

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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America's New Year resolution

One of the oldest customs in America is the New Year resolution – those promises we make to ourselves to do better. With this in mind, we should consider a list of our civic responsibilities.

We Americans are always invoking our Constitutional rights – individual prerogatives unknown to most other people on Earth. A few years ago, a group of prominent scholars, commissioned by the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, drafted a “Bill of Responsibilities addressing our obligations as citizens. “Freedom and responsibility,” declared the preamble, “are mutual and inseparable; we can ensure the enjoyment of the one only by exercising the other.”

The Bill's ten articles call on Americans voluntarily to observe these rules:

1. Be responsible fully for your own actions and for the consequences of them. Freedom to choose carries with it the responsibility for our choices.
2. Respect the rights and beliefs of others. In a free society, diversity flourishes. Courtesy and consideration toward others are measures of a civilized society.
3. Give sympathy, understanding and help to others.
4. Do our best to meet our own and our families' needs. There is no personal freedom without economic freedom. By helping ourselves and those closest to us to become productive members of society, we contribute to the strength of the nation.
5. Respect and obey the laws... Liberty itself is built on a foundation of law. That foundation provides an orderly process for changing laws. It also depends on our obeying laws once they have been freely adopted.
6. Respect the property of others, both private and public. No one has a right to what is not his or hers. The right to enjoy what is ours depends on our respecting the right of others to enjoy what is rightfully theirs.
7. Share with others our appreciation of the benefits and obligations of freedom. Freedom shared is freedom strengthened.
8. Participate constructively in the nation's political life. Democracy depends on an active citizenry. It depends equally on an informed citizenry.
9. Help freedom survive by assuming personal responsibility for its defense. Our nation cannot survive unless we defend it. Its security rests on the individual determination of each of us to help preserve it.
10. Respect the rights and meet the responsibilities on which our liberty and our democracy depend.

Unlike the *Bill of Rights*, the *Bill of Responsibilities* carries no legally enforceable weight. Cynics may dismiss it as mere patriotic window dressing. In defining the essential duties of citizenship, the Freedoms Foundation's bill conveys a moral suasion, which is undeniable. It also is an idea whose time is overdue.

In the coming year, as in years past, Americans will be struggling to overcome problems which plague the nation – crime, drugs, corruption and the undermining of traditional family values, to name a few. For the most part, efforts are underway to resolve our manifold difficulties.

A wise old statesman, Winston Churchill, perhaps made the most astute observation about Americans. “In the end,” he said, “Americans will always do the right thing – after exhausting all other alternatives.”

(Reprinted from Comet, Dec. 28, 1994)

My last column for 2006 came in a little late. It wasn't the best way to finish out the old year. I put off writing till the deadline and then my path to the computer was blocked. It was a kind of hole in the bucket scenario, too long off a tall tale excuse to sell to a time pressed editor on deadline.

Our daughter, Liz, and son-in-law, Jake, stayed overnight after Christmas. Traveling with them was their dog, Rosie. Rosie sleeps in a big wire cage. Tuesday morning dawned dark and cold and the bed was warm and comforting. Between me and the path to my computer was a sleeping dog, who would need to be walked. I figured Rosie would not understand newspaper deadlines so that if I passed her in the dark she would wake, bark and then the two of us would soon be outside sniffing for rabbit trails.

When I finally left our toasty warm bed, Rosie indeed inquired as to my plans, woofing, barking, whining and thundering about in her cage. Of course, I couldn't find her collar and leash, so all kinds of year-end commotion followed, but not necessarily any good column material.

If the old year is about paths taken, some wise, some not, then the promise of the New Year includes the possibilities of paths that lie ahead.

On Sunday morning we crossed over the Wabash, travel-

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Paths

ing from Adams Township to Delphi. We crossed the river over the newly refurbished Carrollton Bridge that reopened the week before.

The refurbished bridge is wider than the old one. Two cars can pass over the bridge at the same time, without the hesitation and potential risk that the design and specification of the old narrow bridge posed. But it's still a spot to slow way down for, and it's still a spot for caution. The hairpin curve on the north end is pretty much the same and any speed much over 25 mph is probably ill advised.

I suspect that buried somewhere in the story of the Carrollton Bridge there's a collection of metaphors illustrating paths taken, paths blocked and paths rerouted.

About ten years ago the Carrollton was destined to be replaced by a totally new structure, involving a \$2.5 million dollar project and requiring condemnation of adjoining private land. There was going to be a bike lane and a 45 mph speed limit and a swath of bridge with a

much longer span crossing the river on a diagonal.

