



Carroll parents ask questions, sound off

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Parents of Carroll students were invited to a public forum Monday night to hear about what's happening in the schools and to ask questions.

The meeting was held at the Burlington Church of Christ. Officials taking part in the forum were Superintendent John Sayers, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal and Assistant Principal Charles Huckstep and Fred Schnarr, and Elementary Principal and Assistant Principal Carolyn O'Connell and Natalie McQuade.

Sayers listed goals of the school corporation, including developing a 10-year facilities plan after the first of the year, with the high school site a prior-

ity; continue the reading initiative at the elementary; and develop a six-year curriculum review.

Two questions from the audience related to the junior-senior high school facility, were what ever happened to the science lab renovation, and what about air conditioning in that building.

Sayers said he expects the science lab to be included in the 10-year plan.

"We've met with the architect and have the curriculum, but we've not developed a plan yet," he said.

Sayers said the air conditioning will continue to be discussed. He said a factor that has to be weighed along with the air conditioning is increased cost of electricity. He said so far it hasn't been a real problem at the ele-

mentary.

Sayers also mentioned the soccer and softball fields that are being developed. He said they are ready to seed, and they hope to have the foundations for related buildings this fall.

He said they're hoping to have the new football concession stand open in time for the football sectional.

A new technology committee has been formed, and Sayers said they will be meeting later this week. Schnarr is chairing the committee.

Sayers said corporation enrollment is down 16 from last year and stands at 1,123.5 (with kindergarten students counting as half).

Concerning the school tax rate, Sayers said, "If we get less state money than we have in the past, you'll

pay more taxes

O'Connell told about the addition of a reading specialist to the elementary staff. Kathy Shuler, former first grade teacher, was hired for the position. She said Shuler works primarily with K-3 students, teachers, and aides, to improve both instruction and learning.

O'Connell said the school is striving to improve in all areas, but especially in reading.

"Reading is the basis of everything you do in life," she said.

She challenged parents to set aside five or 10 minutes a day where everyone in their household sits down to read.

McQuade mentioned the General Education Intervention program, which offers early intervention to stu-

dents with academic or emotional problems.

"The first intervention is to see what can be taken care of in the classroom," she said.

Accentuate the positive

McQuade said something new at the elementary is a program to inspire, recognize and reward positive student behavior. It's called BRAG (Behavior, Respect, Attitude, Grades). Any teacher or staff member can nominate students who display these positive attributes. Students who earn the most "bragging rights" get a traveling trophy in their classroom.

Schnarr said teams are forming for the Battle of the Books, and parents are invited to be on the parent team.

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Harvest time



This is a familiar scene throughout the county as farmers reap what they have sown. This field is off State Road 18, east of Flora. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

Result of Crossroads initiative

Registration is open for 2007 Leadership Carroll County class

By Susan Scholl
Editor

Leadership Carroll County (LCC), an in-depth adult leadership development program, is accepting registrations for its 2007 class that will begin in mid-January.

The curriculum will include both personal leadership development topics as well as information about the county and current issues. Some of the topics to be explored will be communication skills of leaders, teamwork, serving on boards, county demographics, local government, not-for-profits, and much more.

"Sometimes we think leaders are born, but this program proves that anyone who has the desire to make a difference can," said LCC graduate Andy Coughill of Delphi. "I've never been the type to take charge, but now I feel energized to step forward and accept new responsibility. I highly recommend the leadership

Mailing label goes here

program to anyone who wants to give back to their community."

The six-week program will be held on six consecutive Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 24 and concluding Feb. 28. The first session will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Camp Tecumseh YMCA Center. Each session thereafter will be from 12 noon to 5 p.m. In order to become better acquainted with the county, the program sites will rotate to different communities within the county.

Leadership Carroll County is a result of the Carroll County at the Crossroads strategic planning effort that occurred two years

ago. Identified in those planning sessions was the need for leadership development within Carroll County.

The purpose of the leadership program is five-fold: 1) to identify and expand the leadership base who will assume active roles in Carroll County; 2) develop leadership capacity by providing the necessary training; 3) increase involvement in government, supporting agencies and civic organizations for the benefit of the entire county; 4) influence change in the county through enhanced leadership; and 5) build a spirit of unity in the county.

"As we met each week, I was amazed at the knowledge that each person brought with them," said Sandy Simpson of Flora, a LCC graduate. "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."

