

Public may access City Hall by appointment

State of city virtual address moved to Feb. 24

On Friday afternoon, City of Marion's Director of Marketing and Community Relations Layla Price-Bodkin announced that while City Hall remains closed, the public may access the building via appointment only. Those looking to make an appointment may call 765-662-9931 or toll free at 833-662-9935 to connect with the department. Masks must be worn inside City Hall at all times.

Furthermore, the State of the City Virtual Address will air on Wednesday, February 24 at 12:30 pm immediately following the Community Update on WSOT. Those looking to tune in to the State of the City Virtual Address can do so on Local Channel 27 WSOT-TV, 1400 WBAT, and on the web at (<https://www.facebook.com/sunnycrestbaptist>).

Walk

skills to work out of poverty." Last year, St. Martin provided more than 70,000 meals and 13,000 food pantry visits to those in need in the Grant County community. Conwell believed that St. Martin's was more than deserving of the proceeds raised from the Chocolate Walk due to the tireless work that they do to serve the city of Marion. "We felt that St. Martin's is an underserved charity," Conwell said. "We felt like they [do] a lot in the community by feeding people lunch and providing coats for kids in the winter. They have an all encompassing program [and] they are able to meet a lot of people's needs. We felt like they were very deserving. They quietly, and humbly, serve our community, and we wanted them to know that we see them." After a successful first



Design Studio 407 offered a plethora of goodies, including chocolate truffles with strawberry milk crumb, vegan brownies, and caramel bars with chocolate on top. **Photo by Sean Douglas**

MPO announces Concerto Aria virtual event

The Marion Philharmonic Orchestra will be hosting a virtual event for high school and college students in lieu of the annual ConcertoAria Competition. Participants will upload a video of their performance to the MPO website from March 22-26, 2021. A panel of judges will view the videos and give feedback on the performances. Participants can select a movement or movements from standard repertoire that has orchestral accompaniment, not to exceed 12 minutes. This event is open to strings, woodwinds, brass, piano, organ, percussion, and voice. Memorization is



not required. All participants will receive two tickets to be used at any regular MPO Season Concert and comments from the judges. There is no entrance fee, but an application and PDF of the score need to be submitted between March 1-19, 2021. Event rules and the application can be found on the MPO website at www.mpo-marion.org. For any inquiries call the MPO at 765.662.0012 or send an email to mpo.marion@gmail.com.

Grant County Central Dispatch discusses 2020 annual report, goals for 2021

By Sean Douglas

At the latest Grant County Public Safety Operations Center Policy Board on Wednesday, Public Safety Communications Director Michael Clayton discussed the 2020 annual report, showcasing the successes of Grant County Central Dispatch's first six months, as

well as outlining plans for improvement and growth. Since the center went live back on June 8, 2020, 19,709 911 calls were received into the center with a 99 percent answer rate within 10 seconds. Administrative calls, 73,418 of them, were placed with a 98.79 percent answer rate. Additionally, according to Clayton, there were 171,528 CAD, or Computer Assisted Dispatch, incidents over the course of 2020, with 121,082 of those involving police and 11,811 requiring EMS. While Clayton is pleased



with the great work that Grant County Central Dispatch has accomplished in the last six months, one area that he would like to further promote is the Text to 911 program, which provides a safe and secure way for those in need to acquire help they are unable to call. "This is something we can push as a community cam-

paign," Clayton said. "Call 911 if you can talk, text if you can't. I think getting that message out that we have Text to 911 might help increase that number a little bit." Clayton has a plethora of goals for 2021, all centered on making Grant County Central Dispatch even more productive going forward, but the two most important goals include full implementation of priority dispatch EMD protocol and quality assurance to fix mistakes and correct issues in a more timely manner. "EMD — we are obviously off and running on, so the priority is to get that squared away where every

See Central, Page 3

I am for the child®

CASA of Grant County, Inc. is hiring

STAFF ADVOCATES

email: Leslie Hendricks
casa@grantcounty.net or call
 765-664-1891
 for information

302 East Fourth St. • Marion, IN 46952



Suzy Shaffer
Owner

-Contact Suzy, Brian, or Cecil-

765-664-6460
mariontire@bestoneofmarion.com

Park Avenue Barber Shop

Celebrating 50 Years in Business

Haircuts—\$11; Retirees—\$10

1652 W Euclid Ave., Marion, IN

765-668-7055

Tue.-Fri. 9 am-5 pm, and Sat. 9 am-1 pm