

S E P T E M B E R 2022

COMMUNITY

Cupboard

LIVING WELL IN WABASH COUNTY CoA, Inc.

P.O. Box 447, 239 Bond Street, Wabash, IN 46992

www.livingwellinwabashcounty.org

Wabash County Public Transit Dispatch (260) 563-7536 Toll Free (888) 498-4400

Living Well Winchester Senior Center Living Well Community Cupboard Living Well Downtown (260) 563-4475



**SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SENIOR CENTER MONTH** 

LIVING WELL

Downtown

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### From My Perspective

By Beverly Ferry, CEO Living Well in Wabash County



#### THE PERFECT GOODBYE

Have you ever wished you would have had the perfect words or gesture when saying goodbye? Have you ever had what should have been goodbye, but evolved into a new beginning?

The Hollywood classic, Casablanca, did just that. In a surprise act of sentimental selflessness, "Rick" helps Victor Laszio and his wife played by Ingrid Bergman to escape from danger. Up until that moment she thought Rick, her old love from pre-Nazi Paris, was going with her.

Humphry Bogart and Claude Rains casually walk out into the dark, dense, fog of night escaping moments before the Nazis would have arrested them. It is a classic Hollywood movie ending. The line spoken by Bogey's Rick, the owner of Casablanca's Rick's Café, "Louie, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship" makes it one of the most memorable and oft repeated ending line of any movie. It is a classic ending, but it was not the one originally scripted. They came back later and added that memorable line. The magic of Hollywood made it the ending of all endings. We do not have that in our daily lives.

It can be heart wrenching to say goodbye to those you love: parents, children, or grandchildren when you live across the country from them. It never gets any easier, no matter how many times we do it. Saying goodbye to our sons is gut wrenching for me.

Our youngest son, John, came home for a summer visit. We loved having him home and hated to see him go, but alas, vacations end. While saying goodbye, I was saying in my head, "Don't go!" He walked to the car, he turned around, threw his hands up in the air and said, "One more hug because we can!" His jog back to the porch to add one more goodbye warmed my heart. It was a wonderful goodbye.

With family sprinkled across the country, there have been years filled with parting words and loving gestures. I never grow immune to sweet, poignant, goodbyes. I have stood on that porch or in the street as the car pulls away with precious cargo dozens of times. I make it back inside the house before the tears start.

It was still early in the morning when John left. I returned to the inside of the house. At the kitchen table I opened my laptop. While my thoughts of goodbyes were fresh in my mind I sat down with a cup of coffee and started this column. It is rare, but there are times I sit down and write my monthly column in one sitting. Most months, the words do not come as easily. It is the same with saying goodbye. Finding the right words before the moment passes can be impossible. Sometimes there are just no words.

At the age of fourteen my Great Grandfather Johnson sailed to America. For him, the most difficult part was saying goodbye to his mother, knowing his mother would never see him again and that she knew it.

I think of the time sixty-seven years ago when my parents packed the car and headed to California. When Dad said goodbye to his father, he just knew it would be the last time they would see each other. I am sure their hearts were full beyond what either of them could or would have said.

The world is full of emotions never expressed. Our lives are full of words left unsaid; sentiments unspoken. Sometimes that is for the best, but I think most of the time we regret it. Life is not Hollywood.

The thought that at some point we inevitably part from those we love lingers out there just beyond our reach. It is a mostly unspoken realization that we cannot prevent. We see it coming, but we cannot stop it. When Mom and Dad were in assisted living, I was once there at supper time, but Mom was not ready to go yet. I tried to get Dad to walk with me to the dining room and let Mom finish getting ready. In his dementia, he said with a strong voice, "No! - I - won't - leave - her." My response was "Dad, we are just going to the dining room. Mom will be there soon."

More than ten years ago I was scheduled for knee surgery, but it was postponed after reaching the hospital. On the way from Huntington Hospital, I called Mom to update her. She told me Dad was not doing well. We headed there. When I walked in, I knew by expressions on their faces that this was it. In those last moments of Dad's life, Mom was telling a story about a baseball game with Dad's brothers in their hometown, Morris Run, Pennsylvania. It was one of my favorite stories. Dad and his brothers loved baseball. The local priest was the umpire, a fight broke out, the umpire/priest, took off his collar, handing it to Dad's older brother, saying, "Hold this." He then jumped into the fray. It was then that Dad left us. There was no drama, no emotional goodbye, but a retelling of a favorite story. It was the way Dad would want it.

