

Flora library offers wireless access

Comet staff report

As part of National Library Week celebrations, The Flora-Monroe Twp. Public Library announces that it is the newest member of the Indiana Shared Library Catalog (ISLC), and that wireless access to the Internet is now available at the library.

ISLC is an automated resource sharing tool for small libraries, special libraries, and schools in Indiana. It is coordinated by the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority (INCOLSA). ISLC uses the same automation company, Sirsi/Dynix, that the library has used since 2000. However, the administrative duties are now handled by INCOLSA rather than library staff. If problems occur, they are handled off-site in less time.

"This is a great advantage for the Flora staff," says director Melissa Bishop. "Our budget does not allow for a staff tech person. The people who work here are knowledgeable computer users, but we are all limited in varying degrees when it comes to the technical end of things."

INCOLSA also handles program updates, so the library is always using the current version.

The library's catalog records are now housed on a common server with those of other member libraries.

"It is strange to think our computerized records are now in Atlanta (Georgia), rather than here in Flora," Bishop said.

From Flora's library catalog (go to www.flora.lib.in.us and click on Catalog), staff and patrons can now search the catalogs of all ISLC members, or specific libraries, for titles. The library staff has more control over interlibrary loan requests and timely delivery of materials. Says Bishop, "If we don't have a book a patron wants, nine times out of ten another ISLC library has it. We can deal directly with that library. We can also send requests to a regional INCOLSA site, but the response is slower. We get requests for our materials from other libraries, too."

Bistro is the library's new electronic catalog interface. Book records often include a picture of the book cover and reviews, much like Amazon.com or Barnesandnoble.com. Patrons can see what bestsellers the library has based on current bestseller lists, as well as books that have won literary awards.

There are also links to "hot" websites, which change almost daily. Patrons can login, review their own account, renew books, and submit address changes.

"Bistro has been available to SIRSI/Dynix libraries for several years, but we could not afford it. It is part of the ISLC package. It is an amazing tool and we are excited about making it available to our patrons," Bishop said.

The Flora library can now provide wireless access to the Internet, thanks to a Library Services and Technology Act grant administered by the Indiana State Library. People with laptop computers equipped with wireless cards may bring their laptops to the library and connect. This is a benefit to students home on break, travelers, and program presenters. Anyone who travels with a wireless laptop for business, educational, or personal purposes will have reliable service in the library. As funds become available, the library plans to build a collection of wireless laptops to be used for a variety of classes in the Richter Program Room, and to expand the existing wired technology center for patron use.

Lake Freeman subdivision receives approval

Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Development of condominiums and single family residential units on the Carroll County side of Lake Freeman moved one step further at the March 28 Area Plan Commission (APC) meeting.

APC unanimously voted to send a favorable recommendation to county commissioners to rezone Bridgeview Subdivision from L1 and B1 to PUD (planned unit development). Site construction plans were presented by the engineering firm of R.W. Gross and Associates, Inc., on behalf of the developers.

The subdivision will feature a private boat ramp, a parking lot and swimming pool, according to developer Kevin Sims.

"The boat ramp will be locked and will not be used by anyone other than those in the subdivision," Sims stated. Other news

APC members voted to develop new setback limitations for building construction. APC chair Bob McCain described the action as an interim measure to be used before the newly established county comprehensive plan committee is able to complete the task.

County zoning administrator Dale Huffer was directed to provide information concerning neighboring counties' zoning ordinances to members for review at the next meeting.

County landowner Steve Bough announced plans to file a lawsuit against the county. Bough said he believed the county acted in a fraudulent manner in a variance decision made in early 2003.

The next meeting will be

April 25 at 7 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Gerald and Peggy Lambert were granted a setback variance for their property at 10527N Earl Ave. in C&C Beach in Jefferson Township.

James Pfrommer was granted a variance from front yard set back requirements at 11932W Lookout Dr. in Sunset Park, also in Jefferson Township.

Something terrible happens when you don't advertise...

NOTHING!

Call the Comet to get the word out.
574-967-4135 or 765-564-2222

Something new for Hoosier boaters: the 2006 lake permit

Comet staff report

As Indiana boaters gear up for spring fishing and recreational boating at Indiana state parks, reservoirs and state forests, they are reminded that this year, for the first time, they will need to purchase a lake permit before they head out on the water.

Boaters are no longer required to purchase a daily launch permit at the entrance gate or ramp each time they enter the property. Beginning this year they must purchase an annual lake permit that allows them to use any state park, reservoir or state forest lake through the entire year.

The new permit - \$20 for motorized watercraft and \$5 for non-motorized watercraft - is now available at state parks, reservoirs and some state forest offices, on-line at

on the DNR Web site in Mother Nature's Mercantile, and at the gatehouses when they are open.

All private watercraft including motorboats, canoes, paddleboats, and rowboats, using state park, reservoir or state forest lakes must have and display the permit. Personal watercraft moored at marinas, private docks, group docks or bank ties must also have and display the permit.

State-owned watercraft and state-managed boat rental concessions are exempt.

Lakes on which a permit will be required include the main bodies of water and all fishing ponds/lakes at Patoka Lake, Brookville Lake, Hardy Lake, Monroe Lake, Salamonie Lake, Mississinewa Lake, Roush (Huntington) Lake, Cagles Mill (Lieber) Lake, Cecil M. Harden (Raccoon) Lake.

