

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Memberships include:



Keeping citizens informed

Opening government to public oversight is the ultimate safeguard of democracy

This statement appears in the masthead of the Carroll County Comet each week because it is an important concept.

In an effort to deliver accurate and timely information about meeting dates and times of all governmental bodies and school boards, the Comet will begin printing a short section of meeting dates and times beginning with this issue. The new feature will appear on the editorial page in the lower right hand corner. It will bear the title, "Your Government in Action."

We hope in some small way this new service will help the citizens and taxpayers of Carroll County become as involved as they choose to be with local government.

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

Johnathan J. Kestle was charged with theft.

William A. Ledman was charged with Count I, operating while intoxicated, endangering a person; Count II, driving while suspended; Count III, no financial responsibility.

John A. Jones was charged with

Web poll

Tell us starting Wednesday at our web site, carrollcountycomet.com

Do you feel safer today than the day after Sept. 11, 2001?

Yes?
No?

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Sheriff Sale-Land	5B	3513
Sheriff Sale-Gooden	6B	3613
Delphi School-Add'l Appr.	6B	3612
Alcoholic Bereage-Brown	6B	3612
Marshal's Sale-Brown	6B	3614
Shanks Estate	6B	3612
Duke Energy-Notice	6B	3711
Area IV-Notice	6B	3711
Summons-Holman Estate	5B	3713
Notice of Suite-Stover	5B	3713
TL School-Notice of Add.	5B	3711
Yien-Zoning	6B	3711
Burlington Twp. Add'l App	6B	3711
Bell-Zoning	6B	3711
Brown-Zoning	6B	3711
Area Plan Comm-Zoning	5B	3711
County Council-Add'l App	6B	3711
TLRSD-Notice	5B	3712

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.

I recently came into possession of a new stapler and tape dispenser. These items, as common as they seem, are quite remarkable to me. I find them remarkable, fascinating and somewhat entertaining because, simply put, they work.

Though new to me, the stapler and tape dispenser are vintage items. I don't know how to put a date on them but they decidedly look and feel pre-computer, pre-Selectric typewriter. I'm thinking the 50s or 60s. They come from a former accountant's home office full of manual typewriters, mechanical adding machines, wooden rulers, slide rules and all kinds of office gizmos no longer made.

On my bathroom scale the tape dispenser weighs in all by itself at 2 pounds. Now that's a substantial weight for a little tape dispenser. When you pull a piece of tape from this mini mountain there's no wobble, no twist. It's almost like a tug of war, except that the dispenser and you are working together.

The tape dispenser isn't all that big. It's 5 inches long, 2 inches tall. But with all that weight it decidedly makes for a great weapon of self-defense. I can see it starring in the murder mystery board game "Clue." That's the game where you acquire clues in order to name the murderer, the location of the unfortunate crime and the murder weapon.

"It was the secretary in the upstairs study with the tape dispenser."

Design wise, the tape dispenser is way more than cute. It has the curves and flashy lines of an eye-catching 50s Chrysler. It is big, bold and has a little Art Deco thrown in.

The bottom of the tape dispenser still shows the original factory sticker - sans bar code! It says the piece was made by the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company.

Though the composition of the tape dispenser remains a mystery to speculate over, the thing itself is remarkable in that perhaps a half century after it was made it still does its job... and remains main-



Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz

Desktop

tenance free!
On my desk top, next to my new tape dispenser, sits my new stapler. We're talking same vintage and same kind of weight. This item is battleship gray but without any manufacturer's marking - but clearly made in the U.S.A. It, too, has the big Chrysler lines, an arching curve, a little racy Deco detail on the sides.

I work in an office with many, many staplers. None of them work consistently. They are hopelessly cheap, plastic, lightweight that can't fasten two pieces of paper together. It doesn't matter what angle you use, light tap, heavy hit. The staples fold half way over, they mangle, they jam. My favorite is when they complete an actual staple but leave all kinds of room between the pages so that they are affixed to each other but with a wobble of space between.

I bet my new to me, old to the world stapler hasn't misfired, jammed in 50 years. One hit and the job is done. There are no angles, no mangles, this is a machine, a stationary machine designed to wallop once and move on. I would bet on my new stapler against any new electric stapler that Office Depot could challenge us with - any day.

