



# Dairy farmers surprise commissioners at meeting

## IDEM to host public dairy farm meeting

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Although the topic was not on the agenda for the Monday night Carroll County Commissioners' meeting, a group of concerned citizens appeared to address the county leaders about the proposed dairy farm for Democrat Township.

They came with questions and suggestions. They wanted explanations about facility maintenance, the group promoting the project and the people who would be operating the facility.

What some in the audience didn't know was the family who would be operating the proposed dairy farm was standing in

the back of the room. The appearance came as a surprise to county commissioner George Mears who announced earlier that the family who would operate the facility "is over in Germany right now."

Gerrit Arendsen, his wife and two of their four children, made a surprise visit to the meeting and met those with questions face-to-face.

Some in the audience wasted no time in asking the family questions about their expertise in operating a large concentrated animal feeding operation and when they planned to move to the area.

Brian Daggy, project consultant who was accompanying the family, announced the Indiana Department of Environmental

Management would hold a public meeting Nov. 29 about the proposed 3,500-head dairy. He said the meeting is expected to last two hours. Residents are invited to submit questions in advance.

The venue is yet to be announced. No additional information was given. Efforts to reach Daggy by telephone were unsuccessful.

The *Comet* will provide an in-depth interview with the Arendsen family in next week's issue.

### Lancaster Bridge

A change order for \$61,584.92 due to cost overruns was approved for the Lancaster Bridge project.

The county's share of the cost is

approximately \$15,000 or 20 percent of the total amount. Commissioners' president Bill Brown suggested the funds be taken from the covered bridge fund.

Although the commissioners approved the change order, it will be up to the county council to pay the bill and decide from which line item in the budget the money would be appropriated.

### Xenia Bridge

Highway supervisor Ramzi Awwad recommended a delay until spring in painting the Xenia Bridge. He explained the weather has been unsuitable for painting. He said there may not be enough good days in a row left this fall to allow contractors to do a quality job.

"My preference would be to get the bridge painted this fall and get it over with," Awwad said when he was asked about his wishes for the project.

However, Awwad expressed concern the paint would not have optimal conditions to allow it to adhere to the bridge surface for a suitable length of time.

### SR75 extension

Awwad announced the SR75 extension feasibility study report, including conclusions of an economic development study, would be distributed at the next commissioners' meeting.

### Other business

A bid from USA Environment Services

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## The race for county treasurer...

# Staying the course or a new direction

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Carroll County voters will be asked to choose between an experienced person and a newcomer to politics as the next county treasurer. The job to handle all county funds and balance the county checkbook is an important one. The treasurer works in conjunction with the county's auditor, assessor and taxpayers almost on a daily basis.

Voters will choose between incumbent, Republican Jane Brewington and Democrat challenger Pamela Mansfield. Both candidates sat down with the *Comet* to answer questions and express their views.

### Pam Mansfield, a newcomer to politics

Pam Mansfield said she is running a positive campaign that is not about what the incumbent is doing wrong. Instead she wants voters to know what she can offer to the county in the treasurer's office.



"It's a great time in my life. My kids are grown, I want to get involved," she stated. "I just felt it was time to make a change in my life and in the Democrat party. I know I can do just as good a job as the present treasurer."

Mansfield graduated from Delphi High School in 1968 and has spent most of her life in Carroll County.

Mansfield said she has a good knowledge of what the job involves. She attended Indiana Business College after high school. She said her 13 years as the treasurer at Delphi Middle School has prepared her well to take over in January.

"This is a great opportunity for me," Mansfield said. "The treasurer is the custodian of the county's money."

Mansfield said if elected she wants to make the treasurer's office accessible to taxpayers by making tax records available online. She would also like for property owners to be able to pay their taxes online.

Another change Mansfield suggested would be to consider keeping the treasurer's office open evenings during tax time. She said she would like to provide access to the office two Saturdays prior to tax deadline.

Mansfield said she attends Indiana State Board of Accounts workshops every year in her current position and understands how being open at tax time would improve the taxpayer's ability to make deadlines.

The 56-year-old married

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### Jane Brewington: Just vote - that's your right!

Jane Brewington has been Carroll County treasurer for the past four years. Before that she was first deputy under former treasurer Barb Chapman. Brewington said she never ran for a political office prior to 2002.



