

No primary election in Carroll County this year

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Although there has been a flourish of candidates filing to run for various offices and serve the citizens of Carroll County since filing season opened in mid-January, there were no two races in which two Democrats or Republicans are vying for the same seat.

Therefore, a primary election will be unnecessary.

However, one or both party chairs could request a primary. Republican party chair Tom Gray and Democrat party chair Dick Roe both reported to the *Comet* March 1 they would not ask for a primary.

The deadline to file the request was Friday at noon. No request was filed,

according to clerk Laura Sterrett.

However, the list of candidates could still grow before the general election. Each party has until June 30 to fill vacancies in Delphi and July 2 for town offices. The *Comet* will announce at the first opportunity new candidates who file as the deadlines approach.

Parties organize

The Republican Party held officer elections March 3. Sam Deiwert was elected chair; Penny Titus, vice chair; Tobe Leazenby, secretary; and Linda Parrett, treasurer.

"One of the things the party wants to do is have a candidate for each seat and not leave a race uncontested," Deiwert said. "We will be working hard to get qualified, capable candi-

dates to compete."

Democrats will have officer elections in 2008. This year, Dick Roe is chair; Linda Huffer, vice chair; Don Billings, secretary; and Irma Cook, treasurer.

"We are still looking for candidates to fill all the remaining seats," Roe said. "We definitely want to put some Democrats in these offices."

New hope for the old levee

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

There might be a new lease on life for the Delphi levee after all. The levee was damaged in the 2003 flood and local residents have been asking that something be done to avoid a similar situation in the future.

Mayor Lee Hoard announced at the Monday night city council meeting, a request for proposal for a \$100,000 federally-funded feasibility study was received from the Army Corps of Engineers last week.

"We're still working on the levee situation," Hoard said.

He said he was able to meet the quick turn-around deadline for proposal submission with the help of Congressman Joe Donnelly's office.

The study would help determine if the levee could be effectively repaired after suffering a significant breach in the 2003 flood. Hoard said he expected to learn results of the funding proposal later this year.

Park facility usage fees

Acting on the recommendation of the Delphi Parks Board, council members set fees for use of the Boy Scout Cabin, the gazebo and the Riley and City Park pavilions.

Rental fee for the cabin is \$50 with a \$100 refundable damage deposit. All other facilities cost \$25 with a \$50 refundable damage deposit.

Facilities can be reserved and fees paid at the clerk's office during normal working hours.

Park superintendent Richard Farrer said drop-in users are welcome without paying, provided the facility has not been reserved.

The fees are effective immediately for all new reservations.

Police department

Police chief Ed Chapman re-

ported that the department is now data-linked with the county sheriff's office and the Flora Police Department.

"The data base is growing and growing," Chapman said.

"It's really an asset," Hoard said, noting enhanced communication between the departments.

Other business

City grants coordinator Jean Howell said the Main Street Association is seeking volunteers for the economic re-development committee.

Howell reported a concept plan for developing the recycling center on North Washington St. is being revised. She said the city will seek estimates when the plan is fully developed.

Council member John Hampton reported that a proposal from Ground Rules Inc. of Indianapolis was received for consideration by the city. The proposal is to provide an update of the city's land use plan.

Hampton recommended the city plan be updated with the goal to incorporate Delphi's plan into the county plan, which is currently under development by Ground Rules.