It seems that little light-weight plastic office tools are forever missing. They are so portable, they seem to float away. Not so with my bruisers. If you actually move the tape dispenser or stapler somewhere off the desk it's going to be obvious and you'll remember the effort. You'll break a sweat and the items won't ever wind up in your pocket.

So there they sit on my desk, the old and the new. My laptop computer actually weighs less than the tape dispenser. It almost looks vulnerable there sitting sandwiched between the tape dispenser and the stapler. The visual creates a kind of brains versus brawn conflict. And I'm kind of getting spoiled with all this dependability.

Now if I could just find a ribbon for that manual Royal typewriter...

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.

A letter to Burlington residents

I want to thank the citizens of Burlington for allowing me to serve as your marshal for nearly five years. During that time, I learned a lot.

Roy, I learned that when I spoke to you I should take the chewing gum out of my mouth. Jean, I knew when I came to your house, I should leave my gun locked inside my vehicle so as not to upset you. There were other things I learned that were not as amusing, such as how to hold back tears when interviewing a frail six or seven-year-old little girl who had been the victim of molestation. How to not fight when interviewing the grinning suspect in the same case who said, "She was the one who started it."

I also learned that contrary to popular belief, police work is not a thankless job. When a small child attaches himself to your leg or tells you he/she wants to be just like you when they grow up, it's one of the biggest thank yous I know.

The support I received from the community during my contract "negotiations" was second to none. I do not regret one moment as your town marshal. I know I did my job.

I miss many things about Burlington, but mostly the people. I enjoyed reading stories with the kids at the daycare and drinking lemonade with the elderly who told me stories of years past.

Sadly, the time has come for me to move on. I have taken a part-time job as a courtesy police officer which requires a move. I believe all will understand I must put my family before my badge and do what is right by them first.

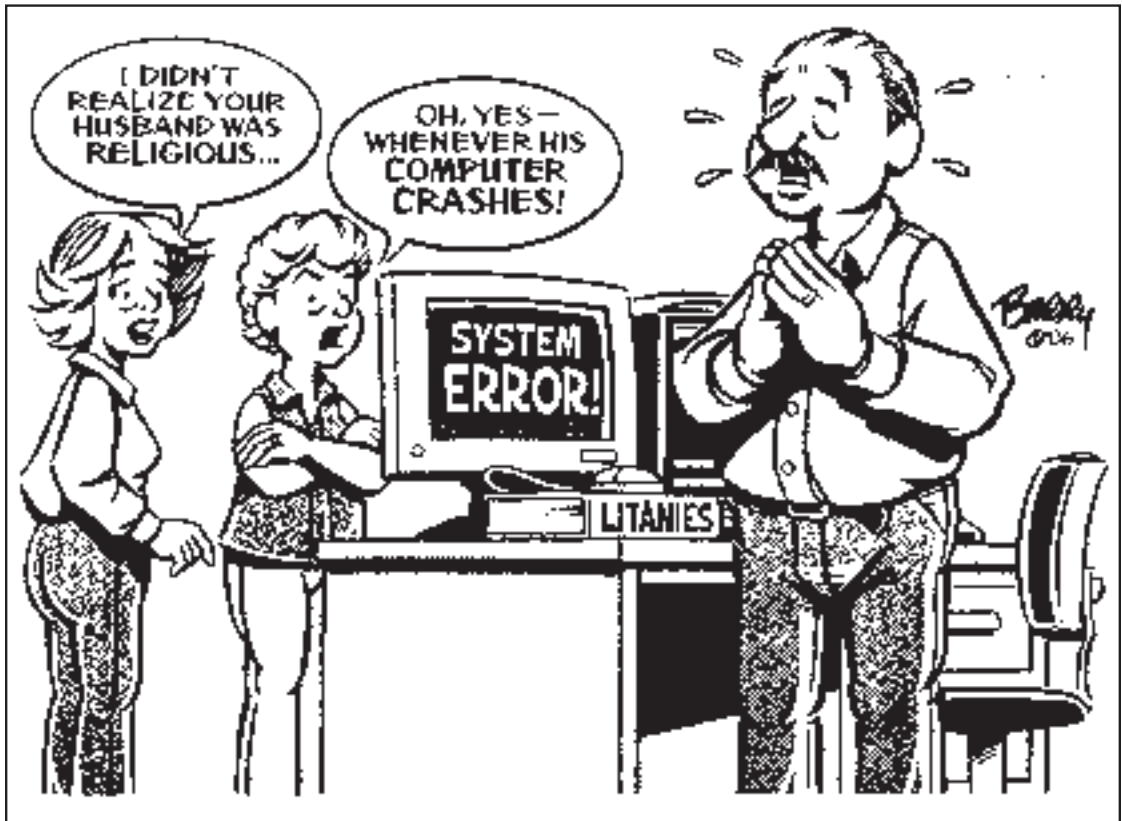
Many have asked if I plan to take the position of your town marshal if the opportunity ever presents itself again. I still am a property owner in Burlington. Who knows what time will bring. I do know this...wherever the good Lord wants me, is where I hope to be.