As a child I remember Dad singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." We sang that at the conclusion of the graveside portion of his funeral. At the conclusion of the song, we heard the crack of the bat from the high school baseball field across the street. Now that, was a perfect goodbye.

Death is not always how we say goodbye. Our lifetimes are a series of goodbyes. Goodbye to a loved one can be as simple as dropping your child off at college for the first time. When Nick and I left Michael at the dorm for the first time we rode in silence until Nick suggested we stop for supper. I immediately broke into sobs, haltingly gasping in between the outburst of tears, "Where-will-he-findfood?" The cafeteria was closed. Nick assured me

he would be fine. If there ever was an 18-year-old ready to be on their own, it was Michael. Reality had nothing to do with how I was feeling.

Goodbyes do not get any easier. We hope to find ways to show how much they are loved when we say goodbye. Talking about when we will see them again helps. It gives us hope for what is to come. I think of that when you and the person know they are dying. It helps to believe in the future that will come.

There is no perfect goodbye. We might not be able to top the closing scenes of movies, but we do the best we can. The lesson is to lead with your heart and not wait for the last minute.

May all our goodbyes warm our hearts,

Beverly Ferry



#### 260-563-4475 239 Bond Street, Wabash, Indiana 46992 Page 3 **GROW YOUR BUSINESS** to reach your community **BY PLACING** AN AD HERE! CONTACT US! Contact Dan Goben to place an ad today! dgoben@lpicommunities.com Call (800) 950-9952 or (800) 950-9952 x2633 **PROVIDENCE PLACE** Family taking care of Family Rolling Meadows 1821 W. Bradford St. • Marion, IN 46952 Health & Rehabilitation Center 765-981-2081 (765) 664-5957 | Fax: (765) 671-9136 www.crf.net **Community Reinvestment Foundation, Inc.** NWW.ROLLINGMEADOWHEALTHANDREHAB.COM sting in Housing...Reinvesting in Individuals, Families and Co

For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.lpicommunities.com Living Well in Wabash County, Wabash, IN A 4C 01-1456

# **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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©20	©2021 Satori Publishing A57												



Grandparents' Day is Sunday, September 11.

What do you remember about your grand parents? Share that with your grandchildren.

What do you love about being a grandparent? Share that with your grandchildren.

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September is National Senior Center Month

www.livingwellinwabashcounty.org 260-563-4475



Living Well in Wabash County

### COMMUNITY CUPBOARD PANTRY

is open to low-income Wabash County households of all ages. CALL (260) 563-4475

to schedule an **appointment**. Located at 239 Bond Street in Wabash at Winchester Senior Center.



260-563-4475

### Living Well in Wabash County CoA's Senior Supplemental Food Box

might be a resource for you.

It is for Wabash County residents, age 60 and older meeting limited income and asset requirements.

Proof of income and residency are required with the application.

Assets are taken into consideration, but the home you are living in and one car are not counted. This program is for Wabash County seniors who do not have a safety net, who are without additional rental income, assets or investments.

Applications are available at Living Well Winchester Senior Center and Living Well Downtown. To find out about income, age, and asset guidelines or to get an application, call (260) 563-4475.

239 Bond Street, Wabash, Indiana 46992

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# **HAPPENINGS IN SEPTEMBER 2022**

**PURDUE EXTENSION** 

Presented by MINDY MAYES MEALS IN A MUG BYOMug Bring your own mug.

Wednesday September 28

4:00 PM

Living Well Downtown 35 East Market Street Wabash

AND Thursday September 29 1:00 PM

Winchester Senior Center

239 Bond Street, Wabash

### **DOMINOES**



Starts Wednesday, September 21 1:00-2:30 PM At Living Well Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street Wabash

### **COMPETITIVE EUCHRE~\$1**



12 NOON Mondays Wednesdays Fridays

Living Well Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash

### **BEGINNING EUCHRE**

Not ready for competitive euchre? Want to brush up your skills? Never played?

### **Euchre Lessons**

Fridays in September 11:30-12:30 PM Living Well Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash



CELEBRATE JAMES DEAN Thursday, September 22 1:00 to 4:00 PM

At Living Well Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash

Guest Speaker Movie Theater Refreshments Watch and discuss one of

Dean's classic movies. Too young to remember

James Dean? Come and learn about a local Indiana boy who became a Hollywood icon. Please sign up.

