

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Memberships include:



Being the new guy isn't easy

Community members are encouraged to remember that when a long-time school corporation superintendent is replaced, the person who comes in after them must cope with a myriad of situations that would make most mere mortals run to their caves and hide their heads.

Such is the case of the new Delphi Community School Corporation Superintendent, Ralph Walker. Mr. Walker has been faced with several daunting obstacles, such as replacing a high school principal, a middle school principal and now, perhaps, an elementary school principal.

Walker is learning to work with seven board members plus each building administration staff, but all of those people are learning to work with only one new superintendent. He is dealing with a host of the normal and usual occurrences that present themselves weekly to any superintendent to remedy and rectify.

We applaud Mr. Walker for meeting these challenges head-on with honesty, integrity and above all, grace in the face of such adversity. Remember, he has only been on the job less than two months.

Through the stress and challenges of inevitable change, he still finds time to remember what is most important in life, our children.

Walker will dress in farmer garb and drive a tractor pulling a hay wagon loaded with kindergarten students to a make-believe pumpkin patch behind the high school several times this week and next.

The reason a superintendent would decide to do this is simple. Walker understands the importance of children feeling like the superintendent is interested in their lives. This act will help children feel connected to the school as a corporation-family and not just to their classroom teacher and to the building in which they attend classes. This act shows humility.

The community should support and applaud Walker for bringing a fresh perspective to the Delphi Community School Corporation and to the board members who exhibited the wisdom to recognize what this community needed and act on that wisdom.

Most mornings these days I have a date with the rumbling, tumbling treadmill that sits off to one side in the gym where I have a membership.

There are three other treadmills grouped together as you enter the workout room. On any given morning it's on two of those three treadmills you'll find Hazel and Parker busy walking and talking. These two always beat me no matter how early the hour is when I arrive. Both Hazel and Parker are retired so I wonder what the big rush is to hit the rubber pavement - so to speak.

Hazel wears earphones and she calls Parker and me "the boys." I kind of like it. The day she first used that expression I knew I was in.

"Well, I'll leave it to you boys now," Hazel says when she leaves, waving her arm high in the air. Then she goes off and has coffee and talks to Maria who supervises the place. Hazel always leaves her pink beaded purse and her house keys on a little table near Maria's desk in the front lobby. The spot is near the ping pong table, right out in the open, but no one seems to bother the stuff. We all know when Hazel is on deck.

Maybe folks just know not to mess with Hazel. Hazel and Parker talk to each other via the floor to ceiling mirrors that surround the treadmill area. This conversation takes place exactly like the one you have from your chair at the barber or beauty shop. I never know exactly where to look into the mirror during these conversations. It just confuses me. Do you look on the eyes, or the mouth?

That's why I head for the loner treadmill, the one off away from the mirrors. I don't want to watch myself walking. And I don't want to talk via the mirror. Exactly what are you supposed to look at when you're not having the mirror conversation? I wind up watching my feet which seems an odd way

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Walking in place

to start the day. The treadmill has its hazardous aspects. My friend John took a tumble on the very machine I use. He hasn't got back on the thing since.

If you follow the directions, the treadmill comes with a little break away cord that connects you and the machine. The thing turns off if the connection is broken. I've jostled the cord by mistake a couple of times and it sure works - you come to a lurching, screeching, attention-getting stop.

I love the rhythm of my treadmill. For weeks I thought it only moved to 4/4 time. In the beginning, for some unknown reason, Bach's "Ode to Joy" played over and over in my head. But since then I see that I can actually choose the "rhythm" I feel from the machine. I can put the music count in my head on three steps and use the fourth step as a pause. That way I move out of 4/4 time.

When I walk on the treadmill I like to listen to the music in my head, rather than wearing earphones. Otherwise, I'm afraid I'd get distracted by the music and then I'd get catapulted head over heels somewhere over near Hazel and Parker.

The music in my head is much more pleasant to listen to than the arguments I occasionally have with myself. I used to do the argument in the head thing when I mowed the lawn on the riding lawnmower. I'd rehash old wounds and missteps and I'd get myself boiling mad. It nearly landed me in the drainage ditch many a time.

But old walkers can learn new ways. So I stay with the music in my head, picking my rhythm, and looking straight ahead.

Yesterday the "loner" treadmill was in use when I arrived. So I hopped on next to Hazel, one over from Parker. And I'm hear to tell you - after a good long extended look at my gym shoes, I'm needing a new pair.

