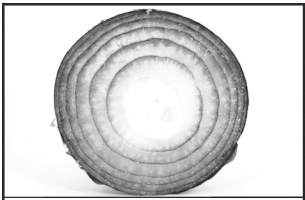


The death of a young man

We lost a bright, sensitive young man recently. A young man who touched so many lives during his time in Marion.

I cannot remember the exact day that our family met this young man. I do remember his engaging personality and lovability. There were countless times he was at our house playing with Laura, Andrea and Marissa in their elementary years. It became a routine for him to walk the block from his house to ours each Sunday morning so he could go to church with us. Or the evenings we took him home after a youth event. To us, he was like the son we never had, just an extension of our family.

He was always one of the star performers in our summer Vacation Bible School skits and just seemed to be a kid magnet — with his passion and



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



drive to engage children and teach them about Jesus.

Then it seemed as he started high school, the demons began to overtake him.

For this young man, fitting in seemed to get more difficult. I remember him even deciding to opt for on-line schooling.

Then came a tragic car-semi-truck accident who took the life of a fellow classmate from our church on his way to taking his SAT's. It was around that time that I lost touch with our neighbor, as he left St. James Lutheran Church and started distancing himself from our family, and our church.

We intermittently connected with this young man and his family, yet, after graduation, our children went different directions.

Andrea and Marissa went on to college, while this young man, was not sure what he wanted to do, so stayed locally working, as he tried to decide his life path.

Then around the holidays, my daughter Andrea forwarded a desperate post from this young man's mother, stating her son had

been struggling with seizures brought on they later learned by addiction, stress and anxiety. He had been in a rehab center in another state and she was asking for prayers.

For me that was the easy part to reach out to her and let her know we were praying. I also enlisted many from our church to pray and send him cards. It seemed things were looking up for him and his family. He was talking about going back to school and possibly becoming an addictions counselor.

I had seen his parents just one week before his mom found him dead in his bed, Saturday, Feb. 27.

The day I saw her she said he had had a relapse, but that they had him in counseling, and he was working through the relapse. We talked about how he had idle time. We talked

about him getting involved with our churches' JAM (Jesus and Me) program for children.

Then the news came that he was gone. It made me sad and angry and frustrated, wondering what more each of us could have done.

I do not know the cause of this death. An autopsy was being performed. His mom believed he died of a seizure.

In talking to his mom, she said she wondered why God had brought him back to live with them. He had been in rehab in Kentucky where he was struggling. Then she added, maybe God wanted him close to home before God took him to Heaven.

She reflected how she thought he would get through all he was suffering from and have a testimony to tell so many. One

day, I would like to help her tell that testimony. I believe each of us need to hear his struggles. I believe we need to know what caused such anxiety and stress that someone could have seizures, who had never suffered from seizures. I would also like to know what caused his head injury, that led to an addiction to pain medications that led him to rehab.

I want to know how we as a community can embrace those who are struggling with self-esteem, self-worth, addiction or one of many other societal issues. What can we do to help break these cycles? What can we say?

For me, I know I must turn to God and ask for His direction and guidance, and continue to pray for all, not getting caught up in problems, rather focusing on solutions.

Ordinance

Wilk's main concern with the ordinance was the lack of spaces and a lack of approved surfaces like gravel, concrete, or asphalt in the back of properties, which allow residents to park near their homes in her neighborhood.

However, Building Commissioner Jerry Foustnight reminded everyone in attendance that parking would be allowed in backyards only if there was not an approved parking area in front of the property.

"We don't want to cause a burden on individuals as far as having to put gravel in or put [down] an approved parking area," Foustnight said. "Within

this ordinance, that will allow them to go ahead and park in those grassy areas in the back of the house if it's not available in the front."

Gregory Stanley, another Marion native, is thrilled about the updated ordinance.

"This ordinance is needed," Stanley said. "There are several [properties] in my area where people are parking in the side yard, the backyard, the front yard, and the sidewalk. People can't walk down the sidewalk, [including] kids going to school and people with strollers, because there is so much mud. Jerry has been out

there and he's doing what he can do, but we need an ordinance in place in order for us to follow through.

"This ordinance is much needed for our city and for our community."

Marion Fire Chief Paul David also came out in support of the ordinance, stating that it will make the fire department's job easier if personnel are not having to maneuver around vehicles in people's yards if there is an emergency.

"It's another obstacle in our way. If somebody makes ruts in the yard and muddies the lawn, it's going to be tougher for us to get in there, do what needs to be done, and get

somebody out," David said. "I support this ordinance."

Terry Mundy, who owns several properties in Marion, receives numerous calls about a property he rents out on 33rd Street that he qualifies as a "junkyard." He is glad that this ordinance will help to not only cut on illegally parked vehicles, but also keep property values high for all homeowners in Marion.

"I don't think it is fair to property owners in that area to have this kind of junkyard right in the middle of the city of Marion,"

Indiana History Answers

1. D 2. C 3. B 4. A

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Mundy said. "This is the worst that I have ever seen out of all the properties that I've owned, and it has destroyed the property value."

The ordinance will go into effect immediately.

The next Common Council meeting will take on place on Tuesday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m.

Scooters

older.

The committee plans to review all existing ordinances regarding bicycles and scooters over the next several weeks in order to revise and come up with the

best ordinance possible for the city of Marion. The committee also plans to gather information regarding state statutes and other city ordinances, as well as multiple ideas, to their next

meeting.

The Public Safety Committee will reconvene on Thursday, March 11, at 6 p.m. both in-person and virtually via Zoom.

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Smoked Turkey Breast.....

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