

## Property owners may pay for driveway and field culvert construction

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Carroll County Commissioners heard a request to change the way driveway and field entrance culverts are funded Monday morning. If commissioners follow the highway department's recommendation, property owners will be paying for their own work.

Under the current procedure, as explained by highway superintendent Ron Francis, property owners who want to build a field entrance or driveway are required to apply for a building permit from the Area Plan Commission (APC) office. When the permit is granted, APC calls the highway department to assess the construction site. The property owner is charged for the pipe but the county provides installation and assumes all other costs.

Francis cited personnel cutbacks at the highway department and concerns about county finances when he recommended commissioners mandate property owners assume all costs for work on their land.

"I think it's the right thing to do," commissioner Bill Brown said.

"I don't think your request is unreasonable," added commissioners' president Loren Hynton.

Francis explained many property owners seem to be unaware of the current policy. Driveways and field entrance culverts are built without notifying the appropriate entities. Due to the oversight, the construction does not always meet county standards and can become a problem for the highway department when road work is planned near the properties.

Francis said due to a lack of an enforcement provision in the policy, no sanctions result from non-compliance with the policy.

A typical driveway project costs the county \$211 when the policy is followed, according to Francis. Typical field-entrance culvert work costs between \$311 and \$522. Francis told the *Comet* Tuesday that since June 2005, 34 driveways and 13 field entrances were installed by the county. There have been 10 requests for similar services in 2007.

A decision about the change in policy will be made at the first commissioners' meeting in June. The public is invited to weigh in on the decision by contacting a commissioner prior to the June 4 meeting or attend at 9 a.m. to voice an opinion.

### TIF districts recommended

Carroll County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Daryl Smith presented an overview of the recent economic history of the county. He reported the unemployment rate decreased in 2005-2006, however there were 12 fewer workers in the county.

"Every job is important," Smith said.

He emphasized the dairy planned for Democrat Township is expected to generate 25 to 35 new jobs and the two recent expansions at Indiana Packers Corporation means approximately 400 new jobs in the community. The new Optima Dairy, planned for Liberty Township, is expected to employ an additional 15 to 18 new hires.

Smith advised Carroll County is

the number one hog producing county in the state, is the top corn and soybean producer per acre in the state and is among the top ten overall producers of wheat and corn in the state.

Smith suggested the use of tax

increment financing (TIF) districts to pay for infrastructure that would entice businesses to the community. He explained a TIF district would raise money for infrastruc-

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## Economic Development Income Tax distribution

Commissioners held a work session after lunch Monday to discuss distribution of the 2007 EDIT funds.

Although funding decisions will be made at the June 4 commissioners' meeting, group consensus was reached to award \$1,000 to Carroll County Cares About Literacy, \$1,500 to the county heritage, transportation and tourism group, \$940.50 to the Troyer Group for a mussel study in conjunction with the proposed SR75 extension project, \$48,639 to Carroll County EDC (with a three-year contract for like amounts) and \$116,000 to the highway department for two additional duro-patchers.

A written request from Delphi Mayor Lee Hoard for funding for the Hoosier Heartland Industrial Coalition was denied in the proposed plan.

County auditor Beth Myers reported \$107,098 EDIT funds were received from the state in May and the same amount is expected in November, making the annual total \$214,196.

Myers reported \$79,919 remained from unspent 2006 EDIT funds. That amount, added to 2007 proposed unallocated amount of \$46,117, totals \$119,036. The surplus money was proposed to be placed in a fund for future road construction.

## Green is in



The structure long known as "the green bridge" on Meridian Line Road near SR 218 now lives up to its name. Before being recently painted, the pony truss bridge was mostly rust-color. Carroll County Highway Supt. Ron Francis said the new coat of paint and some structural repair work came about as part of the overall bridge maintenance schedule. A painting contractor put a tent over the bridge before sandblasting in order to meet environmental guidelines for reclaiming the old paint. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

## Carroll to offer free full-day kindergarten

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Carroll School Corporation will offer full-day classes to all kindergarten students next school year.

Superintendent John Sayers made the announcement at the May 15 school board meeting. He said it will be offered tuition-free to parents of students within the school district.

"Half-day kindergarten will still be optional," he added.

He said surveys will be sent to parents of the incoming kindergarten students to see what they want.

The board approved a three percent increase in the administrators' salary schedule, and a realignment of the pay schedule so that all administrators are paid according to the school year, July 1 to June 30. The individual salary increases for the superintendent, building principals and assistant principals will be effective July 1, 2007.

Also approved was a two percent increase in the salaries of non-certified personnel, effective July 1.

### Handbook proposals

Elementary assistant principal Natalie McQuade and junior-senior high school principal Fred Schnarr highlighted proposed changes in their respective student handbooks for the coming year. The proposed changes for both schools will be posted on the corporation website.