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.

Recognize bus drivers

To All Delphi Community School Corporation Bus Drivers/Aides:

October 15-21 is National School Bus Safety Week. We would like to take this time to let you know how much you are appreciated by all of us at Delphi Community School Corporation.

Words cannot express how difficult a job you hold and the importance of the precious cargo that you carry everyday, and it is our hope that the community is also aware of the extra effort that you put forth each and every day.

Please know that we think that you all do a wonderful job in not only the transportation of the children of our community, but also in the pride and care that you show in the upkeep of your vehicles.

Pam Ryves,
DCSC transportation director
Bill Hefner,
corporation mechanic

Restaurant Inspections

China 1 Buffet

Routine inspection: 9/26/06
Summary of Violations: 3 critical, 2 non-critical
Critical

1) The clams and boiled eggs were being held at a temperature of 48 degrees. Directed to correct by 9/26/06.

2) Some of the items in the hot table were being held at a temperature of 109 degrees and at 115 degrees. Corrected.

3) The fried food in the hot holding table had a temperature of 102 degrees. Directed to correct by 9/26/06.

Non-Critical
1) There were some food items in the walk-in cooler that were not covered. Directed to correct by 9/26/06.

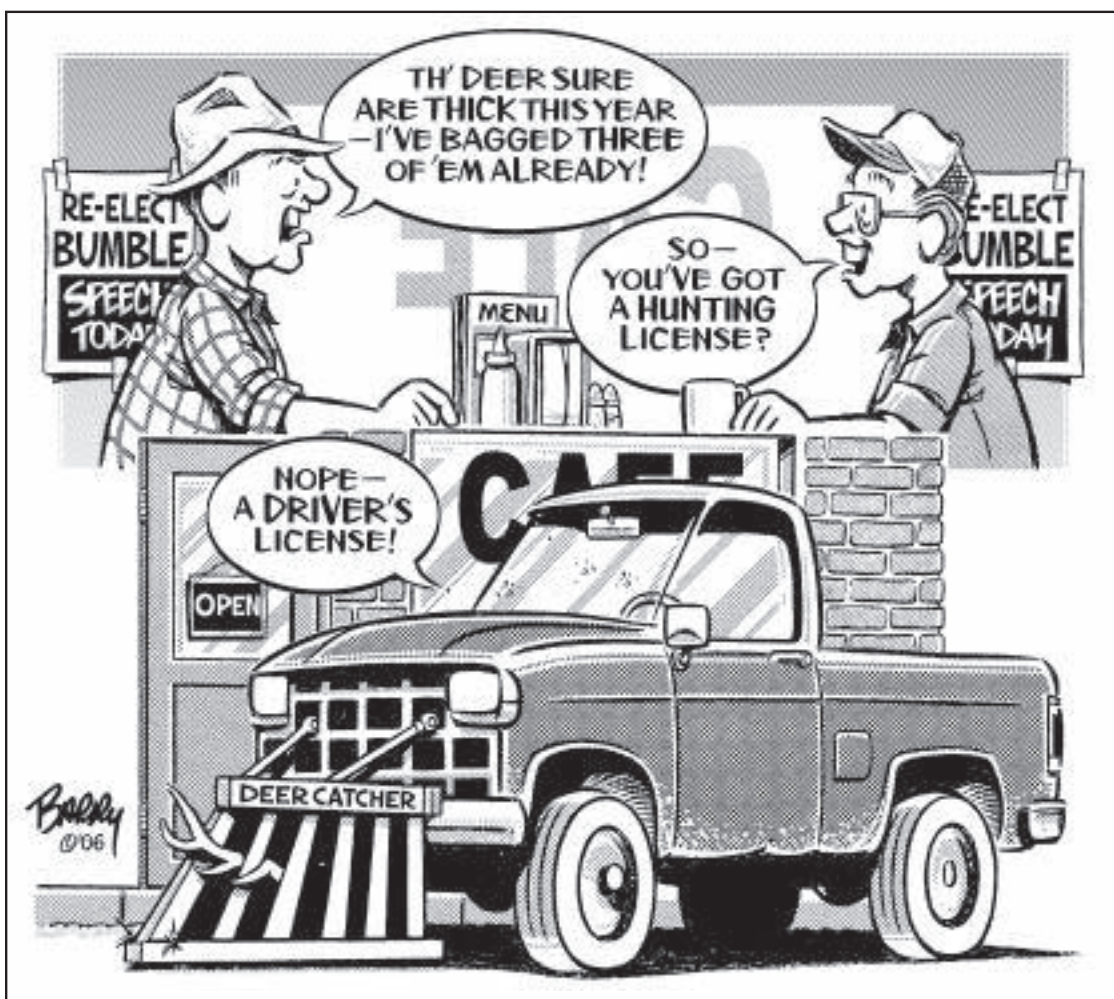
2) The freezers did not have a thermometer to measure the air temperature. Directed to correct by 9/28/06.

