



# Developing the county's vision for the future

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

After deciding the current zoning ordinances were out of date, Carroll County Area Plan Commission (APC) realized the time had come for the county to update the comprehensive land-use plan. According to county zoning administrator Dale Huffer, the last time Carroll County engineered a plan was in 1988.

Huffer described the charge before the group as a joint effort between APC and the county Economic Development

Corporation (EDC). The two groups decided to share the consultant's cost.

Representatives from county council, commissioners, APC and EDC were appointed in November. The committee met for the first time Thursday morning. Discussion centered on the scope of their mission, community impact, and when to hire an outside consultant to assist with the process.

"The whole thing must be a vision of where we want to go," committee member Jerry Hendress said. "We must look at all aspects of the community."

"The more we decide, the more the overall cost can be controlled," Huffer stressed.

"I don't want consultants directing us," Hendress said. "I want us to direct them."

"The more public input we can get, the better off we are," Huffer added.

Committee member Carol Dickman said it was important to know how other counties manage potential growth. Huffer was directed to obtain comprehensive plans from other counties and distribute them to committee members before the next meeting. He reported there are 13 Indiana

counties that have no zoning plans.

"What we're trying to do here will affect our tax base," Hendress pointed out. "We are looking out for the future. I want to be proactive rather than reactive."

"We need to encourage smaller businesses to the county by not allowing county zoning to stand in the way," Huffer said. "If you can't talk about the future and where we're going," member Bret Hanaway said, "you won't have economic development."

Hanaway said incoming companies want to talk to communities that have a

plan. He likened the process to a stream of water as "taking the path of least resistance."

Committee member Tom Hessler said he wanted to produce a document to be used as a guide for the future. He said it would be important for future community leaders to refer to it as a guide.

Stating the group must do a thoughtful and complete job Hendress said, "We are sealing our own fate now. We need a better roadmap."

The next meeting will be in March on a Wednesday at 7:30 a.m., but no actual date was set.

## Delphi board limits the public's questions

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Reading from a prepared statement at the Monday night meeting of the Delphi School Corporation's Board of Trustees, president Robert Resler announced after researching what the public is and is not entitled to do at board meetings, the board decided to limit public questioning about the agenda's consent items.

Resler said questions concerning consent items, which include facility usage and claims and payroll, can only be addressed to him or to superintendent John Williams after the meeting.

Resler said he consulted the legal staffs of the state school board association and the state public access counselors and added that he spoke with the editor and co-publisher of the *Carroll County Comet* about meeting changes.

Additionally Resler announced a more regimented approach to receive questions from the public about the other agenda items. He explained members of the public with questions must be called upon, rise from their seat and state their name. He said two minutes would be allotted to them.

In response to the action during public comments, Shawn Ashby of Camden requested claims and payroll be made public at the time and in the same manner as the agenda. He reported the agenda is posted on the corporation's Web site prior to the board meeting night. Resler said the board would take the request under advisement.

### Superintendent awarded retroactive pay increase

In a 5-1 vote, the board approved a two percent raise in pay for Williams retroactive to Jan. 1, 2006, without discussion. Board member Pat George gave the motion with Jeff Brown supporting it with the second. Jim Garrison provided the one dissenting vote. Tricia Hammond was not present for the meeting.

### Students honored

Nine members of the high school Academic Decathlon Team, along with their coach, were individually honored for placing sixth in recent state competition. The coach thanked the board for their financial support of the team.

### Advanced placement request

Four language arts advanced placement students requested the corporation pay all or part

of the fee for year-end student testing.

Williams said the state no longer funds language arts tests, but continues to support testing for chemistry, calculus and history.

"I ask you to strongly consider the recommendation to have the fees totally paid for," high school principal Keith Brakel said.

Williams said students receive college credits based on test scores. He said the fee per student is \$73 and there are approximately 30 students affected.

### Hoosier conference

Brakel reported the Hoosier Athletic Conference is "stable and intact."

Athletic director Robert Blaydes announced Delphi coaches are in favor of remaining in the conference. He provided a handout detailing enrollment numbers and statistics of area conferences and schools.

Blaydes said coaches expressed concerns about facility needs, the number of coaching staff and coordination of programs between the elementary, middle and high schools.

Brakel said he wants to provide first-class athletic facilities to students and said other schools do not want to visit Delphi because of the poor condition of some of the facilities.

### Athletic track concerns

Williams provided a pictorial report to depict curbing, surface and fencing conditions at the athletic track. He estimated the cost to fix only the most superficial problems to be \$1,100.

According to Williams, the cost to totally refurbish the track with six lanes is estimated between \$111,906 and \$113,439. To refurbish and add two additional lanes would cost between \$162,600 and \$172,457.

Williams said the estimates do not include fencing or lighting work.

A copy of a letter from approximately 36 track team members dated September 2005 expressing concerns about track conditions, was distributed to board members.

Garrison asked why the board was not made aware of the concerns sooner. Blaydes said he received the letter around Christmas and knew the board was already discussing the situation.

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## Local craftsman takes pride in design and ironwork

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Most people have a feeling of excitement when they see a fire truck, whether it is screaming down the street with lights blazing in response to an emergency, or slowly proceeding in the Fourth of July Parade. A fire truck seems to convey the essence of being an American and pride is generally taken in that.

Long-time Carroll County native and Delphi Tri-Township Fire Chief Bill Schock takes special pride and honor in fire trucks, because he custom-builds them. Schock owns and operates Schock Custom Welding Inc., located on Carrollton Road.

