

## CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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## Limits are in order

The Carroll County Commissioners' meeting Monday night lasted almost four hours. Although it is commendable that everyone in the audience was given the opportunity to offer an opinion about the proposed mega-dairy, the subject was allowed 15 minutes on the agenda. It was the first item of business and the discussion lasted an hour and 45 minutes, going longer than most of the other items were scheduled for on the agenda.

The commissioners' meeting room was overcrowded and many audience members simply could not get into the room during the confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) discussion. The agenda was pushed back almost two hours, imposing a huge wait for everyone else needing the commissioners' time and attention.

We applaud our county's leaders for listening to all who want to speak. But a more realistic agenda with time limits would be appropriate for taking care of the huge amount of business before them. When a controversial topic appears on the agenda, holding a special meeting would better serve all county residents.

## Web poll

Should county leaders put time limits on agenda items?

Tell us starting Thursday at our web site, [carrollcountycomet.com](http://carrollcountycomet.com)

## What will it take to improve the dialogue of democracy?

By Lee Hamilton

As this election season gets underway, I've been struck by something I keep hearing as I talk to people about our political system: They're disappointed with politics in general. They're unhappy with the quality of the political discourse they hear from our elected leaders and on the campaign trail. The dialogue of democracy is not measuring up to their expectations.

In part, this is fed by the public's weariness with the vicious nature of what often passes now for political conversation. People feel manipulated, as though their leaders see them as little more than a series of little hot buttons to be pushed or suppressed.

But there's more to it than that. Americans are missing a sense of really serious engagement by our political leaders with the difficult issues that face us; they don't see politicians grappling with them in thoughtful ways, nor do they feel challenged by their political leaders.

Think back to events in history like the Lincoln-Douglas debates, in which two great minds wrestled with the problem of slavery and all of its nuances over seven appearances together, or to the days of our founding fathers, and you'll get a sense of what we've lost.

There is a cost to this, and we all pay it. Pollster Richard Harwood has been talking to Americans since the early 1990s about their feelings about political discourse, and he has found that many Americans are so disillusioned with what they hear that they've simply given up. They've retreated into their own lives in search of some sense of normalcy, control and, I suspect, truth.

So what can we do about this?

Well, I believe it is up to us as voters to make it clear to politicians when we are dissatisfied with how they carry on the public debate. Attacks and negative advertising work only because we allow them to. But if you let your politicians know that you don't like excessive partisanship, superficiality or name calling, and that you want to hear about solutions, not just a statement of the problem, they will hear you.

I think it's probably too much to expect our political leaders to reach the same heights as Thomas Jefferson or Abraham Lincoln. But it is not too much for us to expect them to try.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

I've never worked anywhere that had an old-fashioned suggestion box. Now that I think about it, I can't recall seeing an actual suggestion box in many years. I'm imagining here a sort of green or brown wooden rectangular affair with a mail slot cut in the top, the whole thing mounted to the wall with white lettering that says simply: "suggestions."

"May I make a suggestion?" How often do you suppose that phrase gets uttered in a day? And are suggestions on the rise, or on the decline? I don't suppose anyone tracks such things.

Personally, I've made plenty of suggestions in my time. Ok, I've made more than my share. I don't recall penning these ideas on a paper and slipping any of them in a suggestion box. But I've written plenty of letters with suggestions and popped them in the mailbox. And I've made dozens of "to whom do I speak" phone inquiries with a suggestion in mind. I guess those "suggestions" would be considered the "unsolicited" kind. Suffice it to say, I rarely get a reply.

Perhaps the absence of suggestion boxes says a lot. To those of us considered the thin-skinned types, suggestions can feel and sound a lot like criticism.

I recently attended a business talk where the speaker analyzed companies that have lost market share. He said that back in 1968 General Motors had a market share in the U.S. in excess of 50%. After that year, foreign imports became more and more popular and the rest is history.

So I wonder what kind of suggestions GM was getting back then in its hay-day. And I wonder if those suggestions were laughed at or given any merit or consideration.

I wonder even more about the now collapsed energy giant Enron. When the party was at full throttle and they were pumping the stock price and cooking the books, did anyone throw out a

## Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



## Suggestion Box

How often does the person in charge check on the suggestion box? If the county itself got one, where would it go, who would hold the key?