If I learned anything during my police career in Burlington, it's that good always prevails. Sometimes when you feel like you are losing the battle, you are actually winning, you just don't know it yet. Perseverance is the root of all conduct and true patience lies in bearing the unbearable (sensei Donnie Michael).

No matter where I go or what I do, I will always consider Burlington, Indiana, home.

Jeremie W. Dodd
Former Burlington
Town Marshal

Letters continued next page



Web poll results

Each week the Comet polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at 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:

Do you believe county officials should sell the county-owned property surrounding Carroll Manor?

29% Yes
69% No

2% Have no opinion
Total responses: 52

Reader comments:

My only and big question is WHY? Why do they want to, and for what purpose would they use the money?

Editor's Note: The following are additional responses to the poll question from Aug. 30 regarding eliminating property taxes.

Replace with a combination of sales and excise taxes.

* * *

The property tax cannot be eliminated. But the tax could be less for adults that do not have students in the school system, especially for a citizen over 55 years of age or those on a fixed income.

I would support a tax to be paid by the parents of the children attending school. Some parents do not pay property taxes to support the schools because they do not own property. Therefore, every student should be taxed \$1,000 every year they are in the school system. They are the ones attending school and should pay for that privilege of us providing an opportunity for them to get an education to better themselves in life. There could be

an exemption for B-average and higher students. B-average \$500 per year and A-average \$250 per year.

This would promote the use of contraceptives and or stay home and do your homework. It would raise the grade average of our students.

It is much easier to digest than paying what I'm paying in Jefferson Twp. I for the Twin Lakes School system with no children or grandchildren attending. It is just the principle of the thing.

The property tax should not be eliminated but there are alternatives that would reduce the burden.

The schools should be held more accountable for their spending. Some schools cannot find the money for uniforms for their athletes but have plenty of money for the coaches to buy videos and whatever they need. Something is wrong with this program.

Opinion: Questions dairy

When we tug on a single thing in nature we find it attached to everything else. - John Muir

The proposed mega-dairy raises many questions. A fine line separates agriculture from industry. The "family farm" rapidly being replaced with agri-business is more likely to be owned or controlled by outsiders with less responsibility to the community. The Boerman Carroll Dairy Farm begins with Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development, a corporation with a bad reputation in a number of communities. Carroll County lacks regulation for CAFOs of this scale. The bottom line for replacing traditional dairies with CAFOs is the dollar, but the efficiency enabling financial gain comes with a cost to the environment and quality of life.

What kind of logic puts acres of prime farmland under concrete with cows dependant year-round on being fed and manure stored until distribution when cows can feed themselves and spread their own manure? What happens to small family dairies when CAFOs move in? How will related businesses and tax dollars translate into economic advantages? Up to 35 people were to be employed for 3,450 cows, but why with 4,100 cows, are only 25-30 employees needed? I was told that five in management would "make good money", oth-

ers, minimum wage. Will minimum wages with free school lunches and other assistance be a boon to the economy?

Can additional tax dollars compensate for wear and tear from increased truck traffic? With three milk trucks every 24 hours for 3,450 cows, there would be 21 trucks a week, just for milk. A cow consumes more than it produces in milk and much more manure, so 35-40 semis a week doesn't compute. What roads will be used? With a blind curve north of the entrance from CR600 to SR75, will traffic have enough time to react to slow-moving trucks entering the highway?