Schock, an ironworker out of Lafayette Local 379, has provided custom fire trucks for the local community for the past 37 years.

The business began in 1969 when as a volunteer firefighter for the city of Delphi, Schock agreed to build a tanker for the city. The need arose but there wasn't enough money to pay for a commercially built unit.

Delphi was given a free chassis and body from the military and Schock fashioned it into a 2,000-gallon tanker, which served the city for about eight years.

"It wasn't the best running truck when we got it," Schock said. "The military really got their use out of it before handing it over."

"Big cities like Lafayette" had the resources to purchase trucks, but smaller municipalities made their own or made do with what they had, "even if it was a horse and buggy," Schock explained.



One of many Sheffield Township's tanker was designed and built by ironworker Bill Schock. Photo provided

Schock designed and built the next two Delphi trucks in 1977.

"Things just blossomed from my iron working on buildings and from the custom work I was doing," he said.

His knowledge of how to utilize the correct materials for safety, durability and reliability brings him plenty of customers by word of mouth, he said. He does no formal advertising.

Schock estimates he has produced between 40 and 50 trucks ranging from rescue trucks and grass rigs that carry 300-gallon tanks used to fight grass fires to mini-pumpers, big pumpers, big tankers and super-tankers. Super-

tankers are purchased mostly by organizations in the eastern section of Indiana according to Schock.

Schock built bomb-squad trucks for Tippecanoe and Marion counties in 2004, a departure from his usual work. He said he is considering designing and building a SWAT-team truck in the future.

Schock explains he purchases the chassis, complete with cabs, from manufacturers. He then designs and draws the electrical, hydraulic and cabinet compartments to the specifications determined by his customer. He designs and manufactures all plumbing connections and housings for commercially manufactured pumps fitted into his trucks.

Schock's trucks have gone to Rockfield, Cutler and Delphi and remodeled trucks were built for Camden and Flora.

Brookston, Buffalo and the towns of Dayton, Romney, Attica, Veedersburg, Covington, Kingman, Brook and Kentland have also been recipients of Schock's craftwork. Hartford City, Gas City, Upland, Fulton and Rochester all use Schock's designs.

His design products for trays and truck compartments can be found as far away as Africa.

"I put a decal with my name on every product I sell," he said.

"So, people in Africa know their unit has come from my shop."

Schock said some materials his customers want dictates the use of specialized equipment. When he decides to make an equipment purchase, Schock prefers items that have been "broken in."

"I haven't bought much equipment that was new," he said.

Schock works exclusively with metal. When decals and lettering are needed he turns to another Carroll County business to help him out.

"All of that is done by Terry Langston of Graphics Emporium, east of Flora," he said.

"She does a fantastic job. She is very particular," he continued. "If she doesn't like how something turned out, she will rip it off and start over until it's right."

Schock said he is ready to slow the workload down, but orders continue to come in from people he doesn't want to disappoint.

He has more orders for his specialized designs and metal working this year than he expects to be able to fill. He said he can realistically complete four trucks in a year and there are orders for eight this year.

"Someday I probably will close the doors and have an auction," Schock said. "But not for awhile. As long as I'm busy, I hope I'll live longer."



In the beginning.... Bill Schock sits on a chassis with a cab that will become his next custom-built truck. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

## Leadership Carroll County graduates first class

Comet staff report

"Any time a group of bright, articulate, caring people come together to discuss issues and look for solutions, it is an inspiration," said Jo Dyer of near Yeoman, a member of the inaugural class of Leadership Carroll County. "Ordinary people can do extraordinary things together."

Leadership Carroll County (LCC) held its first graduation last week. Twenty-seven members of the 2006 class completed

the six-week, in-depth course that emphasized a collaborative community leadership model as well as information about the county and current issues.

The graduation ceremony was held at the conclusion of the Feb. 22 session at the Wabash & Erie Canal Center in Delphi. Speaking at that session, Dr. Janet Ayres, a member of the LCC task force, said that "leadership requires courage, standing up for what you think needs to be done. Is it worth the risk?"

Bringing about change can

sometimes be a very lonely road, she said.

The class chose fellow class members Darice Sheiss and Alan Flora to speak at graduation.

Sheiss said that change need not be feared. For her, replacing the word change with the word improvement, helped her to see possibilities. She urged the class to do the same.

Flora addressed the prerequisite that graduates become involved with a community organization. He challenged the class "to hold each other accountable" and to

"use whatever we've learned to get our friends involved."

Leadership Carroll County was developed after community spirit and leadership were identified at Carroll County at the Crossroads strategic planning effort as one of several critical issues facing the future of the county.

After over a year of planning and with generous donations from businesses and organizations from throughout the county, Leadership Carroll County got off the ground on Jan. 18. The six sessions rotated to different com-

munities in the county and task force members helped facilitate and lead the sessions. Several community members were brought in to discuss their positions and/or roles in various governmental entities, businesses and organizations.

"As we met each week, I was amazed at the knowledge that each person brought with them," said class member Sandy Simpson of Flora. "I learned so much from each person and I learned a lot about Carroll County. This was a very valuable

experience that each of us can take out into our communities and strive to make our county better."

"As a relative newcomer to the county, the leadership program introduced me to a lot of great community-minded people," said Andy Coughill of Delphi, another class member.

"Carroll County is a wonderful place to live and the leadership program has encouraged me to work to make sure our community continues to be a great place to

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