

NORTH SWEEPS

Cougar girls, boys win Conference Indiana crowns
North's Kyla Kante leads South's Chloe Roien



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SPORTS | B1

The Herald-Times

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SUPPLY & DEMAND?

Researchers: Boosting housing supply should lower prices — but dangers lurk

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the seventh installment in a multipart series on the local housing market.

By Boris Ladwig
The Herald-Times

The addition of more houses, including duplexes, should put downward pressure on prices, according to more than half a dozen economists and housing experts interviewed by The Herald-Times.

However, some academic research suggests upzoning, or allowing greater housing density, causes land prices to rise and displaces low-income earners.

Two Indiana University professors also warn tinkering with complex systems can produce unintended and potentially irreversible consequences.

The Bloomington City Council last week began public hearings on proposed local zoning changes, the most controversial of which would allow duplexes in many neighborhoods that in the past few decades have allowed only single-family homes.

Proponents of the zoning changes, including Mayor John Hamilton, city planning staff and some city council members, argue allowing people to turn single-family homes into duplexes will increase the local housing supply, which should lower prices and offer more people opportunities to buy a home. Proponents also say greater population density near the city center — rather than on the fringes or even farther away — also would reduce the city's

SEE SUPPLY | PAGE A10



If you want to take part

WHAT: Bloomington City Council virtual meeting.

TOPIC: Allowing more duplexes in Bloomington.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

WHERE: On Zoom.

LINK: tinyurl.com/k5kcdt2t

AT TOP: Construction workers do excavating for new homes April 20 on East Holland Drive just south of Bloomington. ABOVE RIGHT: A duplex is seen on South Oaklawn Circle Drive on Bloomington's southeast side. (Rich Janzaruk / Herald-Times)

Mask Drive co-founder shifting her focus

Clark steps back from face mask project, but it will continue

By Carol Kugler
The Herald-Times

What began with a serendipitous meeting with Nola Hartman, an artisan who was sewing face masks, and led to the formation of the Bloomington Mask Drive, which supplies free masks at eight stations across the city, is coming to an end for Dr. Kelly Clark.

Clark, who owns and operates Patient PT, a physical therapy clinic, is resigning her volunteer position with the mask drive as her own business continues to grow.

"It's really hard for me to totally pull my attention from it," Clark said of the mask project. "It is so important to me, and Nola is so important to me. It's hard to focus on my true calling."



CLARK

The Bloomington Mask Drive began in March 2020 just as people in Indiana and the U.S. were learning what COVID-19 was. The mask drive volunteers celebrated their one-year anniversary this March, at a time when Clark and others thought there would no longer be a need for face masks.

But there is still a need, and mask drive should collect its 60,000th mask soon. To date, the mask project has distributed more than 57,500 face masks. All the masks are made by volunteers and distributed free of charge at mask stations scattered around Monroe County. There's even one outside of Clark's business on Bloomington's north side.

Although she will no longer be heading up the volunteer efforts, Clark will maintain the face mask distribution center near her office.

During the past year, it was easier for Clark to devote time to the mask drive because her clients canceled their visits as

SEE MASKS | PAGE A4

A time for trees

Saplings may need protection from cicadas this spring

By Carol Kugler
The Herald-Times

A steady line of area residents lined up with masks and space between them while they waited for their turn to pick up a free native tree seedling at Bloomington's east and near-west locations Saturday morning.

By 11 a.m. there were no more American hazelnut trees at the eastside store, but people were happy to take a red oak or a tulip poplar, which is Indiana's state tree. The fourth option, buttonbush, is a species that prefers wet areas and is a favorite nectar source for bees and butterflies.

For anyone planting tree seedlings, the coming 17-year cicadas that will emerge soon can pose a threat since the females will make slits in tree limbs that are about pencil-width to lay their eggs, causing those branches to die.

For small seedlings, Sycamore Land Trust officials were recommending people use netting with a less than 1/8-inch diameter to cover the whole tree, gathering the netting at the bottom and zip-tying it near the dirt.

The trees given away Saturday are 1-3 years old and were grown at the state's Vallonia Tree Nursery.

Even with the threat from cicada, Sycamore Land Trust communication and membership

SEE TREES | PAGE A4



Ginger Guschwan, right, picks out a tree seedling at the Sycamore Land Trust booth at Bloomington's East, watched by family members, from left, Matt, Grover and Maggie Guschwan. The seedlings were given away on Saturday as part of an Arbor Day event. (Carol Kugler / Herald-Times)

TODAY'S WEATHER | BACK PAGE

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COVID-19 stats online

Area COVID-19 deaths and infections have slowed to the point that The Herald-Times is no longer running daily statistical updates on A1. Links to the latest state and county infection and vaccination data can be found at HeraldTimesOnline.com.

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Marikate Morrison of Bloomington picks out a red oak from the buckets of tree seedlings at Bloomingsford East on Saturday morning during the Sycamore Land Trust Arbor Day tree giveaway, which was sponsored by IU Health. (Carol Kugler / Herald-Times)

TREES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

director Kate Hammel said they do not discourage anyone planting trees. She quoted the trust's land stewardship manager Chris Fox, who quoted a Chinese proverb: "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

People should plant their seedlings as soon as possible to establish a good root structure, Hammel said.

If the damage to the newly planted seedling from cicadas is significant, the tree will sprout back from the root collar in the future as long as the roots are properly established.

Contact Carol Kugler at 812-331-4359, ckugler@heraldt.com or @ckugler on Twitter.

Fifty and Forward
TONIGHT AT 6PM

wfiu wfiu.org

MASKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

COVID-19 hit.

"All my clients canceled. Nobody thought about coming," she said. "As soon as the lockdown was over, people started coming back to the business," Clark added.

What Clark calls the "spring surge" of clients is now in full force and that is in large part why she's having to part ways with Bloomington Mask Drive. While a lot of what Clark has done for the drive is behind-the-scenes administrative work, it adds up and takes away from her ability to grow her own business. A recent need for more time with the Bloomington Mask Drive was what Clark said made her realize it was time to end her volunteer position.

"It became clear at a certain point that I need to make a break ... I'm

turning away business by spending so much time working with Bloomington Mask Drive."

What has surprised Clark is the continued need for face masks.

"The COVID pandemic is not ending," she said. "I don't want to stop the mask drive. The longer that masks are free and available in Bloomington, the odds are so much less of having a surge. I don't want to stop them at all but I do have to stop."

Currently, there are about two to three dozen volunteers who make the face masks, she said. They are currently creating about 1,000 face masks a week. Co-founder Nola Hartman provides the guidance for the mask-makers. And Bloomington Cleaners is cleaning the masks, for free, which helps the mask project continue to provide the necessary face masks during the current pandemic.

Getting masks

■ At the Endwright East in College Mall, just outside the Area 10 Agency on Aging entrance, 2894 E. Third St.

■ Outside the Patient PT clinic inside Executive Park North, 2620 N. Walnut St.

■ Outside the Comfort Keepers building at 4101 E. Third St.

■ Inside Wheeler Mission, 215 S. Westplex Ave. Just off West Third Street.

■ Inside the entrance off the parking lot of the Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave.

■ Outside South Central Community Action Program, 1500 W. 15th St.

■ On the porch of Hopscotch Coffee, 235 W. Dodds St.

■ At Luddy Hall, 700 N. Woodlawn Ave., on the Indiana University campus.

For more about Bloomington Mask Drive and the mask station locations, go to BloomingtonMaskDrive.com.

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