

Y initiates fundraising campaign; open house to be held Aug. 27

Comet staff report

Nearing its fourth full year of operation, Carroll County YMCA has initiated a vigorous fund raising campaign. Membership is slowly increasing, but is reportedly not yet at the level to sustain operations.

Over \$1.3 million was raised by the community and surrounding area and the facility opened in November 2003.

"The building and contents are totally paid for," said YMCA board president Teddy Huffer. "We are extremely proud of that accomplishment. We are also proud of the many services that the Y provides, all totally unique to Carroll County, for youth through senior citizens."

Youth can participate in a variety of activities, from biddy basketball to flipsters tumbling. Lifting weights in a supervised weight room and playing pick-up games in the gym are available to young adults. Adult opportunities include various intramural leagues and fitness classes such as yoga, Pilates, aerobics and kickboxing. Senior citizens can utilize the Y by taking a chair aerobics class.

Plans are in progress for a computer/game room, according to board member Kenrick

Harness. The Y also wants to integrate a community winter swim program at both Delphi and Carroll schools.

Last winter an average of over 500 members utilized the YMCA facility per week. Non-members utilizing the services were estimated to frequent the Y an average of 65 times per week.

"Despite increasing membership, the Y has not yet obtained membership numbers needed to balance operational costs," said Huffer.

"Late last year the board realized there were omissions from the accounting reports and bills were not being paid in a timely manner," said board member Pat Leahy. "As a result, the YMCA found itself in serious debt, owing a multitude of late fees and assessments for unpaid accounts, most substantially unpaid government withholdings and employment taxes."

"Our board moved quickly to assess the issues and take corrective actions," he said.

One of the first steps was to enlist the Lafayette YMCA to help improve the operation of the facility, increase programming and expand services. Fisher & Associates was also hired to evaluate and reorganize

accounting procedures and perform bookkeeping services.

"The evaluation showed that the daycare had overextended itself with free and reduced daycare," said Leahy. "As a result, significant dollars were lost and the program was discontinued."

"These measures, along with the hiring of Russ Siler as interim director, have helped us make significant changes and improvements," added Huffer.

Funding, however, remains an issue.

"In order to provide programming and services so many have come to enjoy it is critical that the YMCA raise \$300,000 to ensure continued operations," said board member Bret Rinehart.

"With our new focus and action plan," he continued, "we hope to solicit the support and membership from all of Carroll County."

And there are ways to make that happen.

"Each individual in the county has a chance to be a part of the YMCA by providing a financial contribution," said Huffer. "It can be as simple as joining. Memberships range from \$8 per month for youths to \$30 per month for a family. Tax-deductible donations are also welcome, as are volunteers who donate their time and talents."

Said board member Jim Payne, "I realize that we are asking a lot of the citizens of Carroll County to donate again when they have been so generous before, but this facility has so much to offer the public that it would be a shame if it did not continue well into the future."

"The board has made a serious commitment to rectify past operational mistakes and feels confident that with financial support and increased membership from the community, the YMCA can continue to be a true gem in Carroll County," concluded Huffer.

On Aug. 27, the Carroll County YMCA will host an open house from 5 to 8 p.m.

For more information on programs or to make a donation, call 574-967-4449. The YMCA is a 501-c-3 organization.

Freedom Run 2007
Saturday, August 11th

during Old Settlers, in Delphi.
At the Freedom Center, 1 block south of the Courthouse on US 421

•Last Bike out at 10:30 am •Lunch provided at biker owned Dinner Bell
•Last Bike in at 2:00 pm
•Registration at 10:00 am •First 50 get a free T-shirt
•Prize Drawing at end of Ride

All Donations go to local Salvation Army
Rain or Shine - Not Responsible For Accidents





would like to invite the public to a **FREE DINNER***

MONDAY, AUGUST 13 at 6PM

at the

Canal Center in Delphi

**State Senator Brandt Hershman
State Representative Rich McClain and U.S. Representative Joe Donnelly**

will be discussing topics that affect Carroll County.

***Seating is limited, RSVP to the Carroll Chamber at 765-564-6757 or sana@carrollcountychamber.com**

Support the Carroll County YMCA

Please indicate how you would like to help:

- By joining the YMCA
- By volunteering my time and talent
- By being a non-member and participating in programs
- By making a tax-deductible (501-c-3) donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Please fax, 574-967-3848, or

Mail to: 908 E. Columbia St., Flora, IN 46929

Fire From page 1A

the goal was for the residents to "learn the skills they will need to have to acclimate themselves back into society."

