LOCAL SCENE

Please check with individual organizers to find out if your event has been canceled or postponed.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4
- Virtual Reese’s Reads Book club, Warrenton Scenic Regional Library Facebook page, 5 p.m.
- Warrenton Lions Club, 601 Fairgrounds Road, Warrenton, 6 p.m.
- Grief Group, Martin Funeral Home, Warrenton, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Marine Corps League Detachment 1339, 4 p.m.
- Warrenton County Commission, County Administration Building, 9 a.m.
- Warrenton Planning and Zoning Commission, virtual, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5
- Holy Rosary Fish Fry, 716 E. Booneslick Rd, Warrenton, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Wright City Food Pantry Fish Dinner, Wright Way Diner, 10 Wildcat Dr, Suite E, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6
- Virtual storytime for preschoolers, Warrenton Scenic Regional Library Facebook page, 10 a.m.
- The Warren County Chapter of Missouri Right to Life meeting, Fellowship Baptist Church, 1630 South Highway 47, Warrenton, 9:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9
- Virtual storytime for preschoolers, Warrenton Scenic Regional Library Facebook page, 10 a.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly, Grace Bible Church, 25445 S. Highway 47, Warrenton, 5:30 p.m.
- Innsbrook Board of Trustees, virtual, 5 p.m.
- Warrenton County Commission, County Administration Building, 9 a.m.
- Warrenton County Ambulance District, Board meeting, Base 1, 604 Fairgrounds

Silent Auction — Potential bidders browse a small silent auction of items that were donated to help raise money for ag classes in the Warren County School District. A large number of community members came to the Warrenton High School gym Feb. 26 to give their support. Adam Rollins photo.

HOMELESS

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any available homes for people who receive Section 8 government housing subsidies.

“Our waiting list has been closed for almost a year, because there’s so many individuals ... but nowhere for them to go,” Antoniou said. She added that at least 13 landlords stopped accepting Section 8 vouchers last year, drastically decreasing the number available to municipalities. It’s funding that is out of reach to us as individual agencies,” Bernthal said. “But if we can all come together to the table and figure out what funding is available ... having this task force will open the door.”

Going forward, the task force will begin meeting regularly to discuss how more short- and long-term housing can be provided for people who are struggling. However, there won’t necessarily be a quick fix. An effective solution could take years to accomplish, advocates said.

For now, anyone who finds themselves struggling with housing can place a phone call to 2-1-1 to be connected to social services that can offer help. Anyone with access to Facebook can also send a private message to Jane Cole Kelley to request assistance from the Warren County Fragile and Homeless community group.

Anyone who wants to provide support for struggling individuals can contact NECAC or Agape to offer support, or become a member of the Warren County Fragile and Homeless group on Facebook.

Homeless are from all walks of life

Over the last week, The Record met with six people who have struggled to find permanent shelter. They come from various backgrounds, with a variety of circumstances that led to a loss of home. Most of them either lost their job, leading to eviction, or lost a family support system that they relied on for housing.

Here are some of their stories. To protect the privacy of each individual, we’re only using their first names.

- Vincent is a man in his 30s, a native of the Wright City area. He was forced to leave his home in October 2019 and has lived in his truck ever since. He’s looking for employment and housing, but suffers from a muscular disorder that makes it dangerous to drive.

- "I want an education, to learn to do a job online (from home)." But I’ve gotta find a home.

- Sisters Sharon and Luwana are living in a tiny mobile home provided for people who are struggling. However, there won’t necessarily be a quick fix. An effective solution could take years to accomplish, advocates said.

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