

COVID-19 STORY

July 2020



Great day.

It was a hot Atlanta day a few weeks ago as my neighbors and I "social distanced" ourselves sitting on multi-colored lawn chairs at the end of our cul-de-sac refreshing ourselves with adult beverages to fight off the stifling heat and humidity. We talked about everything and we talked about nothing. We solved most US problems and even some of the world's.

Most of all though, we talked and laughed, while thoroughly enjoying the camaraderie and break from the constant barrage of COVID-19 gloom and doom. We discussed politics (yeah, we went there) and the upcoming election, but COVID-19 dominated the conversations. As most of you all know, adult beverages and politics don't normally blend well, but this was a different day. Voices only really climbed into a different octave occasionally as the Georgia sun kept beating down upon us.

Suddenly, a neighbor's eight-year old son yelled loudly that he was hot. His mom flippantly said, "Well, go play under the sprinkling system."

And so, he did. He turned the system on and soon he and his dog were running and laughing in the spraying water. Peals of joy and barking sounded out and rose above the conversations of the seated adults.

My friend sitting next to me looked at me and out of the corner of his mouth came the words that changed the afternoon. "Tom, are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

"Yep", I said as we both pushed up from our chairs.

Off we went to run in the sprinkler with an eight-year-old boy and his dog. After all, why should they have all the fun? In short time, more "adults" joined in the running, the sliding, the wetness, the laughter, and the fun. For 30 minutes, COVID-19 played a secondary role in our lives as we went back into a carefree time that didn't know masks and that "ventilator" was not a common everyday word.

Dripping and soaking wet, one by one we breathlessly went back to our chairs still smiling both outwardly and inwardly. We had escaped the world's trouble even for a short period of time. It was remarkable how our conversations changed as we sank back into our chairs. We now talked of grandchildren and shared tales of memories with each other.

Gone was the talk about COVID-19. For a moment, brief as it was, we had beaten the virus. All thanks to a boy, his dog, and a sprinkling system.

The real lesson though, is that regardless of the hardships and times, there is always time for laughter, friends, and just life and living.

My final thought is to invite you all to experience what we did. That despite what was going on around us, we experienced life and living. That's a good thing.

Go well and be awesome.