I was looking at the Carroll County web site the other day. I was trying to find the phone number for the Highway Department. In my phone book the Highway Department is not listed with the other government agencies. On the web, it's not listed with the courthouse departments either. I'm guessing that because the department's garage is located in Flora, that the phone number...whatever.

Anyway, I noticed on the web site that the local area code does not appear anywhere on the page listing the phone numbers at the courthouse.

Here's my dilemma. I was pleased the county has information posted on the web. There were many years when this was not the case. So that initiative should be acknowledged, even praised. And most local folks know the area code for Delphi, so the absence of the area code doesn't pose a problem for most people. Therefore, would the suggestion that the area code be listed, would that be a criticism? Or would the suggestion that the phone number for the Highway Department appear somewhere on the web site, would that be constructive, or critical?

Honestly, I don't know the answer.

It does all get a person to wonder, however.

And that very first suggestion, the suggestion to have a suggestion box, who actually made that one and where do you suppose he or she deposited it?

I like to think it was one of my ancestors.

## 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.

## Credit is due

In what I consider an unusually refreshing display of honesty on the part of a local business, I recently received a letter from the Delphi Hardware & Paint management. That letter clearly explains a mess-up in their accounting department and freely confesses to a lapse in handling their billing properly.

I applaud the candor of Krista Watson, the owner, and want others to know that in this day and age, when everyone else likes to blame something or someone else for their failures, I feel that this manner of addressing a billing delay needs to be appreciated.

The store is a locally owned operation and now, more than ever, deserves our patronage.

Dieter Hantschel  
Delphi

## Appreciates Comet editorial

Kudos to the Comet for pointing out all the great things to do in Carroll County in last week's editorial. Many residents feel the need to leave Carroll County for fun and entertainment when there is plenty right here in their back yard. There are several events to participate in all summer long. Look for a Carroll County 2006 Festival & Events listing at local town offices, Adams Mill, Carroll County Historical Museum, and the Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center.

Support our local events coordinators, businesses and points of interest by having fun right here in Carroll County.

Michelle Pearson,  
Carroll Co. Heritage Tourism  
& Carroll County at the  
Crossroads

## Boys become men

I know I am speaking for several parents when I say how extremely proud I am of our Burlington 11 & 12 year olds baseball team, sponsored by the Burlington Scoop.

This last week our boys went from boys to men in their decision making. After a controversial season and a controversial tournament, they stood up and showed great pride and sportsmanship.

We know you finished second place in your tournament but in our hearts and eyes and the eyes of your coaches and your opponents, you finished first. The game of life is much more important than any baseball game, and we are so proud of you all for finishing first in that.

Great job boys and thanks for making Burlington proud.

Shelly Wiles,  
Burlington

## Web poll results

Each week the Comet polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at [carrollcountycomet.com](http://carrollcountycomet.com) starting each Thursday, and then click the Comments link to send us an email voicing your opinion. The best responses will be printed the following week.

Last Week's Results:

Delphi Community School Corporation has established a tobacco-free policy that applies to all persons at all times on school grounds. Do you agree with this policy?

76% Yes

24% No

Total responses: 29

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

## NOTHING!

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

## 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

Janet L. Coghill was charged with Count I, operating while intoxicated, endangering; Count II, possession of marijuana.

Lillian L. Lanning was charged with operating a vehicle with ACE of .08 or more.

Tyson J. Lawson was charged with Count I, driving while suspended; Count II, possession of paraphernalia; Count III, possession of marijuana.

Danny K. Moyers was charged with public intoxication.

Joshua Bosquez was charged with Count I, possession of marijuana; Count II, speeding, 65/55.

Robert Guenther was charged with Counts I, II and III, check deception.

Lela Labeau was charged with check deception.

Shane M. Webb was charged with driving while suspended.

Nick D. Snapp was charged with Count Delphi, the defendant pleaded I theft; Count II, criminal mischief.

Robert England was charged with Count I, resisting law enforcement; Count II, false informing.

Shannon M. Riley was charged with theft.

Nathan D. Hutsell was charged with Count I, driving while suspended; Count II, possession of marijuana; Count III, possession of paraphernalia.

Alan L. Sorenson was charged with public intoxication.

Robert Reesden was charged with criminal mischief.

Jim Hodge was charged with domestic battery.

