

## CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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## Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



### Holiday scents

It's beginning to smell a lot like Christmas these days. I mean big smell like the way my dresser drawer smelled for years after I spilled the entire contents of a vintage Brute aftershave onto a pile of white socks.

Christmas is in the air all right. It's hanging in the air like residual exhaust hangs the day after the tractor pull is over. And Santa's elves are working overtime spreading, sprinkling, powdering, puffing, igniting and planting their merry scents everywhere.

At my office the janitor uses evergreen vacuum powder on the wall-to-wall carpeting. He switched from a pumpkin smelling scent right after Thanksgiving. Every evening he douses the rugs with this powder, then proceeds to vacuum it up. The odor is so strong it's likely that one morning we will open shop only to find reindeer grazing in our cubicles.

Yesterday I was in the apartment of a guy trying to sell his place for more money than it's worth. He recently hired a lady called a "stager" to make the place look and feel irresistible to potential buyers. The stager painted a couple of the walls bright colors. She brought in some furniture and plants. Then she set the dining room table with fancy china and put pots on the stove. Finally, she took the place one staging step further. She created what she described to me as an aromatic environment. What that means is the place smells - from every nook and possible cranny, smells wafting at you and around you.

The stager's smells emit from plug-in devices she has installed in electric outlets throughout the apartment. But these are not cheap, ordinary, grocery store plug-in devices. The gizmos have little fans and they work nonstop spreading their smells throughout the rooms.

"It smells too much," I told the stager.

I told her that the day before one real estate agent I showed the place to had run out the front door as her allergies to the aromas kicked in. The stager explained to me why I was wrong and that the smells have been scientifically proven to trigger brain endorphin that controls our house-buying mode.

"Really....." I replied, as a lemony scent told my nostrils to tell my brain to tell my feet to flee out the back door ASAP.

Apparently they haven't perfected the smell that tells folks to pay too much for a plain Jane apartment that's all show and no substance. Not yet, anyway, and I wonder what smell that particular aroma would smell like.

Over the weekend my wife and I were out and about running errands. After a solo run into the post office I popped back in the car only to find Santa's elf had been busy.

"Peppermint?"

It wasn't so much a question as it was that we had become the essence of peppermint, breathing it, wearing it, licking it as it hung heavy in the very air.

I looked in the back seat to see where 500 lbs. of peppermint could be loaded in a compact car.

"Essential oils," she replied, "my Yoga instructor sells them. That was just three little drops of the stuff."

Oh my, I thought to myself as my taste buds signaled my brain to look around the candy shop in which we must certainly be standing.

Now mind you, none of these smells are the real thing. The evergreen, the lemon, the peppermint, they're all just odes to a chemical concoction.

What's a fussy nose to do?

So while I crack a window here to get a whiff of the real outdoors, I'm left with one question to ponder.

"Santa does Yoga?"