What impact would milking 4,100 cows 24/7 have on the water in Carroll County? In industry, time is money, yield is everything, and efficiency is top priority. Hormones keep cows lactating for maximum milk production. Ruminants eating non-grass feed in close proximity with thousands of other cows get sick, requiring antibiotics. Overwork and unnatural conditions shorten a cow's life to three to four years. What happens to all those dead cows? How much of hormones, antibiotics, and pesticides slips into the milk and ground water and with what side effects? If the dairy uses more than 100,000 gallons of water per

day, we may not have water. Talk was that the Arendsens would drill deeper wells for us, but after how many dollars and years of litigation? Manure runoff goes all the way to the Gulf, where algae blooms from excess nitrogen destroy the livelihood of fishermen.

Manure reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers, although high concentrations can become toxic. Farmers complain about excessive regulation of application, but they are tampering with more than their share of natural resources. Regulation protects us and our neighbors in the Gulf. Methane contributes to global warming and nitrogen to acid rain. Insidious leaks add up. Current regulation allows 1/32" leak per acre of lagoon per day (850 gal. of waste) or 1.5 million gal. per year for a 5-acre lagoon. Liners should be required, but are no guarantee. Spills, floods, and other natural events cannot be controlled. Are plans in place to prevent and clean up disasters, and at whose expense, the owners or taxpayers? We'll all suffer.

The original projected 28,000-gallon lagoon, now 3 lagoons, holds 50 plus million gallons!

Having experienced feedlots in Colorado, our first concern was odor. Good Neighbor Policies prioritize, keep neighbors informed, then control odor by

adjusting diet, treating manure, and keeping dust down. Will neighbors be notified and application and aeration adjusted to accommodate weddings, BBQs, campouts, and just sitting on the porch? How far will the odor go? Even with all precautions, it will be constant for the closest neighbors as well as flies that carry disease and filth up to two miles.

When I asked how a CAFO compares with a feedlot, I was told, "Think of all the free milk and ice cream for the kiddies at school." You do not want to ride a bike past a feedlot. Can you hold your breath for a mile or two?

Health issues stem from concentrations of manure that can cause physiological and psychological problems for workers. In Minnesota, a daycare owner won a lawsuit against a CAFO (six miles away!), proven to be the source of children's unusual skin and respiratory illnesses. The young and elderly are more susceptible. In 2002, there were 881 people in Democrat Township. Constant exposure to odors has a psychological effect more than a momentary, "Phew!" Will we become confined to our homes like the cows?

Who will actually benefit from this industry? The trickle-down theory usually dries up. How much will property values plum-

met? No one in their right mind would buy or build a home near a CAFO. What effect would there be on future housing, the population of Carroll schools, and the county overall? Farmers can't survive without the non-farming community. We need each other! What about tourism? Would visitors to Adam's Mill and The Covered Bridge be so brief that no money is left in the county?

This dairy factory is our business! Failure to be proactive about potential problems, changing facts and figures, and a defensive attitude have done little to build confidence in the entire undertaking. Have the Area Plan Commission, Carroll County Economic Development Corp., and County Commissioners done their homework, or have they unwittingly invited in a monster? Why the big hurry to get this permit before exploring all the ramifications?

Now about that free milk and ice cream? The milk will be trucked to Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis and Cincinnati for processing and may not return to Carroll County. Why not limit the middlemen, fossil fuel use, and high concentrations of manure, and have sensibly sized, family dairies? Let the cows eat grass and fertilize their own pasture, build a cistern to ensure

adequate water, pipe the milk to a nearby processing plant where cheese and ice cream are made, and distribute it locally by employees paid a decent wage. Sounds like sustainable farming and economic development!

A good neighbor does not step on the dreams of others. Weigh the benefits and threats to the quality of life in Carroll County. The risks are palpable, and the benefits are not guaranteed. You gamble with the lives of many and tug on a thread attached to everything else.

Grace & Tony Woodruff
Cutler

Because the public has a right to know...

In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are happening when and where, the Comet will now print upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

Thursday, Sept. 14
Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m.-White County Gov. Building
Monday, Sept. 18
Commissioners: 9 a.m., county courthouse, Delphi
Delphi Board of Works: 6:30 p.m., City Building
Delphi School Corp.: 7 p.m., Administration Building
Tuesday, Sept. 19
Carroll School Corp.: 7:30 p.m., Administration Building