

I'm a Mount Prospect resident. I'm in my mid-30's working and studying from home during the Covid-19 pandemic.

February 8, 2020

I took my car into Grease Monkey to get it fixed today. It was the only repair shop within walking distance of my house. I walked back to Grease Monkey around 4:30 thinking they'd be done soon. They had it since 9:30 this morning after all. Instead I ended up waiting for more than an hour. They didn't charge me extra for the time, so it was fine.

As I waited, I saw on the news that there was an outbreak in China. That caught my attention. The reports I saw rolling along the bottom of the television said:

- Weather: 32 degrees-- 5:49 pm
- Car company (Ford) shuts down factories in China due to coronavirus.
- Grocery delivery services become life-lines in Wuhan
- Hubei Province-81 dead from corona
- 5 British citizens contract corona in French Ski resort
- Britain says that there was an evacuation flight from Wuhan, China with 200 on board
- [disease] is temporarily called "novel corona pneumonia"

March 14, 2020

2,175 cases in the United States

There was a run on toilet paper yesterday. You couldn't buy it because every store was out. Everyone was panic-buying toilet paper and hoarding it. River Trails Park District is closed until further notice. That means no more yoga or fitness center. Colleen, Kelly, Leah and Emily arrived early for the St. Patrick's Day party. They asked me to be Emily's godmother and of course I said yes! The party started at 3:00. We had somewhere between 20 and 30 people over. No one was afraid to gather together.

March 17, 2020

6,233 cases in the United States

Work is encouraging people to work from home. I went through a few more steps towards doing that myself. Everything in the cafeteria is wrapped in plastic. We're encouraged to eat at our desks. When I came home from work I found out the GRE was canceled.

March 18, 2020

I signed papers to work from home and rescheduled to take the GRE again in July.

My sister came into secondary contact with someone who had COVID-19. She'll be quarantined for a few weeks.

April 23, 2020- Day 33

The stay-at-home-order has been extended to May 30th. Everyone two-years-old and older is required to wear a mask. Leah, who is only 5, calls Covid-19 "the sickness". She said she didn't like "the sickness" and that she was bored because she couldn't see her school friends.

April 24, 2020- day 34

With everyone locked up in their houses, all the wild life is growing bolder. Coyotes were seen walking through Chicago and Mount Prospect alike. One family had a family of foxes make a den by their house/garage.

April 30, 2020

Around 1:15, I received a voicemail from Dominican University.

"Hey, Katie it's Kate, calling from Dominican University. Just calling to connect with you about the masters in Library and Information Science program. Just wanting to connect with you and let you know if you haven't taken the GRE yet, we are now going to be considering applications without the GRE due to COVID, since the GREs are all being cancelled.

So give me a call at --- so we can talk about getting an application in before they start requiring the GRE again. Hope to talk to you soon!"

I would need to send transcripts, write a 1-2 page essay and fill out the application. I heard that the pandemic had hit universities hard, but still....

I would need to get a 3.0 or higher to stay enrolled in Dominican University. If my GPA is lower than that, I'll be kicked out and I'd have to take the GRE again to be re enrolled.

June 27, 2020

Today, Emily Kay Anderson, my goddaughter, was baptized at First Lutheran Church in Stoughton Wisconsin, The pastor was Bill Lehman. The church stood at 310 East Washington Street. Only immediate family (and near immediate) were allowed to attend. There were eight of us. We were all required to wear masks, including the priest. It was a beautiful old church. Emily kept playing with the silver ring chained around my neck. Leah refused to wear a mask because it was hot and uncomfortable.

August 25, 2020

I went for a bike ride after work today (I'm working from home now). I rode past the park district pool which was never opened this year. When I returned, I saw on the news that there were riots all over Kenosha.

Later, Mom told me that Emily came home sick. She had a cough and a fever. The doctor said it was probably nothing serious but because of the times we live in, they had to be sure. So at a year and a month old, Emily was given a Covid-19 test. They shoved a swab all the way up her little nose likely far enough to say "hi" to a few brain cells. Emily has been clinging to her mother ever since. I don't blame her one bit. We'll find out if she has Covid-19 in 2-14 days.

August 26, 2020

Great news! Emily's fever has gone down!

September 3rd, 2020

Leah started kindergarten this week, she wore a mask the whole day, even during recess when she didn't have to. They practiced contact-less hugs and high-fives as well as learned to count. She's going to a physical school rather than staying home.

September 9th, 2020

6,378,550 Covid-19 cases in the United States

190,462 Covid-19 deaths in the United States

Mom was invited out to lunch for her birthday. It's cold and rainy out today so they'll be inside the restaurant. Mom said she'll keep her mask on the whole time except for when she's eating.

Later, Colleen face-timed Mom with Emily. Emily's face lit up in recognition. Mom was so certain that Emily wouldn't know her; believing that because she can't see them that often, Emily would forget her. Emily's smile made her day.

October 2, 2020

There were covid-19 cases in Saint Alphonsus Catholic Church. The church is a 5 minute drive from our house. Because of Covid-19 cases within the Saint Alphonsus Parish staff, Mass in church both daily and weekend cannot resume potentially until October 11. Outdoor mass on Sunday, October 4 at 11:00 am has been cancelled.

November 26, 2020--Thanksgiving

In years past, my family would celebrate thanksgiving by doing the Turkey Trot 5k near the city, and have bloody marys after the run/walk in a near-by restaurant. After that, we would have a

thanksgiving party at our house and invite 30-some relatives over for dinner. It's hectic and crazy but lots of fun. It's one of the few times I get to see all of my cousins, aunts and uncles.

This year was going to be different, even without the plague. Mom and Dad were thinking of just having immediate family members over. That was the plan. But if you listen to the news, the general consensus is to stay home and don't travel to see your family this Thanksgiving. So in the end, it was just my parents and I. It was around 8:30-9:00 in the morning that we went out to the woods near Glenview. Mom and Dad walked the trails and I ran them. Together we did a virtual Turkey Trot 5K. We had bloody marys at home on the couch. We prepared our thanksgiving feast around 3:30; a feast which we originally planned to share with 5-7 other people.

We talked to all of my siblings, nieces and in-laws via zoom call around 4:30. As with Easter, Thanksgiving night felt like a glorified sunday, yet I would hardly call it unpleasant. We still managed to have a nice Thanksgiving.

December 15, 2020

17,002,000 covid-19 cases in the United States
306,957 Covid-19 deaths in the United States

I earned a 3.8 GPA in my first semester of graduate classes! I'm staying in Dominican! I don't have to take the GRE anymore!

December 16, 2020

Illinois is distributing Covid-19 vaccines today!

December 18, 2020

Local healthcare workers are getting vaccines. Aunt mindy is supposed to get hers today too since she's a nurse.

The Bethlehem Star is supposed to be visible this weekend. It'll be another 800 years before it's visible again. I wish it was a clear night or that there wasn't so much light pollution.

December 26, 2020

This afternoon, Dad and my brother-in-law were watching football in the living room. Leah asked why the players didn't have masks on. Her dad told her that they were safe because they were outside.