

Accident

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Street will require the closure of one lane, so we are notifying the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). There are some processes and procedures we are going through currently, but the plan is, as soon as possible, to have those trees removed.”

There are still a few issues Marion needs to address. The tree obstructing the stop sign is located in an easement, a portion of grass between the sidewalk and street. The easement is on private property, so the property owner must give permission before the tree can be removed.

The homeowner has been contacted and has 10 days to respond to the inquiry. After that, the city can either choose to remove the

tree at the cost of the homeowner or put a lien against the property.

“We are trying to look at as many options as we can to avoid placing that on the homeowner,” Flynn said. “We are currently in the process of trying to contact the homeowner. The home that is located there is a rental, so the owner does not reside at that location.

“We hope to be under way as soon as possible. We are looking at starting next week sometime but trying to reach the homeowner has become a difficult process at this point. We are looking to exhaust some other means and methods.”

In the meantime, temporary fixes have been made. The tree in question was trimmed after the accident,



While a secondary stop sign has been put up, the original stop sign (on right) is still tough for motorists to see.

Photo by Sean Douglas

and INDOT has set up another stop sign on the adjacent corner to Fourth

and Butler, making it more obvious for motor vehicles approaching the intersec-

tion.

A “Stop Ahead” sign is also being placed near the

intersection in order to warn motorists of the upcoming stop sign.

Coin

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closed their lobbies in March because of the Covid-19 pandemic and customers had no place to get rid of coins, according to David Abernathy, President/CEO of Via Credit Union.

“All we had was drive-up service for three months, and there is no way to get rid of coins, at least in bulk amounts, at a drive-up window,” he said. “After a few weeks, we realized a coin shortage was sneaking up on us. When we tried to order coins from the Fed, they did not have any either.”

After Via reopened their lobbies in mid-June, the credit union did not begin accepting coins immediately out of a concern for



the safety of tellers and customers.

“During the time our lobbies were closed, we installed protective shields for tellers, but there was only a small slot in the shields that was not big enough to handle bulk coins,” Abernathy said.

“That would have required tellers to leave their protected area and come into the lobby to get coins from customers.

“It’s unbelievable how many coins people bring in, especially after they have been sitting on them for three months. A lot of

people save coins for vacations, and they bring them in in buckets and Pringle cans and a lot of other kinds of containers.”

Two weeks ago, Via began accepting coins again.

“Members were starting to call to ask when we were going to accept coins again, and all of us wanted to make every effort to serve our customer’s needs,” Abernathy said. “So we all committed ourselves to be as careful as possible, and resume collecting coins.

“I keep a jar full of coins at homes for our vacation,” Abernathy said. “We’ve already taken a vacation, but I did not cash in the coins because I

didn’t want to take advantage of my position at Via. I need to bring those to work with me.”

In normal times, Abernathy said the amount of coins that Via customers turn in just about matches the amount of coins the credit union needs to conduct business on a daily basis. Several customers, he said, buy coins weekly to use as change in their businesses.

“We rarely have to buy many coins from the Fed, and I believe in the next couple of weeks, now that most financial institutions have reopened their lobbies, things will start to balance out and return to our normal pattern,” Abernathy said.

While the coin shortage was primarily caused by coins not re-entering distribution, the U.S. Mint’s production of coins also decreased due to measures put in place to protect its employees.

Michael White, a spokesman for the Mint, told The New York Times that coin shipments are ramping up as the Mint puts safeguards into place for employees. In a story published June 25 in The Times, White said the Mint shipped 1.2 billion coins during June and is on track to increase that to 1.35 billion coins every month for the rest of 2020. Typically, the number is close to 1 billion a month.

Grant County Health Board

steps back on previous mandates

Schedule

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By Ed Breen

A controversial order handed down by the Grant County Health Board 10 days ago as a precaution against COVID-19 in the schools was withdrawn by the board in a special meeting last week.

The board had voted on June 22 to require COVID-19 negative test results for all teachers and all staff members in all schools in Grant County.

It had also required that all athletes and students involved in “performing arts” to have negative test results before they participated in school activities later this summer.

In its latest action, the county board backed off both of those mandates, saying that it had received state and national guidance, along with a legal opinion that contradicted



the ban.

In its revised form, the instructions from the board “recommend” testing, but do not require that teachers and all non-licensed personnel be tested.

David Glickfield, lawyer for the health board, said he had examined both the action by the board and the recommendations from the state and found that the county had probably exceeded its legal authority.

“We will revert to what our state statute says and our state statute basically says unless we can show its an emergency we can’t do this,” the lawyer said.

of Fame Celebration. See July 9

5:30 pm – Collide at the Courtyard, Third Street Courtyard, 119 E. 3rd St., Marion. Join us at this artist-led showcase of contemporary and experimental performance and visual arts. Live music, dance, performance art, installations, participatory visual art, food, and coffee. Patrons are strongly encouraged to wear masks for the health and safety of all and are required to practice safe social distancing while in attendance. Please bring a chair or blanket for seating – no seating will be provided.

6 pm – South Marion & H.O.P.E. Neighborhood Association, Anglican Church, 3629 S. Washington

St., Marion. Please join us, South Marion & H.O.P.E. Neighborhood Association, in our efforts to build and maintain a welcoming neighborhood. Feel free to attend if you live / work in our friendly neighborhood; South of 33rd St. until 38th St. and East of Western Ave. until Adams St.

Tuesday, July 14

ALL DAY – Quilters Hall of Fame Celebration. See July 9

Wednesday, July 15

ALL DAY – Quilters Hall of Fame Celebration. See July 9
9 am – Grant County Farmer’s Market, Angle Acres Plaza Parking Lot, 1028 E. Main St., Gas City. Garden grown fresh produce, tomatoes ,corn, peppers, onions, cucumbers,

zucchini, watermelons, cantaloupes, cabbage, green beans, broccoli, and beautiful flowers. All local growers. Just off Main Street in Gas City in Angles Acres Plaza, beside McDonald’s. For more information, call 765-251-8919.

Thursday, July 16

ALL DAY – Quilters Hall of Fame Celebration. See July 9
10:30 am – Sensory Tales, Marion Public Library, 600 S. Washington St., Marion. Hands on creative play for preschoolers ages 3-6 years. For more information, call 765-668-2900 ext. 1105.

5:30 pm—Marion Utility Service Board Meeting, 1540 N. Washington St., Marion.