Also included are Worster Lake at Potato Creek State Park, Kunkel Lake at Ouabache State Park, Summit Lake at Summit Lake State Park, Versailles Lake at Versailles State Park, Ogle and Strahl Lakes at Brown County State Park, Lakes Shakamak, Lenape and Kickapoo at Shakamak State Park, all lakes at Chain O'Lakes State Park, Spring Mill Lake at Spring Mill State Park, Whitewater Lake at Whitewater State Park, Lake Lincoln and Weber Lake at Lincoln State Park.

Finally, also included are all lakes at state forest properties, including Deam Lake SRA, Ferdinand State Forest, Starve Hollow SRA, Harrison-Crawford State Forest, Clark State Forest, Greene-Sullivan State Forest, Jackson-Washington State Forest, Martin State Forest, Morgan-Monroe State Forest, Owen-Putnam State Forest, Pike State Forest and Yellowwood State Forest.

Boat access ramps may be staffed early in the season, but are not likely to be staffed throughout the summer. These permits are required and Indiana conservation officers will be watching to ensure the permits are displayed on boats.

Several public access sites maintained by the DNR's division of fish and wildlife do not require the permit. Further, the permit is not required for boating on Indiana streams and rivers or natural lakes such as Lake James, Lake Wawasee and Lake Michigan. Lakes located in state fish & wildlife areas operated by the division of fish and wildlife do not require the permit nor do lakes at national forests and U.S. fish and wildlife refuges.

Funds collected from the annual lake permit, along with camping, entrance, swimming and program fees, are deposited in a dedicated account to support the operation of state parks, reservoirs and state forests. The funds are used only in those locations.

"User fees like this are the way we pay for many of the services enjoyed by our visitors," said State Parks and Reservoirs Division Director Dan Bortner. "A significant portion - about 67 percent - of the funding for the operations of state parks and reservoirs comes from these user fees. Only about 33 percent comes from general tax dollars paid by Hoosiers."

Boaters must be careful not to confuse the new annual lake fee with the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Fee that is charged when boaters register a watercraft with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The LARE fee and the lake permit are two entirely different programs.

For a fact sheet about the lake permit, visit the DNR Web site at www.dnr.IN.gov or contact a state park, reservoir or state forest office near you.

A complete listing of all recreation fees for 2006 is on the Web at http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/properties/park_rates_fees.html.

Camping reservations for 2006 are currently being accepted. To reserve a campsite, cabin, recreation, building or shelter, visit www.campIN.gov or call 1-866-

Kick-off reception is Thursday for newly formed county Chamber

Carroll County's newly formed Chamber of Commerce will host a kick-off reception Thursday evening from 5 to 7 at the 4-H Community Building in Flora.



This will be an opportunity to meet the organization's new executive director, Keith Chandler, and to share ideas with the board of directors.

"Our county is off to a good start with the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. We all need to contribute to the economic future of our children if

we expect them to continue to call this place 'home,'" said Dick Bradshaw, acting president of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. "We are excited to provide this first-time opportunity to the business community within Carroll County. It will give everyone a chance to network with other business professionals, as well as provide an open, informal forum for you to share your thoughts about the future of business development within your county."

Memberships will be available at the reception. The Chamber is offering a 25% discount on membership for the first year.

Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded to members of the Chamber.

Join us at the 24th annual St. Vincent Frankfort Hospital Health Fair.

Local residents are invited to participate in the fair from 3-7 p.m. Friday, May 5, at Clinton Hall at the Clinton County Fairgrounds.

In addition to numerous health screenings - including cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose and Body Mass Index (BMI) - there will be a picnic dinner. Cost for the dinner is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Guests will also enjoy a visit from Indiana Pacers mascot, Boomer. Proceeds from the dinner and silent auction will benefit the St. Vincent Frankfort Hospital Chapel Renovation Project.

The first 400 attendees at the Health Fair will receive a free t-shirt! For more information, call (765) 656-3030 or visit stvincent.org



Introductory payments of **\$16/month**† on a 115 Lawn Tractor.



AFFORDABILITY, ALWAYS AVAILABLE IN GREEN. DEERE SEASON



Introductory payments of **\$53/month**† on a Gator™ CX.



Introductory payments of **\$3/month**† on a Straight- or Curved-shaft Line Trimmer.

It's Deere Season. Which means this is the best time to get your hands on a new John Deere that will help you create the yard of your dreams. Whether you choose the new 115 Lawn Tractor, the Gator™ CX, or the line trimmer, you can enjoy the legendary dependability of a John Deere. So come in and experience the real deal at your John Deere dealer today.



JOHN DEERE

HOWARD & SONS, INC.
STATE ROAD 24 W
MONTICELLO, IN
(574) 583-7117

JACKSON-LEE PEARSON, INC.
1755 WEST STATE RD. 28
FRANKFORT, IN
(765) 659-4726

BE THE FIRST TO GET THESE MODELS AT YOUR JOHN DEERE DEALER.

†Offers valid through 7/31/06 at participating dealers. Offers apply to new John Deere equipment only. Offers valid in the U.S. only. Subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit Revolving Plan, a service of FPC Financial, L.L.C. Promotional payments for the first 12 months only and are based on 1% of the amount financed not to exceed \$30,000 with a 10.9% APR. After 12 months, payments will be based on 3% of the original transaction amount with 10.9% APR. Other restrictions apply. Taxes, freight, set-up and delivery charges may increase monthly payment. A \$0.50 per month minimum finance charge may be required. Some models may not be eligible. Attachments, accessories and Maintenance Plan Plus sold separately. John Deere's green and yellow color scheme, the leaping deer symbol, JOHN DEERE and all other trademarks referenced above are trademarks of Deere & Company.