

# CARROLL COUNTY COMET

Consolidation of the Delphi Journal-Citizen (Est. 1839) and the Flora Hoosier Democrat (Est. 1897).

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Co-Publishers: Susan Scholl & Joe Moss

Editor: Susan Scholl, editor@carrollcountycomet.com  
Ad Director: Joe Moss, comet@carrollcountycomet.com  
Editorial Writers: Susan Scholl, Comet Staff

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## An impossible situation

Carroll County leaders et al are faced with difficult and challenging decisions concerning funding county services and finances. Tough spending choices will be made within the next 30 to 45 days. Many will be unhappy with what is sure to come.

The decision of whether or not to take on the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District to reclaim jurisdiction of Jefferson Township will be an extremely difficult decision that promises to be unsettling for those who look beyond the bottom line. In the short run, it looks like it might be a good thing to do if there is money to do it. But in reality, it looks like the last thing this county needs is to forge ahead into a potentially costly lawsuit.

However, if you look beyond the surface of the situation you will begin to understand the certain future ramifications of not taking action now.

The issue is not just about Jefferson Township but about all of Carroll County. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has proven that when the sewer district wants to do something, it is allowed to do it. It is hard to grasp the concept of how those who live south of Oakdale Dam are polluting the lake, but IDEM granted Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District jurisdiction over them anyway.

And when TLRSD decides there is a need for it to expand to Horseshoe Bend, Tecumseh Bend and points east and south, the prediction is that it will probably obtain the needed permission from IDEM and move forward regardless of the wishes of Carroll County residents. Additional county taxpayers will have no representation about who will govern them because the district's board of directors is appointed, not elected.

On the other side of the issue is the service afforded to TLRSD customers. There would be no more sloppy yards with questionable wet areas. Toilets would flush as expected. Laundry would get done without a concern that too much water is being pumped into the system.

If nothing else, these attributes are desirable in the civilized world and we all want them. It's true...we do. And we go to great lengths to get them sometimes. But how far is too far? Do we give up our right to have a say about how we are governed?

Citizens and leaders alike are urged to think this situation through. Decide how you want your county to look in the future and who you want to govern you before making what is bound to be the ultimate decision.

Citizens should talk to their elected leaders and the leaders should talk to the citizens. Know the facts. This decision will affect everyone in the county on some level. Ignoring it is no longer an option. The line has been drawn in the sand and the county must decide which side it falls on.

The current crop of commissioners and council members probably did not see this coming when they stepped up to the plate to serve their county. It is the responsibility of all county residents to create a dialog with their elected leaders to help them make the decision about this impossible situation. Good luck.

### 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, Aug. 15
- √ Delphi Board of Works: 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 20
- √ County Budget Hearings-department heads presentations: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- √ Commissioners: 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 21
- √ County Budget Hearings-department heads presentations: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- √ Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m.

### Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- County Council - Budget.....4B
- Sheriff Sale-LaPlante.....4B
- Estate-Lilly.....5B
- TLSC-Bus Replacement.....4B
- DCSC-Tax Levies.....4B
- TLSC-Tax Levies.....5B
- TLSC-Annual Budget.....5B
- Alcohol Permits.....5B
- Zoning Appeal-Aldridge.....5B
- Rezoning.....5B
- DCSC-Bus Replacement.....4B
- IDEM-07-08-C-AR.....2B
- Sheriff Sale-Dukes.....4B
- Sheriff Slae-Dukes.....6B
- Rock Creek Cons.....2B
- Flora Mon. Lib-Tax Levies.....4B
- Wash. Twp-Tax Levies.....4B

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.

Walking down Delphi's Main Street last Wednesday the sun was scorching from its perch overhead and we pedestrians were moving slowly. Over near the courthouse the set-up for Old Settlers was under way with clatter and pounding and the occasional grunt. Further up the street, underneath a small tent, a woman wearing a modest bonnet sold sweet corn from a wagon.

