

# MARION



## BETTER, TOGETHER!



Gayle Armes  
Funeral Director



Danielle Nelson  
Funeral Director



Amy Downing  
Prearrangement  
Counselor

## ARMES-HUNT

FUNERAL HOME &  
CREMATION SERVICES



FAIRMOUNT CHAPEL • COLLEGE PARK CHAPEL • JONES-SMITH CHAPEL

Fairmount Chapel

415 S. Main St.

Fairmount, IN 46928

765-948-4178

College Park Chapel

4601 S. Western Ave.

Marion, IN 46953

765-573-6500

Jones-Smith Chapel

259 N. Main St.

Upland, IN 46989

765-998-2101

## COVID — continued from page 3

While restrictions and bans are gradually being lifted, Bardsley encouraged the community to continue practicing safe health habits to combat a deadly disease, which is still among us.

“Coronavirus is very much still in our community,” Bardsley said. “It has not gone away, and while we are sensing some relief with regards to restrictions and backing up, I want to emphasize that we must not let our guard down with regard to this virus.”

Early detection of the coronavirus is key to treatment and recovery. In the ongoing fight, Bardsley informed the public of a newly available antibody test that determines a person’s resilience or susceptibility to the virus. Information can be found at [www.labcore.com/antibody-testing](http://www.labcore.com/antibody-testing). The test cost \$10, but a doctor’s prescription is not required.

After a successful virtual graduation, Lindsay announced that with schools opening back up on July 1, Marion will be hosting a more traditional graduation ceremony on July 12 at Dick Lootens

Stadium. More information will be announced in the coming weeks. Along with that, food distribution at Justice Middle School will continue every Wednesday from 8:30 to 10 am until June 14. Since the food distribution program began in March, over 430,000 meals have been served.

With the county opening up, Marion Chamber of Commerce President Kylie Jackson ended the press conference with information on both the Chamber’s #BigThanksSmallBiz program, as well as the new local PPE Marketplace.

The #BigThanksSmallBiz initiative was a collaboration between the Marion Chamber of Commerce and several other organizations in Grant Country, including the United Way and the Community Foundation, to help support local businesses and provide a morale boost to Marion’s frontline workers through the distribution of gift cards from over 35 businesses.

“Folks can go on the United Way [of Grant County’s] website to make

a donation, and then we are taking that money that is raised and buying gift cards from local businesses in 10 dollar increments and delivering those to our frontline workers,” Jackson said.

To date, over 800 gift cards have been distributed, raising over \$8,000. Jackson encouraged the community to continue donating, as the initiative is still ongoing.

Also, in partnership with the Grant County Economic Growth Council, the Chamber has established the PPE Marketplace, where businesses can purchase items like masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and a host of other items to continue the fight against COVID-19 and prepare themselves for a return to their daily routines.

“We wanted to give businesses and organizations a chance to buy those things locally,” Jackson said. “It’s really simple. All we’ve done is collected all that information and we’ve put it on a page on our website. If you are interested in buying local PPE, you can go there.”