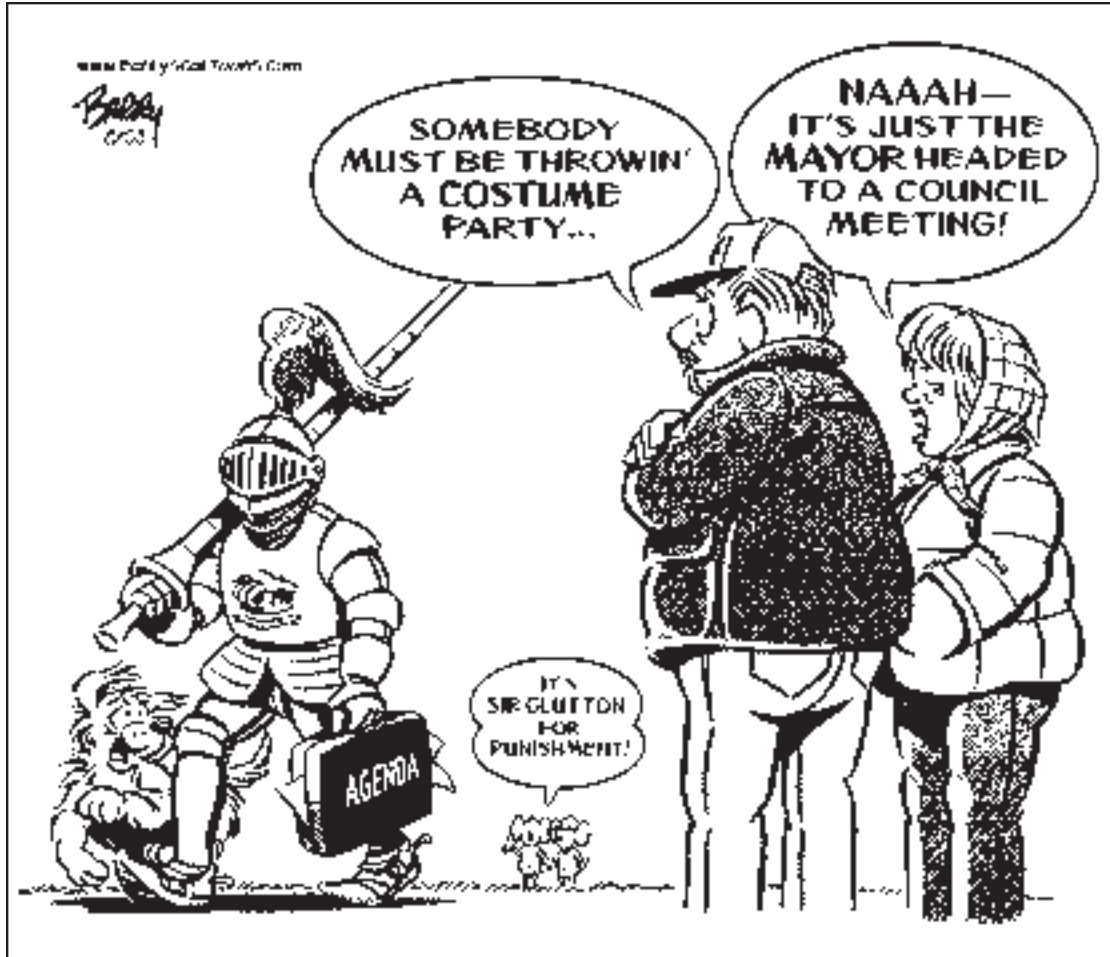
## Web poll

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

Thinking back to Christmas past, have your favorite presents been:

The most expensive ones

The most sentimental ones



## 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.

### Believes sentence was unfair

I was sentenced in Carroll County on Nov. 4, 2004. I pled guilty to three class D felonies. I was a first-time offender, 27 years old, had no points on my drivers' license, and was attending college. I was told by my court-appointed attorney to accept the plea bargain because it was the only offer I would get.

I was sentenced to three years for each of the three charges. I was devastated. My sentence was all suspended, except for one year. I served the year on house arrest and started two years of supervised probation.

You would think I committed murder or something. My charges were possession of a legend drug (a pill). Intimidation of a police officer was the second charge. (Do you believe a girl in hand cuffs can intimidate an officer?) The third charge was possession of a controlled substance (also a pill).

Do you think I would have received less time if I would have had a paid attorney? Absolutely! Would I have received less time if it had not been an election year? You bet. Do you think I would have received less time if I was willing to give up a name of the person who provided me with the pills? You know it.

My driver's license was suspended for six months. I can't finish my college education because I am no longer eligible for a grant. I had stable employment at McDonald's, but when I applied for management I was fired because corporate didn't like that I had felonies. I was employee of the month, and had just been rewarded for being mentioned by name from our mystery shopper. Finding employment will be very difficult.

I deserved to be punished, but I think I was treated harshly. To think I have eight to 11 years hanging over my head is overwhelming. It's not over until it's over.

For those who don't know, if an officer smells alcohol, it is probable cause to search your vehicle. I learned the hard way. My blood alcohol level was .03, so you don't have to be drunk to lose your rights.

I don't see myself as a criminal. I am an addict. It's a crime to use drugs. I need help for my addiction. Punishing me won't help anyone or anything. Why can't I just get help for my problem? I believe I can be rehabilitated. I think different types of criminals can be helped instead of sending

them to prison. I believe a prison should be reserved for those who have little to no possibility of rehabilitation. Unfortunately, we don't even try to help the troubled people in our society. We just lock them up and throw away the key, and call it justice. Too many times this method hasn't worked. We know this because how many people get released from prison and re-offend? A lot.

Lisa Thompson-Tedrow  
Delphi

### Progress or destruction?

If we recall correctly, this all started this past summer with a costly feasibility study conducted to either straighten or widen the existing roads in the area near Camden. The idea was to extend 75 north from Camden for travelers to reach State Road 25.