(260) 563-4475



Piano Man Sam Piercy First Thursday September 1st at 1:00

MUSIC FROM THE 1970'S

Living Well Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash



### September BIRTHDAY PARTY

Thursday, September 8, 1:00 Mike Almon Musical Entertainment

Please R.S.V.P. (260) 563–4475 Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash



Adam Rogers Provided by Guardian Angel Hospice Wed. Sept. 28, During Lunch 11:00

Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash

> AND... 2:00 PM

With an Ice Cream Social the Same Day At Living Well Downtown 35 East Market Street, Wabash





WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO Thursday, Sept. 8th

Bring a White Elephant Prize (anything) Living Well Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash

11:30 AM

### **BINGO PARTY**



Sept. 15th at 1:00 Living Well Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash Hosted by Rolling Meadows

### BINGO WITH BEN Tues., Sept. 27th at 1:30 PM Living Well Downtown

35 East Market Street, Wabash



GROCERY BINGO \$1

Thurs. Sept. 22nd at 11:30

Living Well Winchester Senior Center

### LIFEBRIDGE BINGO

#### Thursday, Sept. 1 at 12:00 PM Presented by Amy Miller Living Well Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash

HABITS OF HAPPY PEOPLE Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 11:30 AM Presented by Ben Snyder Winchester Senior Center

#### DON'T CALL IT EXERCISE. CALL IT FUN

Living Well Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash

LINE DANCING Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.



\$10/session

LOW-IMPACT FITNESS with MJ Mondays and Thursdays 9:45Wednesdays at 3:00

### **LIVING WELL DOWNTOWN** 35 East Market Street, Wabash

First Friday in September Sept. 2nd, 4:00 to 8:00 PM POP IN FOR FREE POPCICLES

Living Well Downtown 35 East Market Street, Wabash

> T.G.I.F. 2-6:00 pm Fridays Living Well Downtown

### **DO DROP IN** Tuesdays & Wednesdays

**1:00-6:00 pm** For Puzzles, Games, TV, free

beverage and snacks, or just "Drop In"

and enjoy our beautiful downtown view.

Living Well Downtown 35 East Market Street, Wabash



### ASK A TEENAGER Tuesday, Sept. 20

Bring your devices and your questions Heartland Career Center Tech students will be here to assist you.

9:30—10:30 At Living Well Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond St., Wabash

1:00—2:00 At Living Well Downtown 35 East Market Street, Wabash



FOOTCARE Living Well Winchester Senior Center

By Appointment Call (260) 563-4475

\$25—Bring your own basin and towel

260-563-4475

239 Bond Street, Wabash, Indiana 46992

### SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SENIC

September 2022 Winchester Center & Liv

DAILY ACTIVITIES	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday				
	9:45 Low Impact Fitness		*Foot Care				
NEW IN	11:00 *Lunch*	11:00 *Lunch*	8:30 Line I				
	11:30 Beginning Euchre	1-6:00 "Do Drop In"	11:00 *Lun				
SEPTEMBER	12:00 Euchre \$1	5:30 Yoga, \$10	12:00 \$1 E				
Lifelong Learning	*Lunch by Reservation		1-3:00 "Do				
with Lori Overmyer	(Call 260-563-4475)		3:00 Low I				
	Community Cunhoard						
WRITING CLASS	Community Cupboard Hours:	JOIN US TO CELEBR					
Tuesdays in	Mon & Tues 3-5:30	JAMES DEAN					
September	Wed CLOSED	Thurs., Sept. 22; 1:00 to 4:					
Tehising	Thurs & Fri 10-12:30 Winchester Center						
Beginning Sept. 6	Sat & Sun CLOSED	239 Bond Street, Wabash					
11:30—1:00							
Winchester	5	6 WRITING CLUB	7				
Senior Center	★CLOSED FOR★	11:30 AM to 1:00 PM					
239 Bond Street, Wabash		CLASSICS BOOK CLUB	1-6:00 "				
		"The Great Gatsby" 2:00-4:00 PM	Living W 35 East				
MODERN		1—6 PM "Do Drop In"	55 East				
<b>BOOK CLUB</b>		Living Well Downtown					
The Keeper of	12 11.20 Paginning Euchro	13	14				
Happy Endings	12 11:30 Beginning Euchre	WRITING CLUB	14				
September 12 3:00 to 5:00 PM	MODERN BOOK CLUB	11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	1-6:00 "				
Winchester Senior Center	"The Keeper of Happy Endings" 3:00 to 5:00 PM	Winchester Center	Living W				
239 Bond Street, Wabash	Winchester Center	239 Bond Street	35 East				
	7:00 Wabash Community						
SUNDAY	Band Rehearsal						
SUNDAY CONCERT	19	20 TECH ASSISSTANCE	21 <b>DO</b>				
IN THE		9:30 to 10:30 AM,	1:00				
PARK	11:30 Beginning Euchre	Winchester Center	Winch				
September 18		WRITING CLASS 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	239 Bond				
2:00 PM Wabash City Park Pavilion		Winchester Center	1-6:00 "				
		Tech Assistance 1:00 to 2:00 PM	Living W				
		Living Well Downtown	35 East				
CLASSICS BOOK CLUB	26	27 Habits of Happy People 11:30	28 Adam R				
	11:30 Beginning Euchre	WRITING CLASS	DOMINO				
The Great		11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	Winche				
Gatsby Tuesday,		Winchester Center	1-6:00 ° Ice Cream So				
September 6 2:00 to 4:00 PM	7:00 Wabash Community Band Rehearsal	1:30 PM BINGO WITH BEN 35 East Market Street, Wabash	4:00 PM				
	Winchester Center	3:00 PM MEN'S	Living V				
Winchester Senior Center	239 Bond Street	<b>DISCUSSION GROUP</b> 35 East Market Street, Wabash	35 East				
		55 Last Walket Succe, Wabash	Purdu				