To me, the original, more ambitious proposal always seemed like way too much of a bridge and way too fast of a crossing given the twists and turns of the road the bridge served. But the driver of that project, of that path, was federal financing, interstate design specifications, and a more universal approach to the idea of “path.”

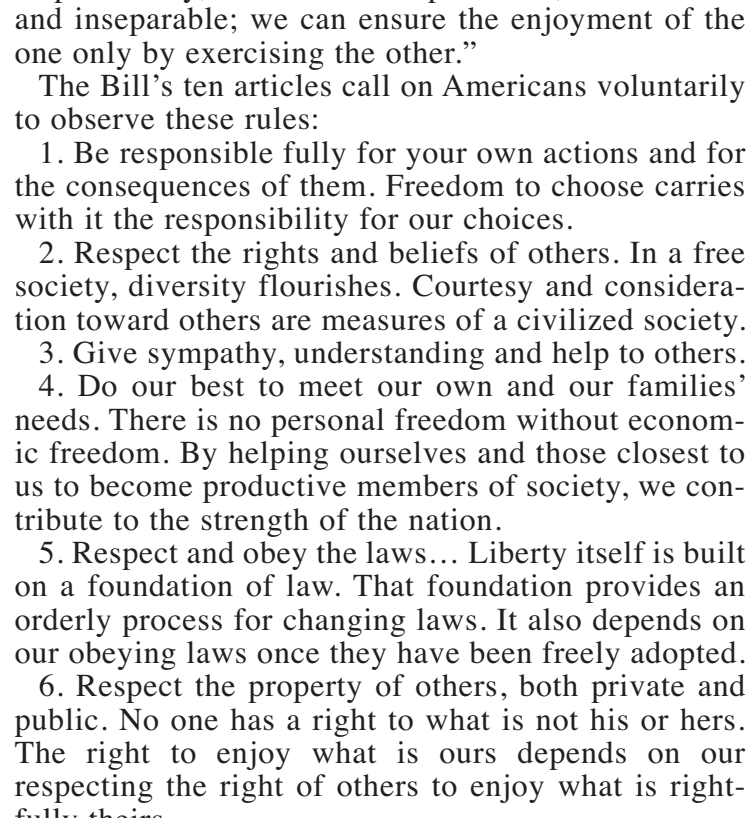
Time passes, options change, opinions shift, new paths are considered. It happens in individual lives, it happens in communities and even in bridge projects. Somewhere along the line the path switches. After following the Carrollton project for many years, I lost track of the plan. Then one day my path was blocked.

I remember thinking how inconvenient the new path to town would be. Range Line Road, Pittsburg, 421 - this wasn't our route over the Wabash. Yet, that's exactly what it became. New paths get forged when old ones get blocked. You go with the detour, you plot your own new path, or you stay put. Those are the options.

So on the eve of the New Year, I'll be thinking about paths taken and new paths to be considered.

All best wishes to our readers for pleasant and exciting paths in 2007.

Happy New Year.



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.

Janet A. Lawton and Edward M. Landes were named administrators of the estate of the late Christina Landes.

Patricia Boyd was named administrator of the estate of the late John W. Boyd.

Nedda Smith was named administrator of the estate of the late Margo M. Draper.

New filings

RJM Acquisitions LLC filed a

complaint against Perry W. Gipson.

Citimortgage Inc. filed a complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage against Jack Brooks.

First National Bank of Omaha filed a complaint against Jon W. Baker.

Michael C. Bousum was named executor of the estate of Debra J. Bousum.

The following case was dismissed: First Financial Bank N.A. vs. Theresa Kay Guyer.

A default judgment was entered for the plaintiff in HSBC Bank Nevada NA vs. Lisa J. Cook and Jeff R. Cook in the amount of \$17,485.78.

A decree of dissolution was

granted Patricia L. Cohee and Asa Jack Cohee.

Complaints were filed between the following: Capital One Bank vs. Steven A. Fultz; Midland Credit vs. Mary Long; The Martin R. Rinehart IRA Account vs. Lynnette Baltazar, foreclosure; American Acceptance vs. Timothy L. Stafford; Portfolio Recovery vs. Ray Sneathen; Portfolio Acquisition vs. Georgia L. Ashlock; Arrow Financial Services vs. Melodie Brower; Colonial Credit Corp. vs. Derek A. Geiken; and Colonial Credit Corp. vs. Jean A. Heise.

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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

The State of Indiana filed charges against the following:

Jjose E. Menjivar has been charged with operating a motor vehicle without having ever received a license.

Bradford A. Myers was charged with two counts operating while intoxicated – endangering.

Gene A. Maxson has been charged with battery resulting in bodily injury.