"I don't want to be political," Brewington said. "I'm going to try to work with what I've got," she added when asked about the decision by the county council to not fund a second-deputy position for 2005 and beyond.

"Now only two people know the answers to questions. You never know what's going to need to be done," she continued. "Sometimes the doors are closed for lunches and banking errands when one of us is on vacation," she said. "There have been no complaints about that though."

Brewington said many things in her office are mandated by the state, which limits her power to make adjustments in the workings of the office.

"There's nothing I can change," she said. "We do fill out a cash sheet everyday now, and that wasn't done before. And we put everything into an excel spreadsheet for tracking."

Brewington explained the treasurer balances the county checkbook. She said she works in concert with the auditor who writes checks and receives all county money. All money matters go to the treasurer's office for processing.

"It's kind of a checks and balances situation for the county," she said.

The 55-year-old Flora resident supervises one full-time deputy and six part-time workers. Only one of the six is a weekly employee. The others are seasonal.

Brewington said she would not change the treasurer's office hours of operation if re-elected. She said the measure was previously attempted and not enough people visited the office to warrant the change.

Brewington would rather run for the office unopposed, but said there are some advantages to the competition.

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### A trip to the 'Pumpkin Patch'

DCSC Superintendent Ralph Walker accompanied Hillcrest and Camden kindergartners to the "pumpkin patch" at Delphi Community High School last week. He rode with students in his covered wagon, pulled by a utility tractor driven by FFA member Tyler Cocanower. The pumpkin patch was supposed to be outside, but because of inclement weather, students picked out their pumpkins inside the Ag wing. The pumpkins were purchased by the Delphi FFA chapter. Children made faces on the pumpkins by using stencils created by DCHS art students. Mason Shoemaker, pictured, made faces all the way around his pumpkin. *Comet* photos by Jennifer Archibald

# Carroll School Board resolution pertains to old Flora School property

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Carroll School Board is planning to turn over the old Flora School property, in trust, to the Carroll Education Foundation (CEF), a nonprofit organization.

The first reading of a resolution pertaining to ground north of the old Flora School was read at the Oct. 3 board meeting. The board was to take action on the resolution at the Oct. 17 meeting (held after *Comet* press time).

Superintendent John Sayers said the board wouldn't be giving up the property. He said any benefit from the ground would benefit the school corporation.

The property consists of less than five acres of undeveloped real estate, now being rented for farm ground.

The resolution states that the "Carroll Education Foundation may use the Real Estate as income producing property in any manner that it sees fit, and may use any

income received from the Real Estate for its exempt purposes under its Bylaws." And "That the Real Estate may not be sold, encumbered, transferred, or otherwise disposed of without the express written authorization of the Board of Trustees of Carroll Consolidated School Corporation."

The resolution further states that "CCSC would like to maintain the opportunity to use the Real Estate at some time in the future as leverage, trade, or capital for additional development on the CCSC campus."

School Attorney Miriam Robeson explained to the *Comet* last week that if the property isn't placed in trust with the CEF, according to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, the school board should either sell the real estate and put the money into the General Fund, or have a specific plan for the use of the property. She said the board doesn't have a specific plan, but doesn't want the value of the real estate to be absorbed into the General Fund, and lost in one year's budget cycle.

"Instead, the school board would like to keep the property in reserve, in case there is an opportunity to leverage the real estate into some expansion for the school campus, sometime in the unknown future," she said. "By placing it 'in trust,' the school still 'owns' the property, but it can be controlled by the Foundation, and the Foundation can benefit from the farm rent income until such time as the school can make use of the property. The rental income is nominal compared to the school's general budget, so the loss of income to the school is minimal while the benefit to the Foundation would be much greater."

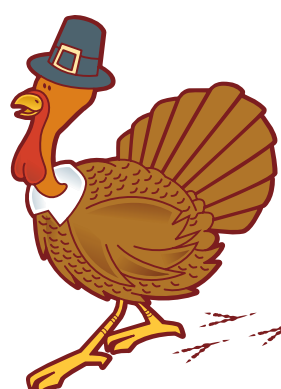
In other business, the board approved a soccer/softball field committee that will recommend future projects on the new fields and will follow through with the steps to complete those projects.

Sayers will chair the committee. Other members are: Steve Keown, baseball coach; Chad Myers, softball coach; Dave

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