

It's all about being informed

Be informed... get involved!

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Indiana Code dictates how a governmental or taxing entity publicizes to establish a tax to bolster a budget line-item fund. The taxing entity must pay for a "legal ad" or public notice in the local newspaper, in this case the *Comet*. Those advertisements appear in a second section of the weekly paper. The font size and ad cost are determined by the general assembly. The print size is small and the legal can be easily missed.

However, even when the rules are followed and a public notice appears in the newspaper, there is a contingent of county residents who do not believe there has been adequate notification.

That is the case of what happened recently in Washington Township. Trustee Lois Wallace felt the need to establish a cumulative fire fund for equipment and she posted notices according to the Indiana Code. Although Wallace declined to be interviewed for this article, she stated the fund was not going to be used to build a fire station in Deer Creek.

A small group of Deer Creek residents were surprised when they noticed the public notice in the *Comet* and requested additional notification from the trustee so that all township residents could be aware of the additional tax requested and for what the money would be used.

But according to resident Sandy Hutchens, the residents were told the state statute was followed and there would be no further advertisement. Hutchens and others in the community did not feel the legal notification was adequate and took it upon themselves to enlarge it as it appeared in the *Comet*. They distributed the enlargement to inform residents of the new tax.

"The whole point is, residents will be paying the tax and we need to know what's going on," Hutchens said.

Seven township residents attended the public hearing for the tax on March 19 at 7 p.m. Hutchens reported township residents learned at the meeting that fire protection would be provided to the community by Camden and Clymers, but not by Young America. Part of the township had been served by the Young America department until this year.

"There is no lack of coverage in Washington Township," Camden Fire Chief Chuck Foreman told the *Comet*. "The township has contracts with Camden and Clymers."

According to Hutchens, the group learned Clymers needed to upgrade their equipment to handle the extra load. They understood the need for the additional tax and did not oppose the action by the township trustee and advisory board.

"We just wanted to know what was going on," Hutchens said.

She explained township government is the grassroots of county government. It is the first place to start when a taxpayer wants to become involved with local government and leadership.

"It's the township trustee's job to represent us," Hutchens continued. "It is the taxpayers' job to hold the township trustee accountable."

Washington Township resident and county commissioners' president Loren Hylton said he got his political start in township government. He agreed, getting involved in township government is a positive step.

"I realized it was important for the children's future," he said about becoming involved in government on the township level. "That's what motivated me to become active in government."

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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.

Business Briefs



Bret Rinehart, left, accepts the Dedicated Builder Award from Max Bressler, regional sales manager for All American Homes' Indiana Division. Photo provided

All American Homes, LLC presented **RINEHART REALTORS** with its Dedicated Builder Award (Indiana Division) for outstanding sales achievement in 2006.

Rinehart's received the award during All American's recent annual Builder Convention in Naples, Fla.

"This award is a direct result of Rinehart Realtors' commitment to superior customer service and by taking good care of their customers long after the sale," said Del Herr, executive vice president of All American Homes, LLC.

Larimore to perform in Delphi

Carroll County singer/songwriter Ross Larimore will officially release his compact disc, "Can You Feel It," at a release party Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Delphi Community High School Little Theatre.

Musicians Christopher Gipson and Scott Greeson will perform opening acts at the free event.

ADOPT-A-PET

T w o three-month-old puppies, a male Chocolate Lab mix and a Tan Chow mix, are this week's pets. Both are very playful, love people and get along great with other animals. Also available are a friendly black and white male Pit Bull and a calm, housebroken female Beagle mix. For more information, call the Delphi Veterinary Clinic at (765) 564-2606.

Sponsored this week by **Carroll County Comet**

765.564.2222 or 574.967.4135

Staying Connected

E-mail from those serving our country



Master Sergeant Taff Klepinger in Iraq

E-Mail from those serving our country

Master Sergeant Taff Klepinger is a 1985 graduate of Delphi Community High School. He has been in the U.S. Army for 21 years and specializes in Military Intelligence. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Patricia Metzinger, a 1987 DCHS graduate, for nearly 20 years. The couple has two "awesome" children, 14-year-old daughter Dakotah and a 10-year-old son, Killian. Klepinger said about his family, "Those three are the best thing to happen to me." The family resides at Ft Huachuca, Ariz. Both sets of parents, Al and Pam Krysevig and Bob and Donna Metzinger, reside in Delphi.

Klepinger writes: During my 21 years in the Army I have been all over the world; Honduras, Panama, Virgin Islands, Bosnia, Korea, Germany, Canada, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Luxembourg, Italy, Kuwait and Iraq.

I am currently in Iraq for the second time, my year tour started in February 2007. I am working with the Iraqi Army as an advisor. I am Team Sergeant of an 11-man advisory team and also serve as the advisor to the Iraqi Battalion Sergeant Major and am the assistant intelligence advisor.

We eat, work and sleep with the Iraqi soldiers. We have formed a bond of brotherhood with them. It's good to hear of support from home, it seems like everything on the news is so negative about the war. I don't want to be here, but I feel we really need to be here. If we don't fight the terrorists here we will have to worry about them coming to us.

The Iraqi Army is getting better everyday. The Iraqi soldiers I work with are getting the job done each day, eventually we will leave and it will be up to them. But for now, I know I am where I need to be.

I love what I do; you can't do this job for 21 years if you don't enjoy it. I am proud to be a member of the greatest Army to ever walk the earth. And I believe in everything our flag stands for and I am willing to fight for it. I do it for my family and I couldn't

do it without their support.

I hope to retire in two years and begin my second career working for the government as an intelligence analyst. I can't think of a more rewarding career than to serve this great country. Hearing from family and friends make these deployments easier to bear. I look forward to hearing from you all.

Sincerely,
Taff Klepinger
MSG, US Army
taff.klepinger@us.army.mil

The *Comet* thanks Master Sgt. Klepinger for his e-mail to the community.

If you or someone you know from Carroll County is serving our country and who would like to say a few words to those of us here at home, please ask them to send an e-mail to dlowe@carrollcountycomet.com

Staying Connected is a feature in the Carroll County Comet.

If you own a painting by **Leroy (Roy) Trobaugh** and are interested in selling it for cash, contact: trobaughart@bellsouth.net

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT carrollcountycomet.com

Sandy's Variety Mart

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3 Pair for \$2⁵⁰

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Paint Tray with Roller Set \$1⁰⁰ each

OPEN

Mon. - Fri.
10AM - 6PM
Sat. 10AM - 2PM
Closed Sundays
574-967-4300



Join us at the 25th Annual St. Vincent Frankfort Hospital Health Fair

Local residents are invited to participate in the fair from 7-11a.m. Saturday, May 5 at Clinton Hall at the Clinton County Fairgrounds. Also be sure to visit the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast and the Clinton County Farmers Market.

Health screenings include cholesterol, glucose, lung function, blood pressure, body mass index and bone scan. Educational materials will be available at over 50 booths. There will be refreshments and entertainment.



For more information, call (765) 656-3030.

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