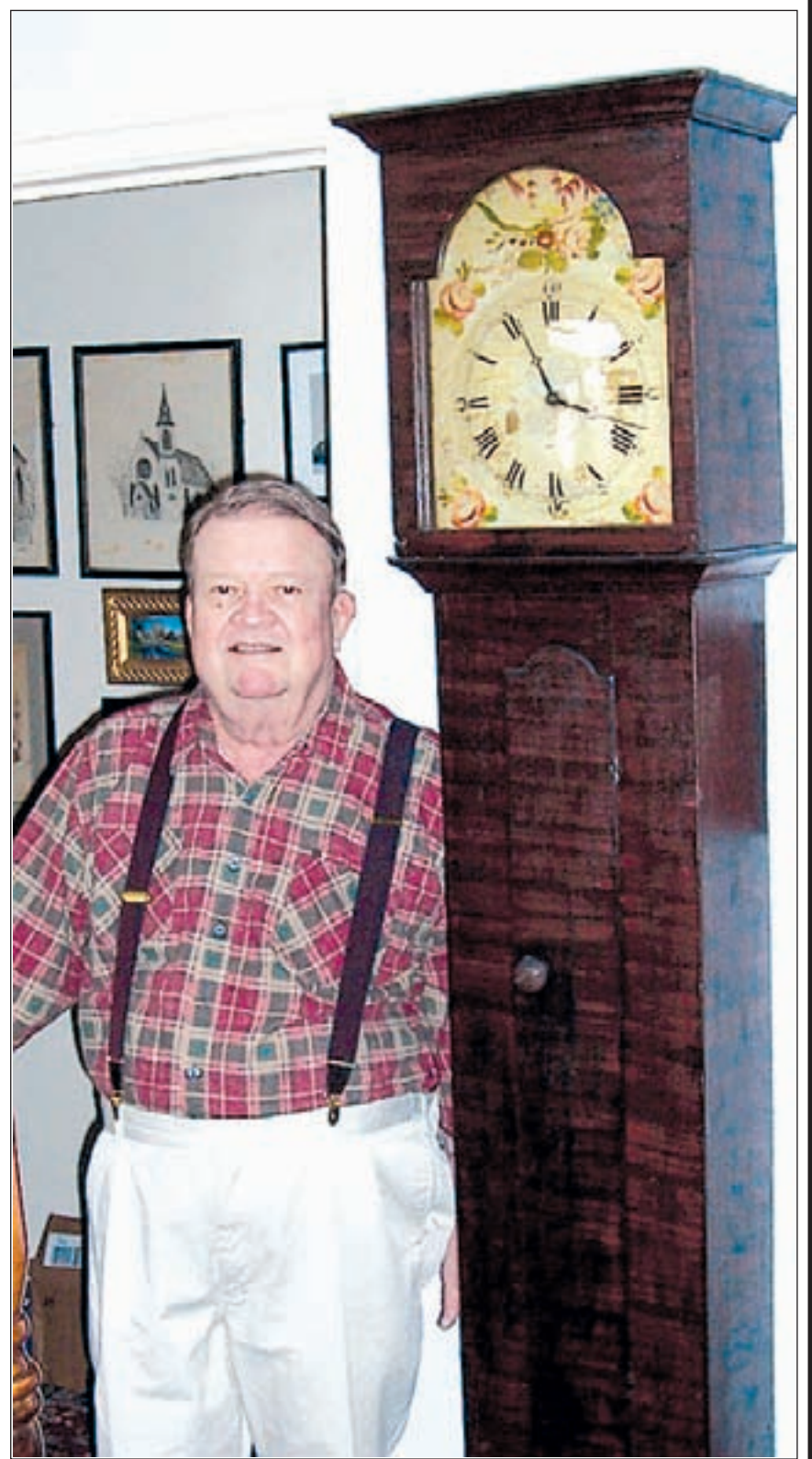
"I believe now is the time to make some decisions," Hoard said in support of Hampton's recommendation.

Hoard said in meeting with the Indiana Department of Transportation, he learned construction on the Hoosier Heartland Highway is scheduled to begin in three years. He said it was important to the annexa-

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1805 clock returns to county

William "Bill" Gros of Chicago is pictured with the 1805 grandfather clock that he recently donated to the Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal Association. He believes the clock was made in Pennsylvania, and according to information passed down in his family, it was reputed to be the first clock brought into Carroll County, by Thomas Stiriling. At some point, Gros's grandfather, also named William Gros, acquired it, and it has remained in the family ever since. "I am happy to donate this clock to the canal museum in recognition of the family of Johann Christian Gros who immigrated from Germany via New York City to Delphi in the 1830s," Gros said. The clock will be on display in the lobby of the Canal Center for two months. Photo provided



Sewer system problems resurface in Flora

By Susan Scholl
Editor

The Flora Town Council has major decisions to make in the near future regarding the town's sanitary sewer system. Inflow and infiltration into the system keeps occurring, despite efforts to fix the problems.

Representatives from HE-BFS, LLC, a Lafayette engineering firm, attended Monday night's Council meeting to go over options.

Tori E. Tripp with HE-BFS's environmental services, reminded the council that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) placed the town under a sewer connection ban in 1974. In 1992, the town was issued an agreed order by IDEM and in response to that order completed several projects to address excessive flows to the wastewater treatment plant.

She said that after undergoing a performance monitoring period, the town requested removal from the sewer ban in July 2004. Inflow and infiltration continued to cause problems and IDEM denied the request.

Tripp suggested that town officials be proactive and get a plan in place before the sewer connection ban expires in 2010. She said an initial step would be to perform a sanitary sewer evaluation study.

