

The Ireton Informer

April 2020

Vol. 227

Special Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

This message is appearing in lieu of an April edition of *The Informer*. As a consequence of the coronavirus crisis, there just isn't much happening to justify a full publication. This could also prove true for the month of May. If it does, I'll circulate another Grand Knight's message to update the Council on pertinent matters.

That said, I do want to update you on a handful of items. First, PSD John Barrett passed away on March 21, 2020 at the age of eighty-nine. Several of you knew John as PGK of Council 395 in Glen Allen and as a Past State Deputy. Also frequently presided at third-degree ceremonies and led the Third Degree held at the BIC in October of 2019. Indeed, as recently as just a couple of weeks ago I expected him to be at the now cancelled third-degree ceremony that had been scheduled for March 23. Brother Barret's wife has asked to be left alone for a few days to deal with this situation.

Our State Deputy Bob Szerszynski intends to arrange for a proper tribute after the coronavirus crisis ends.

Speaking of the virus crisis, I want to reiterate that all in-person

The monthly Council meeting scheduled for April 19 and the monthly BIC meeting scheduled for April 8 have been cancelled.

Knights activities at every level are cancelled for the foreseeable future. These include but are not limited to: all degree ceremonies, our April business meeting, our Public Service Awards and the state meeting scheduled to take place here in Chesterfield the first week of May. Currently the State Council is working on options to handle some of the business that was scheduled for the state meeting.

The State Advocate has also reached out to all Grand Knights in the commonwealth to let us know that thought is being given at the state level as to how councils will conduct elections amid the coronavirus crisis. I mention this because I believe it likely that the May business meeting may also be canceled.

I will confer with our Nominations Committee and have a slate of nominees for office circulated by early May. In accordance with our by-laws, we will plan to hold elections at our monthly meeting on June 14. This schedule maintains a continuity of leadership for our council.

Finally, the coronavirus crisis makes all economic activity more difficult and is presenting many obstacles in the operation and sale of the BIC. Please see the attached information from Paul Clements, BIC President. Before the virus, we had tentatively planned to vacate the building by August 1. However, we feel that date is subject to change for many reasons.



In Service to All

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So while those affairs are being directed by the BIC Board, I am proceeding as I have previously mentioned with holding a few meetings following the sale of the BIC at the Hampton Inn located on Hull Street not far from the BIC. I will also continue to explore possible moves to either St. Augustine or Epiphany. However, I am going to give Fr. John and Fr. Wayne a while to get accustomed to conducting an online ministry before I gather more information on that front.

I hope to see you in person later this spring. Please pray for everyone suffering from the coronavirus. If you do not hear from me before April 12th, let me also wish each of you and your families a most blessed Easter.

Vivat Jesus,

Matt McGuire

JK



Bishop Ireton Center: April Update

At the March meeting of the Bishop Ireton Center Board, directors were presented with two contracts to purchase the building. The first contract discussed was from a buyer who wanted to use the building as a veterans and senior center with a purchase price of \$750,000 that came with no evidence of financing and with the option to stop the sale without full use approval from the county. The second contract discussed was for \$700,000 with evidence of financing and with a 45-60 day study period to communicate with county officials on potential plans for the building for use as a funeral service center. There were two other individuals who had expressed interest in buying the building but did not submit an offer.

The board unanimously approved the sale for \$700,000.

Under the terms of the contract, the buyer is hoping to close the transaction around June 1. After that date, the buyer is willing to rent the building back to the Board for execution of existing contracts through July. Noting that the last planned event of July is the Southeast Crab Feast, the board decided to cancel that event and plan on the last rental date as being July 18.

Update since the March BIC Board Meeting

BIC Board President, Paul Clements, has been working with the realtor to provide the buyer with building documentation, plans, and service contracts. The buyer has had difficulty getting responses from the county due to the Corona-virus crisis, and indicated that an extension to the study period may be needed. A roof inspection has been scheduled for March 26.

At the realtor's suggestion, the BIC building manager is preparing a list of the items in the building to see if the buyer is interested in purchasing the items that we do not intend to keep. The items that are obviously property of the Council including records, awards, statuary, stew equipment, office equipment and memorabilia are all items that will have to be removed under the direction of the BIC Board. Other items, such as tables, chairs, carts, dishes, utensils, pots and pans, etc. will be discussed with the buyer before plans are made for other disposal.

It should be noted that the BIC had very scarce rentals for February, which is usually a low rental month. Although March had more scheduled events, all booking were cancelled. As of this date, all April events have been cancelled as well. Additional cancellation of events have been received for May, June and July events as well. The BIC Board will be consulted in the next few days regarding the wisdom of planning to run just a few, low profit events after closing.

In summary, please understand that we have a contract for a sale. The closing date has not been set. The buyer still has the right to cancel if the study period presents unknown problems. We are not sure of what events, if any, will be held between now and the end of July. These are all ongoing matters that will be communicated to corporation members as needed.

*Paul Clements, PGK
President BIC Board*

Pope Francis's

Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic



O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Please be advised:

The Bishop Ireton Center

Is Closed until further notice.

The building is not being staffed or cleaned during the current health shutdown. We respectfully ask that members refrain from using the building during this time.

If you have needs, questions or concerns, please contact

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