Francisco Camacho was

charged with failure to stop after an accident, resulting in damage to an attended vehicle.

Jeffery A. Bartlett was charged with Count I, domestic battery; Count II, public intoxication.

The following cases were dismissed: Brittney Hathaway, Billie A. Brown, Gary A. Brady, Richard M. Bustos, Joseph Trueblood in two cases, Thomas A. Roberson, Wade S. Myers, Jonathan P. Sales, William E. Duff for two cases.

In State of Indiana vs. Juan F. Ovalle, 55, Flora, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, operating while intoxicated, endangering. He was sentenced to six months, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Joseph R. Chadwick, 32, Flora, the defendant pleaded guilty to Counts I and II, domestic battery. He was sentenced to two years, with 270 days suspended, and 270 days probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Bruce Lipp, 47, Flora, the defendant was found guilty of possession of paraphernalia. He was fined \$120 together with court costs.

In State of Indiana vs. Jose Torres, 18, Delphi, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license. He was sentenced to 60 days, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Arthur T. Lorensten, 52, Hamilton, Ohio, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count II, operating while intoxicated with a prior conviction. He was sentenced to one and one-half years, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. John J. Reiff, 19, Monticello, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, illegal consumption of alcohol. He was sentenced to 30 days, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Timothy S. Loeffler, 20, Lafayette, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, possession of paraphernalia. He was sentenced to one year, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Courtney P. Pearson, 25, Lafayette, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, public intoxication. She was sentenced to six months, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Kelly D. Anderson, 44, Delphi, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, public intoxication. She was sentenced to three months, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Leroy L. Langel Jr., 50, Knox, the defendant was found guilty by trial of Count I, failure to stop after an accident resulting in non-vehicle damage. He was sentenced to 30 days, suspended, and a year of probation.

## 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 was filed in Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Jason Endress.

A complaint on note and to reform and foreclose mortgage on real estate was filed in Chase Home Finance LLC vs. David C. Freeman and American Acceptance Co. LLC.

A complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage was filed in Citibank NA vs. Lee A. and Jay A. Scott et al.

A complaint for foreclosure of real estate mortgage was filed in

Lafayette Bank & Trust vs. Carey L. Land and Andria A. Land et al.

Kasey L. Busum was charged with burglary.

Belinda S. Nipple was charged with forgery.

Marvin L. Dellinger, Cindy A. Rabot and Lewis D. Dellinger Jr. were named administrators of the David L. Dellinger estate.

Lisa M. Brown was named administrator of the Edward M. Brown estate.

Sharon C. Workinger was named administrator of the Duane R. Cunningham estate.

A judgment of foreclosure was ordered in The Huntington National Bank vs. Georgia Ashlock and Norwood G. Ashlock, et al.

## Marriage Licenses

John W. Britton Jr., 44, and Tricia A. Hammond, 41, both of Delphi.

Pedro G. Tello, 32, and Guadalupe Guillen, 25, both of Delphi.

Darald L. Haas Jr., 26, and Lindsey M. Lambert, 24, both of Delphi.

Jeffrey D. Shuler, 26, and Brooke N. Smith, 21, both of Delphi.

Joshua B. Tull, 21, of Monticello and Krystal N. Fultz, 16, of Delphi.

Thomas A. Curtis, 35, of Flora and Beth A. Martin, 24, of Delphi.

## Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Notice of Suit - Hyman 2313	6B
Notice of Suit - Chinn 2313	6B
Sheriff Sale - Clark 2313	5B
Dellinger Estate 2412	6B
Sheriff Sale-Smith 2413	6B
Clay Twp.-Fire Fund 2412	6B
Sheriff Sale-Meagher 2513	5B
Duke Energy-Notice 2511	6B
Duke Energy-Boundary 2511	5B
Town of Camden-Bidders 2512	6B
Tax Sale-Viney 2513	5B
Lambert-Notice 2511	6B
IDEM-Delphi Fire Training 2511	5B
Sheriff Sale-Read 2513	5B
Notice of Suit-Scott 2513	5B
Camden Jackson TWP-notice 2511	5B
Sheriff Sale-Stingley 2513	5B
NWISWD-Budget 2512	5B
Brown Estate 2512d	5B
Notice of Suit-Jack Smith 2513	6B
White Co. Drainage Board 2511	6B

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.