Bill McCarty, the town's wastewater foreman, said that he has an idea where the problems in the system exist, and it will be an expensive project to correct.

The plant's design flow capacity is 428,000 gallons a day, said McCarty, and the flow regularly exceeds that amount by 50%.

Flora School project

President Josh Ayres announced that the old Flora

School project proposed by Area IV Development Corp. is on hold. He said they are unable to complete the market study at this time because need cannot be shown. That is because the Water Tower Place Senior Housing Project at Delphi is not complete and occupied. The study will be submitted again next year.

Fire department

Flora Volunteer Fire Dept. Chief Scott Sisson reported that he has preliminary plans for a new fire station. He said his department has outgrown the current facility and "we need to feel there is movement on this (a new fire station)."

Ayres said that the council wants to put together a committee of two or three firemen and two or three community members who will work together and develop a plan to present to the council. Sisson agreed that that would move the process forward and said he

will make the appointments to the committee.

Ayres instructed the committee to consider all possibilities, including a facility that serves more than the fire department.

Sisson said he has been researching available funding, including grants and other sources.

Sisson also said the VFD will be involved with Relay for Life this summer and will be arranging fundraisers.

Other business

Doug Abdon has accepted the town's offer of \$36,500 for his property on East Columbia Street by the railroad, with stipulations. Town officials agreed to a counter offer that includes waiving back utility costs and paying for closing costs up to \$300.

The recent blizzard precipitated a need to have a designated shelter area for the town. The town has no generator for the Flora Community Center,

which would be the logical place for a shelter. Clerk-treasurer Joretta Tinsman was instructed to research costs and make a recommendation.

McCarty requested that the town also look into costs for an additional portable generator to help in emergencies with the lift-stations.

Two bids for the curb projects for parts of North and South Center Street were opened and taken under advisement. The bids were \$147,976 from Milestone Contractors, Lafayette, and \$149,608 from Leo Brown Construction Co. Inc., Logansport.

Town Marshal Paul Redmon announced that the police department will again be sponsoring its Bicycle Helmet Project for kindergarten students at Carroll Elementary School. All students are given a free bicycle helmet. The department is accepting donations to help with costs.

The marshal's report for February included: 5 arrests/misdemeanors, 11 felonies, 16 citations, 27 warnings, 72 calls for service, 4 accidents, and 2 warrants served.

Two building permits were issued in February: Jeri Boller, sunroom, and TriStar Living Inc., new home in Carriage Estates.

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DCSC relocates March board meeting

Comet staff report

The March 12 regular meeting of the Delphi Community School Board of Trustees will be held at the middle school cafeteria. Re-alignment of DCSC elementary schools will be discussed.

Mailing label goes here

It's all about communication

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

The tremendous February snowstorm is but a faint memory for most county residents. Some can still see grey snow mountains and water levels are still elevated, but March has made an appearance and all is well that ends well.

However, there is another side to the storm with which county officials are grappling. And that is how to improve the communication between the Emergency Management Agency and communities throughout the county.

EMA Director Justin Darling first thought the county's emergency plan was well executed and effective, but he now un-

derstands some communities had expectations of his department they did not vocalize and that went unaccomplished.

Darling told the *Comet* in a Feb. 28 interview he thought the county emergency plan "went very well." He said the highway department, the sheriff's department and EMA met the day before the storm hit to strategize about how to cope with potential emergencies and situations. Darling said he thought the county was prepared for most contingencies.

He explained that he was in telephone contact with people in Camden and Flora about the need to establish an emergency shelter and neither community requested the service.

"I was trying to get in touch with the Red Cross for cots and food just in case someone thought they needed a shelter," Darling said. "But no one said they needed one."

Darling said it is his job to act as the liaison between the county and the state homeland security office to coordinate emergency efforts.

He said he tried to work with Duke Energy the day of the storm to facilitate restored electric service, but was unsuccessful to make a change in their rate of work.

"There was some frustration with that," he said.

"Had any community asked for a generator, I would have gotten them one," he said. "I

can't send resources if I don't know people need them."

Darling encouraged all communities and departments to update their emergency plans and anticipate needs.

"All departments and communities are responsible to develop their own plans," he said. "I won't dictate to anyone how they handle an emergency. But I want and expect everyone to use EMA as a resource to help them get the things they need when they need them."

"We all just have to have clear communication in emergencies," Darling concluded. "We are all neighbors and we live in the same community. Everyone deserves the best we have to offer."



Set your clocks forward one hour Saturday night