Elizabeth A. Waymire was charged with false informing.

Jeremy W. McCarty was charged with operating while intoxicated – endangering, and operating while intoxicated – prior.

Daryl C. Soderlund has been charged with invasion of privacy.

Maria J. Villagrana was charged with driving while suspended and following too closely.

Bobbi Jo Rainwater was charged with driving while suspended.

Gabriel Rodriguez was charged with driving while suspended and seatbelt violation.

The following cases were dismissed: Harry W. Jones DDS vs. Sherri Cupp; Eller Land Management and Associates Inc. vs. Jay Unger; Pearson's Gas vs. Jason MaCurdy; State of Indiana vs. Brandon M. McCain.

The following cases were entered for the plaintiff: Beneficial Indiana Inc. vs. Gary L. Settles; Frances Shull Britton vs. Jill Butler; Lafayette Accounts Service Inc. vs. Rose M. Newville; Argent Healthcare vs. Jennifer Grizzle.

Web poll

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

Last Weeks 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.

How much of your Christmas shopping did you do in Carroll County?

100% - It's the only place I'll spend my hard-earned money.

75% - There were just a couple of specialty items I can't find here.

50% - I wasn't sure where to shop locally for everything I needed this year.

25% - I love the mega stores and that's the only place I shop.
Last Week's Results:

This week concludes an eight-chapter serial story entitled “Sudden Squall.” The series was run by this newspaper as a public service. We want to know what you thought of the series.

9% I read and enjoyed the series

0% I read some of the chapters

91% I didn't read any of the chapters
Total responses: 23

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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.

Wednesday, Dec. 27

√Camden Town Council: special meeting, 2 p.m.
√Flora Town Council: special meeting, 6 p.m.
√Delphi City Council special meeting: 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 28

√Carroll County Council: 8 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 29

√Carroll County Commissioners: special meeting, 9 a.m.
√Burlington Town Council: special meeting, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 2

√Carroll County Drainage Board: 8:30 a.m.
√Carroll County Commissioners: 9 a.m.

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.

Resolve to save for your child's college education

It's the beginning of the New Year, a time when many resolve to exercise, improve their diets or increase their wealth. Are you one of them? If you are the parent or grandparent of a school-aged child, you might consider a personal pledge to save for your child's or grandchild's future.

By planning and saving now, you can give your child the gift of higher education — a gift that provides significant lifelong benefits. The difference in lifetime earnings between a college graduate and a high school graduate is about one million dollars, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Starting a college fund does not have to be complicated or overwhelming either, given the step-by-step resources available to help you.

One such resource is a free Web site, www.TripToCollege.org. Developed by the Indiana Youth Institute for parents of students in grades K-12, the site provides a college planning timeline, figures and information about preparing and paying for a child's college education, a savings growth calculator and information about Indiana colleges.

By exercising your options for college savings and feeding your plan a steady diet of dollars, you will experience less belt-tightening when your child is ready to go off to college. With planning, college — and the benefits that come with a degree — can be a reality for every Hoosier child.

Kevin Bain

Trip To College Project Director
Indiana Youth Institute

Time for Blaydes to go!

As a Delphi graduate and member of this community, it troubles me to see the lack of leadership in our school's athletic programs.

Most recently, our high school girls' basketball coach was fired. While this was probably the right decision, the reasoning behind the coach's dismissal is just wrong! “Not teaching fundamentals,” *Journal & Courier* 12/21/06 (C4). I did not play high school basketball, but I know that the fundamentals of basketball should be taught in the fifth grade.

Last winter when our school was searching for a boys' basketball coach, our athletic director said Delphi was searching for a coach who would make a long-term commitment to the Delphi community. While this sounds great, I believe this is another big mistake. What kind of coach are we going to get in Delphi if we ask for a long-term commitment - coach with a proven losing record, and no ambition to rise to the top? Delphi is a great community that

I am proud to call home. Delphi is not the final destination for a good coach. It should be a stepping-stone for an up and coming leader. We have an excellent school with top facilities and talented kids. This is exactly what would attract a good coach to our community.

Coaching is a business the best move up the ranks, and the poor take the scraps. It is time for Delphi to stop feeding on the scraps and look for true leadership. This starts with our athletic director. We need a leader who is not willing to compromise excellence for the status quo and bring pride back to our athletic programs. The talent is there! It is time for leadership! Go Oracles!
Teag Little
Delphi

Marriage Licenses

Patrick James Kennedy, 73, of Flora, and Marjorie Ann Wilson, 73, of Saint James City, Fla.

Adam Foster Ayres, 25, and Elizabeth Marie Wireman, 24, both of Flora.