### **R CENTER MONTH**

ing Well Downtown

y 2* \$20 Dancing 1ch* 1chre 10rop In" mpact Fitness	Thursday 9:45 Low Impact Fitness 11:00 *Lunch* 11:30 Mah Jongg Lesson 1:00 Special Events	Friday 11:00 *Lunch* Beginning Euchre 11:30—12:30 Mah Jongg Practice 12:30 to 2:30 PM 12:00 \$1 Euchre 2-6:00 PM T.G.I.F.
ATE :00 PM	1 11:30 AM –1:00 PM MAH JONGG LESSON 12:00 LifeBridge Bingo 1:00 Sam Piercy Winchester Center	2 Beginning Euchre 11:30—12:30 FIRST FRIDAY 4:00 pm—8:00 pm Living Well Downtown 35 East Market Street
<b>Do Drop In"</b> Vell Downtown Market Street	<ul> <li>8 White Elephant Bingo 11:30 to 12:30 Winchester Center 239 Bond Street</li> <li>1:00 Birthday Party Mike Almon Winchester Center</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>9 Beginning Euchre 11:30—12:30 Winchester Sr. Center 239 Bond Street</li> <li>Mah Jongg Practice 12:30 to 2:30 PM Winchester Center 239 Bond Street</li> </ul>
<b>Do Drop In"</b> Vell Downtown Market Street	15 11:30 AM -1:00 PM MAH JONGG LESSON Winchester Center 239 Bond Street 1:00 Bingo Party Winchester Center Hosted by Rolling Meadows	16 10:00 *Senior Box Distribution Beginning Euchre 11:30—12:30 Winchester Center Mah Jongg Practice 12:30 to 2:30 PM Winchester Center
AINOES -2:30 pm ester Center Street, Wabash Do Drop In" Vell Downtown Market Street	22 GROCERY BINGO 11:30 to 12:30 Winchester Center 239 Bond Street 11:30 AM –1:00 PM MAH JONGG LESSON JAMES DEAN CELEBRATION 1:00 TO 4:00 pm Winchester Center	23 Beginning Euchre 11:30—12:30 Winchester Sr. Center 239 Bond Street Mah Jongg Practice 12:30 to 2:30 PM Winchester Center 239 Bond Street
togers Sings 11 DES 1-2:30 PM ester Sr. Center <b>'Do Drop In''</b> cial & Adam Rogers Meals in a Mug Vell Downtown : Market Street	29 PURDUE EXTENSION 1:00 Meals in a Mug BYO Mug Winchester Center 239 Bond Street	30 Beginning Euchre 11:30—12:30 Winchester Center 239 Bond Street Mah Jongg Practice 12:30 to 2:30 PM Winchester Center 239 Bond Street
EXTENSION	September is National	Senior Center Month