Save a Lot

Routine inspection: 9/26/06
Summary of violations: No Violations
Noted

The Office Tavern

Routine inspection: 9/25/06
Summary of Violations: No Violations
Noted



Opinion: Wants commitment from dairy development company

Our family and many of our neighboring families have lived on this land in Democrat Township for many years. We enjoy the value of the beauty, the value of the land and the history of the area and we desire they remain forever. Which leads to this question.

What part of "we don't want this dairy factory farm in Democrat Township" do the Carroll County Commissioners not understand? The information we have been fed from the Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development contains nothing more than additional speculation about what this dairy farm will be.

Agribusiness has reaped great profits while keeping consumer prices somewhat low. But the real costs of factory farming - in terms of the loss of family farms, damage to the environment and human and animal illness - are tremendous.

Factory farms pollute the air and water, endanger human and animal health and drive responsible, sustainable farmers out

of business.

The only way we, the community, can establish any comfort level is to have written commitments from all of the parties involved in the venture. We want written commitments that will:

1. Have bonding in place for repairs to County Road 600 South.
2. Have bonding in place for neighboring wells within a 2-mile radius from the exterior of the property against wells going dry and against harmful levels of e-coli, nitrate and nitrite contamination.
3. Bonding for repair and upkeep of county regulated drains.
4. Bonding for any cleanup/spills from the CAFO and associated manure application.
5. Mounding with evergreen plantings and landscaping on top of the mounds around the perimeter of the operation to block all light and sound.
6. Requiring that all vehicles, including farm tractors, must be parked behind the mounding and landscaping when not in use.
7. Carroll County road 600 South must be rebuilt, per Indiana State Highway specifications from State Road 75 to a point 300 feet east of the proposed entrance, including tapers into and out of the entrance along with a passing blister on the opposite side of the entrance.
8. Lagoon liners will be synthetic.
9. Monitoring devices will be installed to monitor air quality and reports made public each month through the Carroll County Health Department.
10. Anstall monitoring wells around the site and lagoons that must be tested by an independent test company and submitted to the Carroll County Health Department which will become public record on a monthly basis. Corrective action will be taken within 30 days.
11. The CAFO and opera-

tors/developer will update its operation as new technology becomes available.

Workers at the CAFO will not become a burden to the taxpayers of the school system.

No expansion will ever take place at this operation/location. An approved method of controlling flies and birds must be in place, on record in the Carroll County Health Department, and continually updated.

Then and only then will we feel Vreba-Hoff has a true commitment to the Carroll County community.

Cecilia Conway, director of customer relations with Vreba-Hoff, makes reference in her "Opinion" article in the Oct. 4, 2006, *Carroll County Comet* to a study in Huntington County about property values. My question to her is this: Who bought those properties and for what use? Was the study non-biased?

My analysis of land values in a situation such as this dairy factory is that the economic reality stops short of considering land use. In the following hypothetical scenario (which in reality is not hypothetical at all) a decrease in value (as opposed to Conway's cite of Huntington County) would likely occur. A rural home site with an appraised value of the dwelling structure at \$200,000 and an appraised land value of \$10,000 per acre may double or even triple in land value after five years of adjacent industrial development (factory farms), from the perspective of a developer.

However, it is highly unlikely the property will attract the average homebuyer, when a comparable property in a rural area, lacking the view of a 4,100 head dairy farm, can be purchased for less.

Subsequently, developers interested in the property would unlikely consider the value of the dwelling structure in a purchase agreement as it

would likely be razed or otherwise removed, thus the land value is all that remains.

Therefore, here is the remaining formula: ((6 acres x \$10,000 per acre appraised value in 2006) + \$200,000 replacement value of structure) x 300% land value appreciation five years = \$380,000 - developer's generous offer of \$180,000 for land = net loss of \$200,000. This is not good math for the smart investor, but makes for good fluff for the developers.