Leadership Carroll County is open to any county resident, or any person with business or civic activities in Carroll County. There is a registration fee of \$100 that will cover a portion of the expenses and lunch and snacks at each session. Participants will receive a notebook of leadership materials. A few half scholarships are available.

Continuing leadership development opportunities will be offered to participants who complete the program.

The first Leadership Carroll County class was held earlier this year with 27 participants.

For more information or to register, contact any member of the task force: Todd Ladd, Ann Brown, Ralph Walker, Janet Ayres, Dan Gottschalk, Larry Trapp, Al Jackson, Anita Werling or Susan Scholl, or call 574-967-4135.

Delphi Christmas Parade is just around the corner

Comet staff report

The Delphi Lions Club, sole sponsor of the 2006 Christmas Parade, is busy making plans for the event to be held Dec. 2, at 1 p.m.

The theme of this year's parade is "Old Fashion Christmas." There will be prizes for best float, small float, marching group and decorated vehicle using the theme.

Clubs, sororities, youth groups, scouts, churches, schools

and small towns surrounding Delphi are invited to participate. Little Mister and Miss and 4-H queens are also welcome.

Registration will begin the first of November. Anyone may register by calling Ed or Donna Sholty at (765) 564-3514. Registration is not required, but is helpful to organizers. There is never a charge for participating in the parade.

The parade marshal and parade route will be announced closer to the event date.

A choice for district one county council seat

Both candidates advocate changes

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

The Carroll County Council will be significantly impacted by the results of the November general election due to the announcement by current council member John Blackburn he would not seek re-election. As a result, two county residents are vying for the position in the general election.

Republican Ron Slavens of Adams Township ran in the May primary without an opponent. However, before the filing deadline arrived, Democrat Richard DePoy threw his hat in the ring for consideration in November.

The Comet sat down with both candidates to allow them the opportunity to share some of their views.

Richard DePoy:

A drive for open government

Richard DePoy of Jefferson Township said he became interested in running for the office because of the impending sewer system that seems to be in the future for many living in Jefferson Township.

"My concern with it is there has been no representation for Carroll County residents," the former Flora precinct committeeman said.

The 71-year-old DePoy said his goal is to make county government as open as possible if he is elected.

"I plan to challenge decisions that seem to be made outside of meetings," he said. "I believe open access to what's going on makes better government."

DePoy criticized the current council's practice of holding 8 a.m. meetings.

"The average person with a job cannot make a meeting at that time of day," he said. "I would advocate to change the meeting times. The council should have meetings that are available to the public. And the meetings should be at a regularly scheduled day of the month."

"I am for good government, be it democrat or republican," DePoy said to explain his potential role in the council.

"I could be a benefit to the council because I would be the only Democrat," he continued. "Good government is made up from input from a lot of people."

DePoy said he wants to form study groups or committees comprised of residents outside of the governmental structure to address specific issues.

"Not anyone on the council

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Ron Slavens

Not a micro-manager

Republican Ron Slavens said he has been involved in many Carroll County boards and has the experience needed to help current council members maintain a county-wide perspective - an "overall spending picture" - for county government. Although in general agreement with how the current council manages county money, Slavens offered some differing opinions about how to best handle problems within county departments and the public.

"It's through the appropriations that you control personnel," the Adams Township Trustee Slavens said about the council-mandated county hiring policy. "I'm not a micro-manager."

"I don't agree with the nepotism policy," he added, "but I would uphold it."

Slavens, who has attended some recent council meetings, said the council has a public relations problem and it needs to be addressed.

"You do the public work by letting people speak," he said. "But you don't debate them at the meetings. You can make tough decisions and not offend someone at a meeting."

"I believe in the remonstrance system," he said. "I led a remonstrance against the Twin Lakes School Corporation before. It's the people's right to oppose and I support that," he added.

Slavens said it is always good to have a savings account, but it is premature to plan for a new

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Flora Parade to be Nov. 11

Comet staff report

This year's Flora Parade will combine the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The date has been changed to Nov. 11 to coincide with the merchants' holiday open houses. The parade formerly was on Thanksgiving weekend.

The theme this year is "Making Holiday Memories."

Entries may have

Thanksgiving or Christmas themes.

Prizes will be awarded for Best Motorized, Best Walking Group, Best Thanksgiving Float, Best Christmas Float, and Most Entertaining.

Rain date for the parade will be Nov. 18.

For more information, contact Theresa Brown at The Flower Shoppe, 967-3022, or evenings, 765-564-6666.

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