### AMERICAN MAH JONGG LESSONS

Thursdays September 8, 15, 22 11:30 to 1:00 PM



Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash Game Boards Provided Sign up in Advance to Purchase Your Official Mah Jongg Playing Card Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash

### MAH JONGG PRACTICE



Fridays in Sept. 12:30 to 2:30 Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash

### BEGINNING EUCHRE



Fridays in September 11:30 to 12:30 PM Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash



### **SIGN UP TODAY** FOR THE BOOKCLUBS AT LIVING WELL WINCHESTER SENIOR CENTER Call (260) 563-4475

### THE CLASSICS

The Classics Book Club is an opportunity to revisit novels from the 1800s and 1900s. Many read these books as high school students, but reading them as adults will provide an insight that was not possible during the teenage years.

As we discuss the universal themes and discover how much time really hasn't changed, we will share memories and stories as we develop friendships. The time allowed for the meetings is two hours. That may be too long on some days, and other days we may long for more hours.



### **Modern Fiction**

Who doesn't love a great story with some intrigue, maybe a little romance? The books selected for our Book Club are meant to entertain the reader. There may be lessons to learn, but mostly we'll observe characters, learn about new locations and events, and enjoy exchanging opinions and insights. We've allowed two hours to meet, but we will be flexible. You are responsible for getting your own book. They are on Amazon.



NICHAEL KORYTA

three genera-tions of women beginning during WWII. The women search for happy endings.





Poor choices are often made for the right reasons. Set during the Depression, acts of conscious are debated.

Christmas is stressful. What happens when we cancel our traditions. Grisham breaks his mold and shows us.

#### YOU WILL NEED THE BOOK TO READ IN ADVANCE. THESE ARE AMAZON PRICES:

The Keeper of Happy Endings - \$9.99 Sept. 12

- The Great Gatsby \$4.90 Sept. 6 So Cold the River - \$16.19
  - The Scarlet Letter \$5.99

  - Sold on a Monday \$9.39
- Last Christmas in Paris \$13.49

Skipping Christmas - \$7.59



September is National Senior Center Month www.livingwellinwabashcounty.org 260-563-4475 Page 10



Winchester Senior Center

Open to any sewer who would like to quilt. The quilts are donated to be given to clients locally served by other local agencies.

Our quilters are all ages who like to sew and have a heart for others.

Each sewer brings a dish to Share in a potluck lunch.

Blanket Binders Meets the 2nd Tuesday Every Other Month.

260-563-4475

Staying in touch is important. Sign up to have us call you. You tell us how often to call. (260) 563-4475

FRIENDLY CALLER

PROGRAM

Staying home?

### YOUNG AT HEART FREE "STAY at HOME FUN PACKET" Created for you by the Winchester Senior Center Team

We will Mail it at No Charge to Seniors Who Rarely Leave Home. Active seniors may pick up a free packet at Living Well Winchester Senior Center 239 Bond Street, Wabash and Living Well Downtown, 35 East Market Street

239 Bond Street, Wabash, Indiana 46992

Get Relief From the Heat Living Well

**Downtown** 

**Opens** as a

COOLING

CENTER

On

Afternoons of

90° or Hotter.

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#### **A Flavorful Meal for Fall** With Substitutions For Allergies and Other Dietary restrictions

Warm, delectable dishes go hand-in-hand with cool fall evenings when the crisp air sends you to the kitchen for a filling meal. Look no further than easy recipes like meatballs that pack fulfilling flavor to feed your family when the autumn temperatures dip.

These Beef Meatballs with Garlic and Herbs can be the perfect solution anytime you're craving a warm, comforting meal.

Paired with a tomato-based sauce, the meatballs are baked before being topped with Parmesan cheese and parsley then served hot for a dish that warms you from the inside-out. While preparing the meatballs, be sure to wet your hands prior to shaping them as it helps prevent the meat from sticking to your hands.

Find more comforting fall recipes at beefandlambnz.com.

