

Task

may need more room. MHA also offers 400 vouchers for Section 8 housing that can be used around Grant County, as well as Family Public Housing at four locations across the city. Furthermore, with their partnership with the Grant County Family Recovery Court, MHA is able to help make accommodations with people who are working through court proceedings. “There are a lot of programs, and there are a lot of ways [we can] help in the recovery community,” Udolisa said. “We are looking to make some changes and be forward thinking.” The Affordable Housing Corporation, which emerged from the Housing Authority 25 years ago, is a similar organization that can access certain funding from the HUD (Housing and Urban Development) that MHA cannot. “Being able to access these pools of money allows us to do different housing development projects, which we’ve done across the community,” Development Director Mikayla Marazzi said. “We just want to be able to provide safe, decent, affordable housing for as many people

in our community as possible.” Along with completing several development projects through the years, as well as providing rental units, AHC also provides five certified housing counselors, who each specialize in different topics, including rental properties, foreclosure prevention, budgets, financial planning, and credit assessments. “Our doors are always open,” Marazzi said. “Whether you are referring someone through your agency or directly, we want to be a resource.” AHC also provides the Individual Development Accounts program, a match-saving program which helps those below the poverty line regain some financial stability. For every one dollar deposited, the state of Indiana will match with four dollars up to \$6,000. That money can be used for specific activities, including buying a home, sending a child to college, or emergency repairs. Additionally, AHC runs the Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Network, where housing counselors work with people on the verge of foreclosure by communicating with

lenders to discover alternative options. “We all want people to be able to stay in their housing situations for as long as possible,” Marazzi said. “It’s not good for the community when evictions happen or when there is high turnover in units. That’s part of what we are here to do.” Along with all of the excellent services that AHC provides for Grant County, the organization has partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Grant County and the City of Marion Neighborhood Association in order to help bridge the gap between landlords and tenants, as well as continue to look for ways to help people find housing that is best for them. Lastly, Brian Blevins, an employee of the Cornerstone Behavioral Health Center and a recovering addict, discussed his new business, Next Level Recovery that he started a few months ago. As someone who has experienced what many who are struggling with addiction have experienced, Blevins knows how difficult it can be to reacclimate after coming out of a sober living or another similar facility. With Next Level Recovery, those

in recovery would be able to rent a room for up to 30 days and live alongside others going through the same issues as they work to get their lives back on track.

“We want to provide housing after someone comes out of sober living,” Blevins said. “I want to use my money to invest in the community because I know what

it’s like.” The next Grant County Task Force Meeting will be held in August and will focus on Law Enforcement.

continued from Page 1

you might not know
we have life, home,
auto and business
insurance. now you do.
simple human sense

NORRIS

INSURANCE

"We'll Come Running!"

Marion – Fairmount – Swayzee – Upland

NorrisInsurance.com



Auto-Owners

INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Grant continued from Page 1

County schools, is doing its part to prepare students for post-secondary success. The City of Marion Fire Department was awarded \$9,911 to purchase seven AED devices for the City of Marion Fire Department. The Department receives several medical calls a day and relies heavily on the equipment they carry. In addition to the Give to Grant Collaborative, the Travis Simpkins Memorial Fund contributed to awarding this grant. Meals on Wheels was awarded \$10,000 to subsidize meals for those who are unable to afford to participate, as well as cover additional overhead expenses related to growing their client base. Meals on Wheels works alongside local hospitals, nursing homes, and social workers to assist patients with getting access to food services in Grant County so that they can remain in the comfort of their own home. Cardinal Greenways was awarded \$10,000 to purchase a new truck for Grant County volunteers to use in maintaining the trails. The large group of dedicated volunteers provide many hours every year maintaining the ten miles of trail in Grant County. This grant provided volunteers the proper tools and equipment they need to complete their

work safely and efficiently. Cancer Services of Grant County was awarded \$10,000 to support the Breast Education Screening and Survival (BESS) program. Since the program’s inception in 2000, Cancer Services has provided over 9000 mammograms and has educated over 100,000 Grant County individuals. This program provides countywide education outreach, mammography, and further diagnostics to anyone who cannot afford these services. Hands of Hope was awarded \$10,000 to purchase a vehicle for Hands of Hope staff to use as they expand their outreach and mobile advocacy services to victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking in Grant County. This grant will make staff accessible where the victim might feel more comfortable such as a victim’s home, local park, local restaurant, or library. In addition to the Give to Grant Collaborative, the Anna Mae Harrison Fund, the Heidi Sue Chastain Memorial Fund and the J. William and Eleanor G. Long Memorial Fund contributed to awarding this grant. SAWs – Servants at Work was awarded \$9,000 to install six high-quality removable and reusable wooden wheelchair ramps for mobil-

ity-challenged Grant County residents. A SAWs ramp provides persons who are dependent on a wheelchair or other movement assisted device the ability to gain freedom from their homes to access health care and other quality of life activities. Mad Anthonys Children’s Hope House was awarded \$5,000 to offer temporary, minimal-cost lodging to parents and families of Grant County children receiving medical care away from home. Mad Anthonys Children’s Hope House offers comfortable beds, hot meals, laundry facilities, and showers, to families with a hospitalized child in any Fort Wayne medical facility. They provide these basic needs in a safe, stable, and supportive environment while their loved one is just a short walk away. Euclid Neighborhood Association was awarded \$3,100 to complete the Euclid Neighborhood Association’s two-phased beautification project by planting 18 additional trees in the area. This project will foster a safe and welcoming atmosphere by improving the forgotten streetscape in the city’s right of way. It is a local grassroots initiative, spurred by residents passionate to create change, while preserving the historic street for future generations.



RIDES

GAMES

WATER PARK

FOOD

Indiana Beach

AMUSEMENT & WATER PARK

SUMMER 2021

FUN

SEASON PASS



LODGING ON THE LAKE

\$64^{.99}

1 NIGHT STAYS FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

www.indianabeach.com