One of the proposals for the elementary handbook is setting guidelines on how much time students should be spending on

homework each night. Pertaining to student absences, McQuade said the school will require parents to call the school rather than notify through notes or email.

McQuade explained the new code policy that will be added to the handbook. The students have started doing code drills - red, yellow, and green. She said red means "stop" and a full lock down. Yellow means caution - exterior doors locked, but teachers and students can move within the building. Green means get out of the building. She mentioned a gas leak as an example for the green code. McQuade said the code policy is posted on the school website.

Schnarr said parents of junior-senior high students must call the school to confirm their child's absence due to doctor's appointments, funerals, or the DMV.

If a student plans to bring someone to a dance who does not attend Carroll, he or she must get prior approval from an administrator and must fill out a form, telling about that person.

Other changes apply to athletic eligibility and substance abuse. Schnarr said everyone in grades 7-9 is eligible to play fall sports, but for grades 10-12, eligibility depends on a student's grades during the previous spring semester.

The policy on use of electronic communication devices was clarified. Schnarr said students' cell phones are to be turned off when they enter the building, and must remain off

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## DCSC offers Q & A session at public meeting

Patrons of Delphi Community School Corporation are encouraged to attend a public meeting to be held May 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Camden Elementary School gymnasium.

DCSC board members Jim Garrison, Jerry Sparks and Mike Shoemaker will join superintendent Ralph Walker to present information and re-

spond to questions from members of the community.

Walker said the aim of the meeting was to help "clear up misconceptions and get the truth out" regarding elementary realignment. He stated school finances and the effect of realignment on academic performance will be discussed.

## German Baptist conference a traditional tie that binds

By Kevin Schnepf  
Staff writer

Those of the Christ-centered faith cherish the arrival of Pentecost seven weeks after Easter Sunday. Many take advantage of the opportunity to gather and worship. Some, as is the case

with German Baptist Brethren, do so on a very large scale.

Fellowship and encouragement among brethren will be a running theme throughout the Old German Baptist Brethren Annual Conference May 26-29 on the Donald L. Hufford farm, 8101N. CR600W., two miles southwest of Rossville in Clinton County.

Each year, brethren from across the nation arrange a weekend of renewal of spirit and friendships to commemorate the anniversary of the Holy Spirit's descent upon the church. The event is held in different regions of the country on a rotation basis.

Preparations for the four-day series of meetings began more than two years ago with the formation of a seven-member committee of arrangements. Since then, 30 more committees were formed, each designed to handle a specific function of the conference.

Before the conference officially gets under way, worship, dining, rest and meeting facilities will be put in place on tent-raising day, May 24. More than 35 acres of land surrounding the Hufford farm was sown in grass last year to provide meeting room for the anticipated six to seven thousand visitors. Church members will put final details in place the rest of the

day Thursday and all day Friday.

### Public welcome to attend

Members of the public are welcome to attend services during the conference that begins at 10 a.m. Saturday and continues each day at designated times. Visitors are asked to wear modest attire and that no photographs be taken inside tents during worship services.

Services on Pentecost Sunday will be held at 7 a.m., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the council tent. Additionally 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. services will be held in the auxiliary tent and Middle Fork meeting house, one-half mile south of the conference site.

A Love Feast involving self-examination, foot-washing, Lord's Supper, observation of the Holy Kiss, and Holy Communion will occur Sunday at 5 p.m. in the dining tent. Only active church members may participate. However, the public is welcome to observe.

Visitors may also attend Monday preaching services held at 7 p.m. at area churches - Middle Fork, North Fork near Pyrmont, Bachelor Run in Flora and Deer Creek near Camden.

### More work to do

Monday morning, 105 delegates representing 54 individual congregations from across the nation will meet to organize the

business portion of the conference. Twelve elders will be chosen to preside over a Tuesday night business meeting designed to "address the church's efforts to apply ancient time-tested understanding of New Testament teaching to present day living."

The conference will mark the eighth time since 1886 Middle Fork church district has hosted the meeting. The long-standing tradition of these conferences is a lesson in the church's togetherness, according to the brethren.

"The Old German Baptist Brethren people stay aware of the good heritage they enjoy," press committee member Robert Metzger said. "They strive to continue the advice of their forefathers in devotion to the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles."

Metzger explained a concern of the church is how to live in ways that minimize damage to spiritual well-being while members participate in modern society. He said that concern consistently poses new challenges for the church, but the unified aim of Christ-likeness helps guide decisions.

"This interest in preserving the ancient order of primitive practice of the apostles is the motivating force behind the church," Metzger concluded.



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**EARLY DEADLINES FOR NEXT WEEK  
Due to the Memorial Day Holiday**

**ALL ADS, NEWS &  
CORRESPONDENTS DUE BY:  
Friday, May 25 • 12 Noon**

The *Comet* will be published on Wednesday