

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Memberships include:



Let the sunshine in

The second Sunshine Week open government initiative is being observed this week (March 12-18). The weeklong observance, which expands on the Sunshine Sunday concept begun in Florida in 2002, is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.

Sunshine Week, coordinated by the National Society of Newspaper Editors, is not about protecting journalists' rights, it's about the right of all citizens to know what their government is doing - and why.

Access to public records and meetings allows citizens to hold government leaders accountable. Public records such as birth and death notices, environmental permits, assessed property valuations, sexual offender's registry - are just a few of the documents available to the public that can help citizens determine whether their public officials are acting in their best interest.

The Access to Public Records Act and the Open Door Law are laws in Indiana that allow citizens access to their state and local government. By having access to records and meetings of governing bodies, citizens can keep informed of the actions of their elected officials and agencies that spend their tax dollars.

As more government records are being put on the Internet every day, citizens have an increasing opportunity to view and use public records.

Several years ago Indiana created a special position, public access counselor, to help public officials and citizens understand the Open Door Law and Access to Public Records Act. Our current public access counselor is Karen Davis.

To help keep citizens informed, the *Comet* publishes a listing of public notice advertising on page 4A. This list includes notices such as environmental permits, alcoholic beverage permits, bid solicitations for construction and equipment over a certain amount, sheriff sales, etc. The toll free number for the public access counselor is printed there each week.

National Sunshine Week reminds us that it is in all of our best interest to care about government accountability.



At the office supply stores I shop I regularly purchase cardboard storage boxes that I assemble at home. The boxes are inexpensive yet very sturdy when put together. They measure about a foot tall and a foot wide, but are longer in depth, maybe 15 inches or so.

I use these boxes to store writing projects, work projects and accumulated research, news clippings and magazine articles on subjects I find interesting. These boxes are stacked in my garage, in a closet under the stairs, on top of my filing cabinets. There are two really annoying ones stuck very inconveniently under the knee-hole of my desk. Only recently, several of these boxes, seven actually, have made their way into the dining room.

Someday there may be cause for concern here, not just yet though.

Most of my boxes are accurately labeled with the project name written in magic marker on the outside. From where I sit and type these words I can see six of them. Of those six there are five with labels and one mystery box with nothing written on it. None of the labeling looks like the same person's hand was at work. One label is in all capital letters. Another is all lower case. Another is written in a shaky cursive. A veritable rainbow of magic markers has been used in the labeling. I see bright purple and black and faded brown.

The boxes themselves are not exactly alike, either. I've got the Staples #03325 boxes sitting with the Office Depot #63325s. Those two versions are both white cardboard with black lettering. Just to spice it up I've added in a dash of red here and there with the Office Depot "Value" series. I suspect my collection of boxes represents whatever has been on sale when I was in the market for a little more storage.

Just because a box has a label doesn't mean a guarantee of what's inside. One box that's both

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



faded and dented and showing a lot of age sports the original label of "sweaters needing repair." That labeling is crossed out, however, replaced with "clocks to be fixed." Inside the box is a disorganized bunch of paper that I can't readily identify. To the untrained eye, it appears at first glance that I'm tough on sweaters and clocks and can't get enough reading material.

Cardboard confusion

I like to think of my boxes as a thoughtful organizational system, my own little way of imposing order on what otherwise might be clutter and chaos.

How very charitable of me towards myself. The reality is much less laudable.

As the boxes mount and encircle even more, the armature shrink in me sees projects unfinished and my inability to say done, over, finished, goodbye.

In some ways, my storage boxes show how often the past gets in the way of the present.

My "organization" is really an accumulation in disguise. Somewhere along the way I've found a way to navigate around business that's finished and should be tossed or unfinished and should be finalized.

Box it, label it and then don't deal with it. That's a lot of what's going on here.

And my system has plenty of flaws. I've had several occasions to seek out some document from a box stored in the garage. These documents have already been reviewed by the occasional mouse, ladybug, wasp, and a variety of unidentifiable insect life. It can be a frightening sight.

Meanwhile I can hold to the thought of the holy grail of storage boxes. The one representing finished projects and letting go.

The one labeled "boxes to be burned." Either that, or the Office Max #03326 insect proof, mouse resistant, and guilt free.

HAPPY ST. PAT'S DAY!