Most people in this area believed it was a sound idea and most had no objections. After the study came out, wow, most residents were surprised to see that it was more than a simple widening project; it has several drastic routes of a major highway. And now, behold, an industrial park?

We have lived in this area (within a mile of the proposed routes) all our lives, as have most of our neighbors. We use these roads everyday and know who else uses them and why. Trust us, extending the highway will not significantly increase the traffic. The only thing it will effect is the amount of semi-trucks looking for a seemingly easier route. Do we really need more trucks going by our school crossings in Camden? And to the town of Camden, how will this bring prosperity to you. There's not even a local gas station to fuel the traffic.

As for the feasibility study to widen a road that turns into a major highway and then an industrial park, we think they have tried to break us in gradually. Also, this all began with the recommendations from outside consultants and interests. What do they know about this area? Or is it just dollar signs they are seeing?

We, the residents of the area that would be effected, live here for a reason. It has been a quiet, peaceful, and non-invaded area for years. If you want to put in an industrial park, put it through your house and land. As for all the so called jobs it will create, what about all the unoccupied factories now in Delphi and Flora? Is this going to create jobs for local people?

If we can't find the tax dollars to fund a new jail or improve our existing roads how can we add a new burden to our taxes? Also, the environmental impact this will

have on our farm-land, forests, creeks, and wildlife doesn't sound much like progression. One cannot recover from land destruction.

Yes, we think that someone is trying to sneak this one in at our expense. How would you like to be uprooted from your way of life, losing your house and land? To those who say we cannot afford not to do this, consider what it will be if we do.

Mark and Susan McCarty  
Eileen and Steve McCarty  
Kenneth D. and Nomie McCarty  
Chris and Nancy Winberg  
Charles Robert and Diane McCarty  
Roberta C. Winberg

### Thoughts on son's trial

Patrick Manahan, you are an outstanding attorney and we wish God's richest blessings as you continue to serve the public.

Family and friends, you cannot begin to know what a humbling experience this has been to think that our peace and joy have come because you took the time, sacrificing part of your day to lift this family up in prayer. You sustained us throughout this past year.

Robert Ives, the barometer to what degree you set a person's arrest, who gets what class felony, is confusing to say the least. Researching your history, it's clear that you want all accused to take the plea bargain superhighway. This affords a person a much smaller sentence and still gives you opportunity to pat yourself on the back - proof by your remarks after every sentencing. Your clear message sentences a murderer to serve five years, much less than my son. My son turned down no less than four plea bargains, a gamble that cost him much more time, but left his integrity intact. His children, the motivating factor to take it to trial, have lost their dad, but we will never let them forget why they should hold their heads up and be proud of him. On judgment day, when you stand before the Almighty God, your plea bargains will fall on deaf ears. His word is very clear; you being lukewarm just might very well get you spewed out of heaven.

Darrel Noonkester, say what you mean, but above all else, please mean what you say. Never will I ever waste your time and mine again. False hopes are worse than broken promises. I allowed my naiveté to cloud my judgment; it will not happen again. I realize now that the door to your office swings only one way.

Our family holds fast to God's word. We hold fast to our family and friends. We hold fast to tomorrow.

Cathi Woodward  
Flora

## 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

David W. Spurgeon was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering and operating a motor vehicle with ACE of .15 percent or more.

James Pearson was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering.

Zakry A. Gutierrez was charged with illegal possession of an alcoholic beverage.

Devon M. Johnson was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering, operating a motor vehicle with ACE of .15 percent or more and

open container.

Justin L. Herbst was charged with failure to stop after an accident resulting in non-vehicle damage, driving while suspended and operating a vehicle without financial responsibility.

Juan M. Trejo Rodriguez and Leonor Avianeda were charged with operating a motor vehicle without having ever received a license.

Billy F. Williams II, was charged with possession of meth, possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia.

William Perry was charged with residential entry and resisting law enforcement.

Douglas LaPlante was charged with criminal trespassing, resisting law enforcement and intimidation;

Rodney L. Schock was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering, operating a motor vehicle with ACE of .08 percent or more, possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia and open container.

Maricruz M. Cervantes, was charged with illegal possession of an alcoholic beverage and open container.

Pablo Alonso-Duenas was charged with public intoxication.

Harmony J. Caldwell was charged with battery.

