

# Wilk family carries on the Griswold style

Our Christmas gift to the community is ready to be unwrapped. This Friday, our home at 1016 W. Fifth St in Marion will be illuminated for the holidays.

The lights will go on when the sun goes down and will be turned on every evening through New Year’s Day.

While the pandemic has stolen many things from us this past year, the Griswold Lighting Tradition is not one of them.

And to be perfectly clear and transparent, my sole role in this holiday tradition is writing the check to pay for the additional light bill cost that comes during this time.

All the pre-work and post work rests solely on the shoulders of my husband, Larry, who is locally Clark Griswold.

As has been the tradition since we purchased our home in 1994, lights have transformed our two and a half story home into a site to be seen.

This transformation began the day after Halloween as boxes began to appear in our pool room filled with hundreds of



A SLICE OF LIFE  
Linda Wilk

strands of Christmas lights. Each one was taken out of the boxes and tested for their performance, a single bulb or two being replaced if it did not light up as expected, while at times an entire strand of lights is discarded.

Then, taking full advantage of the Indian Summer weather we had in early November, Larry began stapling the strands of lights to the front of our house.

Once the strands of lights were adequately wrapped around each wall of our home, installation of the snowmen, angels, Merry Christmas sign and other

characters the house was ready. And of course, there is the Christmas music synchronized to the lighted archway and candy cane border.

Since Larry is an experienced Christmas outdoor decorator, he knows the precautions that must be taken for a blistery windy winter day, providing extra stakes for the candy cane arches that serve as an entry way to our front porch.

There is also the Merry Christmas sign he crafted out of planks of wood, drilling each hole to write the holiday message that does remind all that Christ is the Reason for the Season.

The one figure that still eludes Larry to have the design complete is a nativity scene complete with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, the shepherds, wisemen and all the animals. It is not that Larry has not found the perfect nativity scene; it is just that the price tag has continued to be outside of our financial reach.

You see, Larry begins eyeing next years’ addition to his creation the year before, alerting me to his next



The Wilk home.

year end purchase. Unfortunately, the Nativity scene that he has coveted disappears from the store floor instead of receiving the deep discount that other Christmas items traditionally is given during the clearance sales.

In many ways Larry has compensated well for the lack of a full sized nativity on the outside of the house, having several dozen nativities throughout the inside of our home, ranging from tree

ornaments, to snow globes, metal pieces, and other each unique displays of the most important aspect of Christmas. And just as he adds new light displays to the outside of our home each year, he also adds new nativity sets to his collection each year.

I have faith that one day Larry will find the statutes of the nativity at the price that we can afford. We have the ideal space for such a display on top of our porch

roof. It is just a matter of time.

So, this holiday season as you gather up your loved ones and wander through the Walkway of Lights, take a turn down the Bypass and drive up West Fifth Street. Take your time. Park your car, take a stroll, pose for a picture or two, just enjoy our gift to each of you. And remember that no matter how 2020 ends, we have each other and Christ to be eternally thankful for.

## Police blotter

### Police Blotter Week of Nov. 16-22

#### Monday, Nov. 16

Joseph Jowann-Terrill Butler, 33, was preliminarily charged with probation violation – original charge dealing in a synthetic drug or lookalike substance violation in the 5000 block of South 800 West, Swayzee.

Markus Payne King, 25, was preliminarily charged with re-entry court violation in the 500 block of South Adams Street, Marion. Shauna O. Clemons, 42, was served a warrant in the 100 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Kendra Lyn Williams, 33, was preliminarily charged with possession of marijuana and operating Schedule I or II controlled substance in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion. Sarah Rae Whelchel, 34, was served an emergency detention order in the 1800 block

of West 11<sup>th</sup> Sreet, Marion.

#### Tuesday, Nov. 17

Joel D. Crouch, 44, was served a warrant in the 500 block of South Adams Street, Marion. Robert William Fern, 39, was served a warrant in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Richard Eugene Mills, 49, was preliminarily charged with disturbing the peace in the 3600 block of North 700 West, Marion.

Kyle James Olson, 29, was served a warrant in the 3400 block of South Selby Street, Marion.

Carol Elaine Miller, 45, was served a warrant in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion. Myisha Sykes, 27, was preliminarily charged with operator never licensed and operating a vehicle without financial responsibility in the 2000 block of South Western Avenue, Mar-

ion.

Shandesha N. Moore, 39, was served a warrant in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

#### Wednesday, Nov. 18

Dylan Andrew Holt, 21, was served a warrant in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion. Shelby Desiree Arnold, 21, was preliminarily charged with operator never licensed in the 900 block of South Baldwin Avenue, Marion.

Breanna Nicole White, 30, was served a warrant during a traffic stop at 50<sup>th</sup> Street and Western Avenue, Marion.

#### Thursday, Nov. 19

Ashlee Nicole Burks, 31, was preliminarily charged with failure to appear (original charge – driving while suspended prior), failure to appear (possession of marijuana), and failure to appear (possession of marijuana).

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