The home on Sunset Street will house all males and the home on Third Street, all females. Resident capacity at both homes is four and the ages of residents will range from 20s to 60s.

"We do not do coed homes," she said.

The homes will be staffed 24/7 with three staff members on the day and evening shifts and two wake-staff on the night shift. A van, driven by staff, will be provided for resident transportation.

Anderson said even though initially local contractors were not used, she expects that to change. "We want to hire people from here and use local businesses. We want the money to come back into this economy."

"After we get the residents settled, we'll have an open house for the community," Anderson added. "We want to show off our home and program and want you to be as excited about them as we are."

Other business

The 2008 salary ordinance was approved. Ayres explained town employees were given "a very conservative raise," while the clerk-treasurer and council members received no raise.

Brian Beaver said while he and his wife were not at home recently, Flora Utilities employees replaced an electric meter at their residence. Had his son not been home at the time, they would not have known that the meter had been changed over. Beaver suggested that Utilities workers identify themselves by leaving some kind of information that they have been there and done some work, such as something left on the door.

Ayres told Beaver that the town would see what improvements could be made for situations such as he described.

Scott Sisson, a member of the Flora Park Board, said that repairs had been made to the stone arch where vandalism had occurred. During the repair process, additional problems were found and Sisson said the board is working to address those problems.

Chief Paul Redmon said that the town has a new canine. Officer Tony Liggett is now certified and "that will help us out." Redmon reported problems

with air soft guns. The guns are considered a toy, he said, but they can leave welts. His department was called to investigate a few incidents last week involving the air soft guns. He asked parents to talk to their children about proper use of the guns.

The police department has purchased two external defibrillators to have in the event of medical emergencies when police arrive before medical personnel. Some of the funding came from the police department's education fund that is funded from court costs.

The police department's report for July included: 12 arrests/misdemeanors, 12 felonies, 38 citations, 34 warnings, 110 calls for service, 6 accidents, and 3 felony investigations.

Mike Cottrell, a member of the Flora VFD, is a member of an area training committee with its hub in Lafayette. He requested the town consider hosting land for training and storing a trailer with props. His request was taken under advisement while the council explores possible sites and liability costs.

Duane Pirtle, another VFD member, reported that the Flora VFD earned the Rookie Team of the Year Award at the recent Carroll County Relay for Life event. Through various fundraising efforts, the VFD raised \$2,659 for the American Cancer Society.

Pirtle thanked the community for its support. "We live in a very giving community," he said.

In his wastewater report, Bill McCarty indicated that the department has met with T-Bird Design to work on a plan to submit to IDEM addressing Flora's overflow problems.

McCarty also reported that there have been no overflows the past two months.

So that there is no disruption in recycling pick up, town employees pick up recyclables when the regular driver is on vacation or sick, pointed out Ayres.

The town pledged \$2,200 to Carroll County Economic Development Corp. as its share of costs for a county marketing plan that is being developed.

The Plan Commission approved the following permits: James Bowman, sidewalk; Don Craft, sidewalk; Bruce Ezra, pole building; Kevin Clothier, free standing deck; Jeremy

Chaffee, garage and wrecking of porch; and Michelle Jones, deck.

Ordinance 2007-2 extending the town's contract with the Indiana Municipal Power Association (IMPA) for an additional ten years was approved. The contract will now expire on April 1, 2042.

Monday's meeting was a public hearing for the first reading of the 2008 budget. The budget will be approved at the next council meeting set for Sept. 10.





The town office will be closed Sept. 3 for the Labor Day holiday.

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Aug. 21st, Aug 23rd and Aug 25th

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Please take the time to read the following policies:

- School Portraits are for grades K-11 ONLY!
- All School Portraits are by appointment only.
- You must come dressed and ready.
- Please have your order form completed when you arrive.
- All School Portraits are paid in full the day of the session.
- No pets.
- One background. (choose from many options the day of your session)
- One outfit.
- You MUST be photographed alone.
- Portraits by Lori does NOT provide yearbook photos to the schools. You must still be photographed at school to be included in the yearbook. (You just don't have to buy any!)
- NO discounts or coupons can be applied to school portraits.

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- notepads
- photo coasters
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