### Beef Meatballs with Garlic and Herbs

Prep time: 15 minutes Cook time: 25 minutes Servings: 4

#### Meatballs:

Oil for the pan

1 pound ground beef (chicken, turkey, whole hog sausage, or venison)

1 cup fresh white breadcrumbs (can use Gluten Free/GF panko crumbs with a one to one substitution)

3 cloves garlic, crushed (if allergic to garlic you can use white pepper; it is not the same as garlic, but it gives a zip to it)

1 egg, lightly beaten (can use a commercial egg substitute or google for other substitutes)

3 tablespoons milk (can use soy or almond milk)

 $1 \frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons Worcestershire sauce (GF is available on Amazon)

1 teaspoon dried mixed herbs, such as parsley, thyme and oregano

salt and pepper, to taste

#### **Tomato Sauce:**

Oil for the pan

1 onion, finely chopped (can use scallions if allergic to onion)

2 cloves garlic, sliced (white pepper is an option, but it is not the same)

1 can (14 ounces) chopped tomatoes, in juice

1 1/2-2 cups vegetable stock (GF is available; be careful—low sodium stock often has gluten)

1 tablespoon tomato paste

1 teaspoon sugar

1 bay leaf

salt and pepper, to taste

#### **To Serve:**

1/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese (vegan, gluten free, dairy free is available locally at Kroger)

1/2 cup roughly chopped parsley leaves

#### To make meatballs: Preheat oven to 425 F.

Lightly oil deep baking dish or skillet. Mix beef, breadcrumbs, garlic, egg, milk, Worcestershire sauce, mixed herbs and salt and pepper, to taste, then shape into eight meatballs and place in prepared baking dish.

To make tomato sauce: In heavy saucepan over low heat, heat dash of oil and add onion and garlic. Cook until onion is soft, about 10 minutes. Add tomatoes, stock, tomato paste, sugar, bay leaf and salt and pepper, to taste.

Simmer 10 minutes to allow flavors to mingle and liquid to reduce. Remove from heat, cool about 5 minutes Remove bay leaf. In food processor, process until sauce is smooth.

Pour sauce over meatballs and bake 25 minutes, turning meatballs after 15 minutes. Serve hot sprinkled with Parmesan cheese and chopped parsley.

(Courtesy of Family Features) Substitution suggestions from Beverly Ferry)

Page 12 September is National Senior Center Month www.livingwellinwabashcounty.org 260-563-4475

### WABASH COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT TALK

#### Plan Ahead...

When scheduling rides, calling days, weeks, or even a month prior to the appointment is helpful. If you know it a month in advance you can call us, but if your plans change you must call to change or cancel the ride. That frees up the spot for another rider who needs it. Calling the same day, the last minute, limits our ability to provide rides or adjust the schedule.

#### Flexibility...

Please tell the dispatcher if you can be flexible as to the time or even the day of the trip.

#### Assistance...

Drivers can help you from the outside doors to the vehicle, but cannot go inside to look for you or help you. You must be ready and watching for them. **Bring a helper...** 

Do you need help getting ready to leave your house or getting inside your destination? An assistant or helper for you rides free of charge. Please tell the dispatcher at the when scheduling the ride.

**Bag Limit...** Riders are limited to 4 bags or larger items like cases of pop. An additional fee of \$3/bag or item is charged for anything over the limit.

Bring shopping bags to make it easier and cheaper for you. The plastic bags at stores are not strong and so you could end up with multiple items which could easily fit into a larger reusable shopping bag.

The exception to this is with food pantries which limit people to once a month. Understanding that situation, we will transport what you are given by pantries. We also provide free transportation for all ages to and from any pantry or soup kitchen.

#### Service Animals...

are allowed without charge. Please tell our dispatcher at the time of scheduling the ride.

Pets are allowed in cages and are charged the public transit rate for the ride. Drivers will not carry the pets. It is up to the rider to do so. Please tell the dispatcher when scheduling the ride.

Call as far in advance as possible for a ride.

## (260) 563-4475

#### 260-563-4475

239 Bond Street, Wabash, Indiana 46992

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### SEPTEMBER is NATIONAL SENIOR CENTER MONTH

### IN MY OPIONION

IN MY ODIONION is my soap box on aging. By Beverly Ferry, CEO Living Well in Wabash County CoA, Inc.

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Originally decreed by President Regan, *September is National Senior Center Month.* In almost twenty years of working with an agency geared to the needs of seniors I remain amazed at the controversial nature of the word senior when connected to our age or stage of life. A senior in high school or a senior manager do not carry the same negative connotation.

The word senior denotes a high ranking, even superiority, but when used to describe anything related to our age, it is a verbal toxin. Many hear senior as the word for frail and elderly, the end of the road, the lack of their value and impact on society. Is that what it really means?

I for one do not think so, but I understand that others struggle with it. Old is fifteen years older than you. At fifteen, thirty is ancient. At thirty it is forty-five. At fifty, it is sixty-five. It is always just beyond us. The younger we are, the greater the age divide.

