



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

A good time to clear closets

A few years ago, there was an article about hoarding in one of the home improvement magazines. Regardless of the mess, a hoarder is always unorganized.

After reading the article, I was able to determine that I am not a hoarder. Messy sometimes, yes. Disorganized, yes. But, to my credit, I try.

There is a reality show on television called "Hoarders." Few of us would qualify for that program, although we might be thankful if we did. Perhaps they pay participants (I did not read that; I imagined it).

Anyway, how did I get on this subject?

I guess my mind has been on my own home. I've begun what may turn into a good plan. With COVID-19 restrictions, I am spending a great deal more time at home.

I am both messy and definitely disorganized at times, but I have invented a way to better organize my home.

I am thankful I don't have a pantry, as experts tell us that's often the messiest room in the home.

I did have the satisfaction of unloading four long shelves in my hall closet where I have canned food and nonperishable items. I call it my mini pantry.

My goodness, it was enlightening finding items I'd forgotten I had and those I'd bought two or three times thinking I had run out. I must say, it looks lovely now.

OK, I said I had a plan. You know we seniors need plans and a good one is to take one

place in the house at a time and organize it. What a great sense of achievement, which results in a good feeling.

Believe it or not, in my small home I have three large closets or storage areas, two junk drawers and cupboards under and over both the sinks.

I will be busy until Christmas if I tackle one area each day.

Today I'm tackling the linen closet. I do lots of praying and thinking during my feeble attempts, but it's a sure way of realigning my life. Some people sing and maybe there's a song I could write. I could call it "Bless This Mess."

Another area I don't dare look at yet are my six bookcases.

So many knickknacks have found their way into and between my many books including pieces of my ladybug collection here, there, and everywhere.

A dear friend who is with the Lord now used to call my home a "happy house" when she came over to play Pinochle. I miss her positive attitude.

And for the record, I am not a slob. I just need to learn prioritization daily and not just once a year.

A deterrent to being messy sometimes crosses my mind, "What if I died and my kids did an estate sale and let everyone thumb through my disorganization?"

I will keep you posted on my mundane efforts and, maybe, once this pandemic says goodbye (and means it), I will invite you over.



Mayor's Message

by Henry Balensifer III

Turning neighborhoods into campgrounds

Warrenton has the most to offer when it comes to camping on the North Oregon Coast.

However, the steadily growing free-for-all, with lawns becoming crowded campsites instead of neighborhood green spaces, has agitated many residents.

The issue is not residents owning RVs and storing or prepping them at their houses. The issue is the transformation of residential neighborhoods into RV parks.

Usually, there are a few trailers here and there, scattered about our city's lawns during Buoy 10 season or during the occasional family visit.

We have a permit process for that. Admittedly it's not the best, but we are working on that.

When COVID hit, we initially evicted short-term campers and visitors.

However, it went from wondering if visitors would come back, to having an influx of visitors, restless from state mandates/restrictions.

Now, some neighborhood streets -- already cramped with the homeowners' cars and trailers -- are having to fit visitor cars and trailers, exacerbating the issue.

Locals have complained about having their neighborhoods turn into campgrounds and all that entails: illegal fires (that includes burning of trash), increased litter, raucous and loud behavior late at night, and -- worst of all -- people dumping their trailer septic into ditches or wetlands, which are both a

health and safety issue and aggravating for everyone who has to live next to it.

In some cases, people abandon their trailer or RV in town, the proper disposal of which costs the public thousands.

While the bulk of complaints have to do with recreational visitors, recent legislation regarding houseless individuals is also being considered in how this issue is approached in our city.

The City Commission conducted a work session on this issue in June and reviewed a proposed framework for regulation this week.

As I see it, the issue at hand is not a question of how do we allow RV camping in neigh-

borhoods. The question is *what kind of city do we want to live in?*

Should residents be able to live in a neighborhood, or a de facto RV Park?

The question is broad, and we will be tasking the Planning Commission to delve into the issue, and then the City and Planning commissions will have a joint session to finalize the proposal, which will go forward for public hearings.

I do not anticipate most of this work to be moving forward for votes until the end of this year, or early next year, but I think it's important to note this is being approached with careful and frequent deliberation.

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