grants from (June 1st- July 3rd) and will hold 4 rounds of funding opportunities open on June 12th, July 24th, December 30th and April 9th as funding is available. Interested non-profit organizations should consult United Way of Grant County's website for guidance on funding intent and application instructions at <https://www.unitedwayofgrantcounty.org/covid-19-economic-relief-initiative>.

Summer ————— continued from page 1

courses or hit the soccer fields at Ballard Field. Whatever you choose to participate in this summer, please be mindful of participating in activities that adhere to the social distancing guidelines.

"The decisions we have made do not come easily. However, the health and wellness of this community is my main concern right now. We will get through this together!"



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