TH' WIND WHIPPED AN' BLEW TH' CLOTHES, THEY TOSSED AROUND FOR FAIR - BUT TH' THING I LIKED TO WATCH TH' MOST WUZ DAD'S GREEN UNDERWEAR!

Poem by Jim Edwards

Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie

New filings are from public records available in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi. Other information regarding judgments and marriage dissolutions is gathered from public records found in the clerk's office.

A complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage was filed in Honee Q. Servicing DBA The Money Store vs. Jeffrey W. Huddleston.

A complaint was filed in Legal Recoveries, Inc. vs. Michael Hill.

A complaint was filed in Asset Acceptance LLC vs. Frank Whitfield and Susan Robertson.

A complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage was filed in Washington Mutual Bank F/K/A Washington Mutual Bank FA vs. Catherine J. Collins.

A complaint was filed in Legal Recoveries Inc. vs. Roy C. Shaw.

Jonathan A. Griffey was charged with Count I, operating a motor vehicle after forfeiture of license for life; Counts II and III, operating while intoxicated, endangering; Count IV, resisting law enforcement; Count V, possession of marijuana; Count VI, possession of paraphernalia;

Count VII, false and fictitious registration.

Maria S. Barradas was charged with Count I, forgery; Count II, identity deception.

David R. Armstrong was named administrator of the Lewis Flora estate.

John Moss was named administrator of the Jeffrey W. Moss estate.

Mary E. VanSickle was named administrator of the Gene R. VanSickle estate.

Jerald J. Endress and James R. Huffer were named administrators of the Jesse E. Endress estate.

An order was filed in Great Seneca Financial Corporation vs. Carlos Serrano and Industrial Federal Credit Union. The plaintiff is entitled to payment of \$1,741.57.

A summary judgment entry and decree of foreclosure were ordered in Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. vs. Pamela S. Smith and Gerald Smith.

An order for child support income withholding was entered in Lori Gher Murphy and Jeff Gher.

An order for immediate income withholding was entered in Dwayne Morrow and Lisa Morrow.

A default judgement entry

and decree of foreclosure were ordered in National City Mortgage, Inc. vs. Adam R. Cunningham.

State of Indiana vs. Robert D. Perry was dismissed.

A child support income withholding order was entered in Misty M. Brown and Jeremy T. Brown.

In State of Indiana vs. Michael W. Gibbs, 47, the defendant plead guilty to Count I, possession of Methamphetamine; Count II, possession of a controlled substance; Count IV, carrying a handgun without a license. A pre-sentencing hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2006.

In State of Indiana vs. Drew D. Brown, 19, the defendant plead guilty to Count II, theft. Sentencing hearing is set for March 22, 2006.

Dissolutions:

Susan L. Graves and Brian S. Graves, Sr.



Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor responding to articles and events in the news. They must include the author's name, address and telephone number. The letter writer's name and city/town will appear in the paper - no exceptions. Letters must be 400 words or less in length. Please send your letters to: editor@carrollcountycomet.com; Letters to the Editor, Comet, P.O. Box 26, Flora, IN 46929 or P.O. Box 179, Delphi, IN 46923; or fax 574-967-3384 or 765-564-2010. By submitting a letter or opinion article, the author grants the Comet the right to publish, distribute, archive or use the work in print, electronic, on-line or other format.

There's a cost to saving dollars

I recall reading a story perhaps two months ago or so about this same topic (Commissioners ok highway dept.'s truck financing plan). Even then, and especially now that I've read this past week's Comet article by Debbie Lowe, the only things I can think to say about this are as follows: a) Do the county and those making decisions about purchasing vehicles simply not care that they so blatantly speak of saving money by avoiding new emissions standards, and b) Like I find myself saying so many times when it comes to this sort of questionable decision-making, "Why didn't I say something before the final decision was made?"

The most important reason I wanted to write about this is that it's important that the government on any level acts not only responsible financially, which they've definitely chosen to do, but at all times to be vigilant on the message it is sending to the citizens. I understand the budget in Carroll County is tight, and I agree we should avoid higher costs when it's suitable; but at what true cost? Perhaps our mindsets are so set on getting what we want that we don't realize the long-term effects of cutting corners could devastate all of us. For instance, it's very easy for us to say, "A couple more trucks with lower emissions standards won't do much of anything to harm the environment." It seems to me, though, that by saying that we're also saying we don't care, as a county, as a society, about doing what is truly most precious to us - protecting this life-giving planet as much as we can.

