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LOCAL

Bampa's House 5K going 'virtual'

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CORNING - The Fourth annual Bampa's House 5K Run/Walk, originally planned for Sept. 12 starting in Craig Park, will now be a 'virtual' race.

Pat Keeler, race director, said after discussions with Steuben County Public Health Director Darlene Smith, the Bampa's House Board of Directors decided Tuesday night to switch the event to an online format.

"We were looking forward to seeing people in person at the Fourth Annual Bampa's House 5K Run/Walk," Keeler said. "However, we have been notified by the Steuben County Health Department that we will be unable to race in person this year."

Smith said the Bampa's House 5K Run/Walk was going to draw more than 100 people, violating the state's current COVID-19 pandemic limit of 50 people or fewer.

"It's now going to be a virtual race," Smith said. "That's what I recommended."

People can complete a 5K (3.1-mile) run or walk on their own between now and Sept. 19, Keeler said. Upon completion of a run or walk, people can submit their time to pkeeler1@gmail.com and their name will be entered into a random drawing for prizes from the fundraiser's sponsors.

Keeler said Bampa's House website has a map of the Bampa's House 5K course if people would like to complete that course as their run or walk, or they can complete the 5K at a location of their choice.

"We will be mailing the race T-shirts to participants who signed up in time for a T-shirt," Keeler said. "We are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused. We will miss you and hope to see you in person next year."

Keeler said the purpose of the race is to raise money for Bampa's House and celebrate the life of Jim Dugan, the namesake of Bampa's House.

Jim, who was called Bampa by his grandchildren, was a lifelong resident of the Corning-Painted Post area, spending his career at Corning Community College, volunteering through the Lions Club and facilitating beer tastings at The Site on Bridge Street.

"Last year we had more than 160 people take part in the event," Keeler said. "Currently we have over 100 people pre-registered. I'm hopeful that we will get some more."

Bampa's House, organized as Corning Comfort Care Inc., is a non-profit organization focused on providing a safe and comfortable place for people to receive end-of-life care when home care is not an option.

For more information about the race or about Bampa's House, visit www.bampashouse.org.