

An interest in gardening sprouts

I would never classify myself as a gardener. I will be the first to admit, however, I love summer and butternut squash from the garden.

And, as a new homeowner, 25 years ago, I just thought a garden was part of what I should do. So, with my husband's assistance we planted a garden with carrots, green beans, summer and butternut squash and I think peas. That year we ended up with some green beans and a pretty good crop of squash.

It was as a direct result of my husband's work and toil, not mine. It just did not seem to be in my DNA to want to pull weeds, water the plants or even pick them once they were ready to be harvested. I did always enjoy eating the fresh vegetables though!

You would think I would be a natural at gardening, as my mother has always had a beautiful flower garden along the inside, part of the front and back of their house. She always had a vegetable garden as well. One year when we were home for our annual summer visit, my parents had found an



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



old cast iron tub with claw feet that my mother decided would make a good garden. She enlisted my three daughters who at the time were elementary aged. They each took a part of the tub and painted it with bright colors and imagery. That tub still sits on my mom's back yard patio and still is used as a garden.

However, for me, my mom's love of gardening never took hold. Over the first several years my husband would prepare the garden area in our back yard each year and I would sometimes assist with the planting. It was never something I took a

liking too, though.

Eventually the small plot of land in our back yard turned in to a mine field of weeds intermixed with leaves from the trees that we raked into the area each fall.

This year when I told my husband I really wanted to grow some green beans and summer and butternut squash; he was frankly less than enthused, despite the fact he had unbeknownst to me tilled the garden area earlier in the spring.

Being the wonderful husband that he is, he dutifully went to Price's Garden Center with me to show me which seeds I should plant. As a rookie I did not feel confident venturing into a garden center where I knew I would be faced with countless options of seeds for green beans and squash.

After that task was done, my husband again, assisted me in instructing me how to plant each vegetable, leaving me to actually do the labor. Then, he was done. It was officially this year my garden – to succeed or fail.

I will say, I think my

husband realizes this time I am serious as he brought home fertilizer for the garden this week, specifying how to apply it.

And, I am happy to report, that somewhere deep inside of me has sprouted an interest in gardening. I think it is just the season of my life, where my children have grown, and it is time to learn a new interest.

I have even found that while tedious, taking time to pull those countless and ever-growing weeds can give me some at least temporary satisfaction.

And, what probably got me the most excited was the other day when looking through my green beans for weeds, I spotted what turned out to be green beans – the first fruits of my labor.

So, maybe you have always thought about gardening, but just was not sure you had the time, interest, energy or patience, start out small, and give it a try. And if you find that right now in your life is not working, try something else and come back to it later – you just never know when like me, that interest may take hold.

Fireworks — continued from Page 1

However, for one evening, everything felt familiar again, as many of the city's residents gathered across the street from Ballard Field Friday night to take in a firework show.

Carloads of families from across the county enjoyed a sense of community and camaraderie while setting up chairs and readying their truck beds with blankets and pillows in anticipation of the fireworks show.

While many of the parents and grandparents just sat back, relaxed, and conversed with their peers, children could be seen laughing, playing, and relishing the opportunity to be outside with their friends. On one end of the field, many of the older kids played touch football, while many of the younger children, donning all sorts of red, white, and blue apparel, held lightsaber duels or ran around with sparklers.

"It's good to see so many families out just getting in one area and just enjoying it," Mississinewa High School Media Director Brooks Holloway said. "I said a little prayer earlier and was hoping this would be everyone together and we wouldn't have any distractions."

Regardless of the activities that people engaged in, the atmosphere in downtown Marion on Friday night was one of peace and tranquility. If just for a few hours, those in attendance put aside their fears about COVID, their job security, and many other factors in order to enjoy time with their loved ones under the stars and celebrate American independence.

For longtime Marion resident Melissa Bryant, that was the reason that she and her family made the trek to downtown Marion – to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday with one another.

"All of my grandkids wanted to come," Bryant said. "There were a bunch of us here, and we came out to have fun. It feels good to get out and have a little normalcy in life."

The fireworks began at dusk, around 10 pm, and continued for the next hour or so. Audible "oohs" and "aahs" mingled with the fiery explosions, filling the night sky with a plethora of colors.

Due to ongoing concerns, the city of Marion encouraged everyone to continue social distancing, and for the most part, people obliged, parking six feet away from other families or staying in their cars throughout the evening.

Even for a fleeting moment, and despite some changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it felt like a conventional Fourth of July holiday, complete with friends, family, and the age-old tradition of fireworks.

"This is perfect," Holloway concluded. "Hopefully, [it will] get us back in the swing of things."

Deaths — continued from page 1

by burial will begin at 11:00 am on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at Gardens of Memory Cemetery, Marion.

Alan Lawrence Durham

1956-2020

The family will receive visitors from 4 pm to 8 pm on Thursday, July 9, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service, Storey Chapel, Gas City. A funeral service to celebrate Alan's life

will be held at 1 pm on Friday, July 10, at Storey Chapel. Chaplain Don Miller will be officiating with burial following at Riverside Cemetery.

Robert E. (SR) Alexander

1928-2020

A graveside service was held on Friday, July 3 at Park Cemetery, Fairmount at 11 am with Pastor George Dockery officiating.

Timothy H. Wright

1970-2020

Private services will be held for close friend and family. Burial will take place at Marion National Cemetery.

Troy A. Brown

1964-2020

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Upland, on Friday, July 3 at 1 pm.

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