I appreciate the work of our county commissioners and other county government offices do; I simply want to lay out the challenge that we consider more than money when making truly costly decisions. I also appreciate the Comet's willingness to allow us to write in with our points of view.

Kevin B Schnepf
Lafayette (Carroll County)

Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith

Superior Court judgments are gathered from public records on file in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi.

New Filings

The following are the misdemeanor charges filed by the Carroll County Prosecutor, on behalf of the State of Indiana.

Joyce D. Fivecoat was charged with Counts I and II, check fraud.

Arthur J. Lorensten was charged with Count I, endangering and Count II, operating while intoxicated, endangering.

Robert J. Knoth was charged with criminal mischief.

Kevin C. Hammond was charged with resisting law enforcement.

Belinda L. Snowberger was charged with check deception.

Nick D. Snapp was charged with battery resulting in bodily injury.

Kyle E. Garrison was charged with illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

Timothy A. Taylor was charged with failure to stop after an accident, resulting in non-vehicle damage.

Chad L. Wrightsman was charged with Count I, operating while intoxicated, endangering; Count II, speeding, 70 mph in a 55.

Marriage Licenses

Allen S. Hettinger, 21, and Stephanie L. Brown, 19, both of Flora.

Where to Write

U.S. Senate
EVAN BAYH
 717 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510-1404
 10 W. Market St.
 Suite 1650
 Indianapolis, In. 46204
 202-224-5623 (office)
 202-228-1377 (fax)
 317-554-0750 (Indianapolis)
 Senate Web site:
 www.senate.gov

RICHARD LUGAR
 Room 1180
 10 West Market St.
 Indianapolis, In. 46204-2964

317-226-5555 (office)
 306 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510
 202-225-5037 (office)

U.S. House
CHRIS CHOCOLA
 444 Mall Road
 Logansport, IN. 46947
 574-753-470-ph
 574-753-4730 fax
 510 Cannon House Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20515
 202-225-3915 ph
 202-225-6798 fax

Indiana Senate
BRANDT HERSHMAN

District 7
 Ind State Senate
 200 West Washington St.
 Indianapolis, In. 46204
 800-382-9467 (toll-free)
 317-232-9400
 e-mail: S7@ai.org

Indiana House
RICH MCCLAIN
 District 24
 Ind House of Representatives
 200 West Washington St.
 Indianapolis, In. 46204-2786
 800-382-9842 (toll free)
 317-232-9600
 e-mail: R24@ai.org

Restaurant Inspections

Pizza Hut
 Routine inspection: 2/23/06
 Summary of violations:
 No violations noted

Brosman's IGA
 Routine inspection: 3/2/06
 Summary of violations:
 1 critical, 3 non-critical.
 Critical:
 An employee in the meat room was not wearing gloves.
 Non-critical:
 There was no thermometer in the Tostino's display case.
 Condensation was found on boxes of chicken in the deli walk-in cooler.
 An accumulation of dust and grease were found on the ventilation system in the deli.

Country Candies & Confections
 Routine inspection: 2/21/06
 Summary of violations:
 No violations noted

All BBQ's
 Routine inspection: 2/24/06
 Summary of violations: 1 non-critical
 Freezer in the back room had frost accumulation. Corrected

Camden Midland Meals
 Routine inspection: 3/1/06
 Summary of violations:
 No violations noted.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Sheriff Sale -Henry 9t3 | 3B |
| Sheriff Sale -Beckner 9t3 | 3B |
| Sorenson -Estate 10t2d | 3B |
| Todd -Estate 10t2d | 3B |
| Jones -Estate 11t2d | 3B |
| Endress -Estate 11t2d | 3B |
| Notice of Suit -Smith 11t3 | 3B |
| Sheriff Sale -Coomer 11t3 | 3B |
| Sheriff Sale -Roberson 11t3 | 3B |
| CCLFP -Notice 11t1 | 3B |
| Sheriff Sale -Stahl 11t3 | 3B |
| Pfrommer -Zoning 11t1 | 3B |
| Lambert -Zoning 11t1 | 3B |
| Commiss. -Not. of Hearing 11t1 | 3B |

Questions concerning Indiana's Open Door and Public Access Laws may be directed to the state's public access office, at 1-800-228-6013.