

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

APRIL 2020

Hello, everyone,

I am praying for all of you! Please pray for each other and do the social distancing that is being asked of you. It is for your wellbeing and the greater good of everyone around you. These are unparalleled times. Yes, it's scary and because it is ever changing that makes it even more stressful. I wish I could tell you not to worry and that it will be alright, but, like me, you'll worry anyway, and some of us will probably get sick. I can only ask that you have as good of an attitude as possible, because you are better able to fight any illness when you have a good mind set. I place my trust in Jesus. That is where I get my positive attitude. I'm not here to preach or push any agenda, just telling you where my inner peace comes from and yes, I believe everything will be just fine in the end.

I'm always asking you to look out for each other and now, because of COVID-19, that takes an even greater meaning. Think about an elderly person that shouldn't go out to get prescriptions or groceries, they might need you and not want to bother you to ask. Think about the businesses and their employees that have shut down to help protect you. Think about the many things that just a couple weeks ago we took for granted. Think about how you can help; be creative – think outside the box. This is a time when we all need each other more than ever. If you need help with a pickup of some kind, you can call me, and leave a message at 319-981-6587. I will get you some help or do it myself. Please be safe.

Know what's going on in your neighborhood. Keep an eye on people you don't know. If you see something unusual don't wait to call 911; take some notes, be proactive. Unfortunately, when times get tough, the criminals get bolder and more brazen. There has been an increase in crime in eastern Benton county, and the best way to stop them is to have an active, watchful community. The word will get out very quickly when they get to talk about Shellsburg's vigilance while sitting in jail.

On a happier note (just before things shut down), we had a trial run for an open house for the Shellsburg History Museum. There is a lot to see on the walls, on tables and in display cases. People took plenty of time looking at the displays and enjoyed a video from the '40s provided by Jay Perry and another video of mostly the 100th celebration provided by Larry Beatty. Then it started, stories started to surface, slowly at first, then building in subject matter and intensity, developing from giggles to full belly laughter. We recorded some of the story time. It may need to be edited, or at minimum, some bleeping added. What a great time we all had.

Life will get back to a new normal and things will calm down. It always does. I look forward to eating at Divine Decadence and Wildcat, having regular meetings, and having a time where folks can get together and enjoy each other's company again.

Until next time, stay safe.

As always, thank you for your time.

Lonnie