Reyna A. Casarez was charged with operating a vehicle without having ever received a license, expired license plates and passenger restraint violation.

# When the voters take charge

By Lee Hamilton

In every election, there are two elections: the actual voting, and what the politicians say the voters meant. But one thing was clear in the recent congressional election: Voters wanted change in the political environment on Capitol Hill.

Good for them! They have created a sense of optimism and a new dynamic on Capitol Hill. There is now an opportunity to heal some of the breaches that developed in recent years - to construct a Congress that is genuinely bipartisan, that gives a voice to the manifold interests in this diverse nation, and that behaves like an institution proud of its independent constitutional role.

The voters have handed political leaders - not just in Congress, but in the White House as well - an opportunity to make progress on issues critical to the nation by serving as unifiers, not dividers; by taking the path of cooperation, not confrontation; and by understanding that if anything over the next two years is to get done by a Republican president and a narrowly Democratic Congress, it will have to be by appealing to the middle ground.

If they do, then I believe any number of issues that in recent years have seemed intractable will turn out to be resolvable. For instance, we may not be able to balance our budget at once, but we can certainly put national finances on a more sustainable path. There is clearly central ground on immigration questions that can be enlarged and turned into successful legislation. Health care, energy conservation, the environment - all of these are issues upon which legislators of good will with a willingness to compromise can make progress.

I don't believe for a moment that cooperation is the only path open to our leaders. They could just as easily fall back on the

tired habit of confrontation. But I prefer to hope that they will work to cleanse Washington of the bad blood and politics of accusation and resentment that have characterized it in recent years.

Certainly that is the tone that both the President and congressional leaders have been adopting since the election. If they live up to their rhetoric, then the new sense of energy and purpose that American voters gave to Capitol Hill on Election Day should yield benefits we all can enjoy.

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.

## 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.

Complaints were filed in the following: G.E. Money Bank vs. Ruth Isley; Arrow Financial Services vs. Amber Spitznagle; Wells Fargo Financial vs. Alice Louise Flint, note to foreclose mortgage on real estate; Theresa L. Harshman vs. Whitney K. George, damages; Midland Credit Management vs. Patricia J. Wells.

The State of Indiana filed a complaint against William H. Adcock for promoting prostitution.

Personal Finance Co. has filed a complaint against Romney Soper.

A complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage on real estate was filed in Wells Fargo Bank NA vs. Dean A. Mote.

US Bank National Association filed a complaint on promissory note and to foreclose mortgage against Rocky Sears and Juanita Sears.

A complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage was filed in Deutsche Bank National vs. Larry and Sharon Shives.

## 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:

How should the county pay for the Carroll Manor renovation project?

41% Use cumulative capital improvement funds.

17% Use Economic Development Income Tax funds.

7% Use money from the facility's budget only.

34% Tone down the project until it can be paid for by grant money and money already set aside for it.

Total responses: 41

### Reader comments:

If an elevator and improvements are made, the upper floor could be utilized for additional residents as well as the income from those residents. The additional income would, in time, contribute back to the cost. Besides, the elderly residents have supported this county for many years and more availability is morally due.

## Restaurant Inspections

### Treece's 2

Routine inspection: 11/21/06  
Summary of Violations: No Violations Noted

### Pizza King Burlington

Routine inspection: 11/21/06  
Summary of Violations: No Violations Noted

### Kristen's Homemade Delights

Routine inspection: 11/21/06  
Summary of Violations: No Violations Noted

### Burlington Pizza

Routine inspection: 11/21/06  
Summary of Violations: No Violations Noted

### The Burlington Scoop

Routine inspection: 11/21/06  
Summary of Violations: No Violations Noted

## 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.

### Monday, Dec. 18

√ Carroll County Commissioners: 6 p.m.

### √ Tuesday, Dec. 19

Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m.

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

Sheriff Sale-Landis	6B	4813
TL School-Bidders	6B	4912
Sheriff Sale-Stark	7B	4913
Sheriff Sale-Rhoades	7B	4913
Notice of Suit-Tyra	7B	5013
Notice of Sale-Thatcher	7B	5013
Sheriff Sale-Veach	7B	5013
Ascercio Estate	7B	5012
Sheriff Sale-Huddleston	7B	5013
Sheriff Sale-Scott	7B	5013
County Council-Add'l Appro	6B	5011
Landes Estate	7B	5011d

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.