Here is the straight scoop. We could die at any time, at any age. Yes, the odds are greater the longer we are alive, but denying it or dreading it detracts from our value as active and engaged adults. How we live our senior years should define us, but honestly, it is a lot easier to age with money than to age without it.

It is my honor to work with three generations of seniors at Living Well Winchester Senior Center. We do not have an age when you are old enough to attend. We have had participants in their forties. The age span of participants runs the gamut from 50 to 100. It is common to have a senior with their adult child, or even a grandchild within the traditional age span of "senior."

Does using the word "senior" keep you from participating? If we drop the word senior and call it Living Well Winchester Center or Living Well Community Center, are you more likely to participate? I would like to hear your opinion of using the word senior in our name.

Lumping all older adults into the category of frail and elderly is a misconception and unfairly describes most seniors. A good "senior" center is a safe, interesting place for active, older adults as they age, at any age. Attending activities at the senior center should be about finding common ground with fellow citizens who can relate to the experiences you have had and expanding your horizons. The Greatest Generation was the first generation to age independently. Many came home from war and used the GI Bill to obtain college degrees. This put us on a trajectory never seen before in history. How they lived their retirements was new to our culture. The last century was about extending the lifespan. This century is about improving that extended life.

A good senior center impacts the community making it stronger. A good senior center contributes to seniors living independently longer.

Post COVID has been a slow reopening and return to full programming. When we closed our doors, I predicted closing would be easier than re-opening and that proved true. Over the last twenty years I have come to believe that isolation is the enemy of healthy aging and senior centers are the antidote. COVID proved that to be true. Isolation seemed to speed up the aging process. Those who were elderly prior to COVID became frail and elderly. Isolation took its toll. Why? We are not meant to be alone. People often confuse independence and isolation. There is a fine line, but once you cross that line there is a big slide. The problem is that we do not recognize what isolation is doing to us. Connecting to a senior center when you do not see yourself as needing it, is laying the groundwork for when your life changes. My mother thought she was going to be able to control her aging like she controlled her weight. Our senior center helped her as her life changed.

Elderly is commonly confused with senior. They are not the same. Our attitude, physical, and mental condition impact how we age no matter the number. Many active, older adults find great satisfaction as volunteers at senior centers. It often lessens the stigma and fear of aging.

A senior center provides tools for older adults to find their potential, to soar when soaring is unexpected. I say that at Living Well Winchester Senior Center we help seniors discover and achieve their potential. That is the difference between a senior center and anywhere else. We are all about peeling away our self-doubt and exposing our potential. Yes, I said potential.

My mother's lifelong dream was to paint. I could never figure out what prevented her from doing so. I did not get it. She was waiting to retire to take lessons. Dad was her job. While he lived, she did not see herself as retired. She took her first painting class in her mid-eighties. Terry Pulley looked at her painting and then looked at her and said, "You have potential!" That is when I became convinced that our center, like others across the country, peel the layers of self-doubt away by revealing what each of us can do. My mother felt the youngest she had ever felt. She painted weekly after that. As she aged, she needed increased help. Still, she fought on to paint. (Continued from page 14)

In celebration of National Senior Center Month September 2022, we are launching an expansion of our lifelong learning programs. Lori Overmyer taught English at Wabash High School. In her career, she helped my sons, as well as hundreds of other teenagers, achieve their potential. In September 2022 she has turned her time and talents toward helping older adults peel those layers back and learn new things.

We invite you to celebrate National Senior Center Month by checking out our new additions to our lineup of programs and to let us know what else you would like us to offer or even, what you are willing to share with others.

Happy Senior Center Month. May we all age with joy, purpose, and potential.

Beverly Ferry

### **ANSWER KEY FROM PAGE 4**



260-563-4475

#### 239 Bond Street, Wabash, Indiana 46992

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Helpful Information for New Participants in an Area Five Senior Lunch Site. In Wabash County lunch is served at Winchester Senior Center at 239 Bond Street in Wabash and Scout Hall in Warvel Park in North Manchester.

- By donation at 60 +
- By donation if younger than 60 but attending with spouse who is 60 +
- \$4.50 if 59 & younger w/out a spouse who is 60+
- Deadline to sign up for lunch: By noon, 2 business days in advance
- No special dietary requests
- Provided by contract with Area Five Community Services from Logansport.



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