Conway also says, "In the states where our farmers operate, the combined farms employ nearly 370 people who earn in excess of \$14 million." The simple math here gives an average of \$37,838 per person, still below the average wage earner in Indiana of nearly \$40,000. These numbers, of course, are hypothetical, but like everything else in this attempt to establish this factory farm, we have been given no information as to the exact numbers of what the true economic benefits will be.

She ends by saying that "We welcome the opportunity to show you how clean and pleasant our dairy farms actually are. Seeing one in person could very well allay your fears."

First of all, about eight concerned Democrat Township neighbors signed up to go on a

bus tour offered by T. Ayres et al, this past summer and the tour was cancelled. We never did know why.

Additionally, we have seen your dairies on our own tours and we are not impressed. We don't want what everyone else might have.

If you have a true interest in this community, you would be willing to sit with the neighbors and listen to our concerns and fulfill the ideas which will help protect the health, safety and welfare of this County.

But as it stands, long after Vreba-Hoff is gone, your kind of legacy will affect the lives of all citizens in terms of their health and well-being, of the land and of communities in a destructive way. We, as concerned citizens need to move towards greater innovation and care, both of which are more easily accessible than ever by creative minds in universities, local communities and trail-blazers like Wendell Berry, Wes Jackson and many others.

Do what is right for Carroll County, Democrat Township, and our concerned neighbors and move your site somewhere where it might be welcomed.

Jerry L. Carter
Cutler

Marriage Licenses

David A. Steinwald, 35, Lafayette, and Tiffany L. Howard, 23, Delphi.

Doyce R. Black III, 26, and Robyn R. Hoskins, 24, both of Delphi.

Christopher J. Lowery, 33, and Yolanda M. Trent, 30, both of Delphi.

Carl E. Sorrell, 59, and Jacqueline E. Everett, 57, both of Delphi.

Bradley J. Martin, 24, and Hollie N. Davis, 22, both of Flora.

Luke A. Eaker, 20, Walton, and Audrey B. Wisler, 18, Delphi.

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, Oct. 12
√Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m.-White County Gov. Building

Monday, Oct. 16
√Commissioners: 6 p.m..

Tuesday, Oct. 17
Carroll School Board, 7:30 p.m..

Wednesday, Oct. 18
√Delphi Board of Works: 5:30 p.m.

Web poll

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

The Old Order Amish in Pennsylvania say they have forgiven Charles Carl Roberts IV for the shooting deaths last week of young girls at an Amish school. Could you forgive the person who killed your child?

Yes
No

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Smith Name Change	5B	3913
Sheriff Sale-Brower	5B	3913
Notice of Suit-Merlin	5B	3911
Sheriff Sale-Slaybaught	5B	4013
Sheriff Sale-Richeson	5B	4013
Sheriff Sale-Miller	5B	4013
Summons-Nethercutt	5B	4013
Sheriff Sale-Remaly	5B	4013
Sheriff Sale-Flora	5B	4013
Sheriff Sale-Smith/Kelly	5B	4013
Alcoholic Bev Brd-Renew	3B	4012
Sheriff Sale-Engle	5B	4013
City of Delphi Ordinance	6B	4112
Commissioners-Voting	3B	4111
Town of Camden-Notice	6B	4111
Comm.-Not. to Bidders	3B	4112
OOHR-Not. of Vacation	6B	4111
Comm. General Election	5B	4111
Sheriff Sale-McPherson	3B	4113
Town of Flora-Specs	3B	4112
Carroll Schl-Not of Adopt	6B	4111
Sheriff Sale-Gardiner	5B	4113
Johnson Estate	5B	4111
Town of Camden-Add'l Appr	6B	4111

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.

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:

What would encourage you to attend more county council meetings?

- 43% Have night meetings
- 39% Have agendas posted on the Internet 5 days prior
- 17% Nothing, I would never attend

Total responses: 23

Reader comments:

I would think an itemized agenda, along with regular 7:00 p.m. meetings would generate better attendance. When the public does not know what is being discussed, it is difficult to find an interest. The agenda should be published the week prior and then adhered to strictly.

Generally speaking, many feel the board members have their own discussions prior to the meetings and have their decisions made. It would seem their desire for public input has not been any better than public attendance, or the complete agendas would have been published heretofore.

Being elected does not give officials carte blanche.