A hot August afternoon in Delphi is an easy picture to conjure up, something that comes neatly into focus from memory for those of us who know this particular territory. The courthouse, the square around it, familiar facades and familiar textures in shingle and stone and windowpanes, they all hold their place in the today and yet also in the past. There was a certain heaviness in the air on this particular Wednesday and glints of light from the reflection of sun on chrome danced about on a variety of surfaces. It could have been any August afternoon but it wasn't, it was here and the now, yet it felt as familiar as an afternoon rerun on television.

We made our way down Main Street and then, on a whim, stopped at Dairy Queen and ordered two root beer floats. The lines were long but the wait was worth every second. The vanilla ice cream was cool and the root beer frothy and it too was all so familiar. I

## Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



### Familiar

thought about all the different places and all the different company and generations with whom I have enjoyed a root beer float. I realize now that I could never come up with a complete list of the root beer floats of my days. The chilled A&W mug at a drive-in over in Chesterton comes to mind. Has there ever been a better container made for root beer than that ice cold chilled mug? And how can something so seldom encountered these days seem yet, so familiar?

Memorable, familiar. How can a cold ice mug be more memorable than the password for the computer I use everyday? The computer password, no matter how many times used, is all function and no meaning or emotion. I haven't had a cold frosty mug with root beer in a decade but I can conjure up the familiar and memorable of that pleasant experience on command - effortlessly. How can a loved one's face, something that changes with time, remain so familiar regardless of that time?

Change is inevitable. New is intriguing and sometimes new

is even better than the old. But the power of familiar cannot be underestimated.

We spent a day at the Indiana Dunes over the weekend. Our souvenir of that day can be found in our shoes, on our carpet, between our toes and even in our sheets. Sand of course made the trip back with us from the day at the beach. That familiar gritty feeling of sand between toes and teeth and everything in between, that familiar feeling calls all the way back to my childhood beach days, then fast forwards to our own children and their youthful days spent at water's edge.

The comfort of the familiar connects the dots between stages of life, generations of people and disconnected days. Even with a variety of different contexts things familiar, little and big emit the essence of a path already taken, then taken again, and again.

This summer our lunches have returned to simpler menus of cheese sandwiches with tomato and the occasional peanut butter and jelly. It is the same fare as of picnics past and simpler times with children young and limbs more spry. And munching on these simple repasts does, in fact, invite memory to wander along familiar paths of pleasant days and comfortable ways.

The familiar, the memorable, what nice thoughts to contemplate on a hot August afternoon that feels like so many others.

## 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.

JP Morgan filed a complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage against Scott W. Stigers, Earnest P. Sealy and Kim Rush.

American Acceptance filed a complaint against Brian Wallace.

Capital One Bank filed a complaint against Charles R. Cottrell.

Erendira Garcia was charged with forgery and three counts of identity deception.

David L. Butler filed a petition for restricted drivers license against Tricia L. Thompson and Ronald Stiver.

The following cases were dismissed: Capital One Bank vs. Scott Knight; Midland Credit Management vs. Patricia J. Wells; Midland Credit Management vs. Donna Coup; and Aames Home Loan vs. Jon E. Reed.

The following were found to be in arrears in the payment of child support: Richard Collins, \$8,646.29; David Colbert, \$4,588.62; Chad Gipson, \$1,671.88; Jennifer I. Bartlett, \$678.00; John L. Barbee Jr., \$21,648.00; Jason Blount, \$4,260.53; Terry L. Antibus, \$48,000; Belinda Smith, \$2,900.18; Richard Ronk, \$4,287.23; Amy Bratcher, \$2,800; and Kevin Stout, \$8,773.35.

Tri-State Cob Ltd. was ordered to pay \$3,647.96 to Sagamore Insurance Co.

Decrees of dissolution were granted for: Tamara S. Oberle and Harold L. Oberle, and Barry D. Green and Misty G. Green.

GMAC Mortgage filed a complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage on real estate against Glenn B. Stonebraker and Jennifer L. Stonebraker.

Option One Mortgage Corp. filed a complaint on note and to reform and foreclose mortgage on real estate against William M. Cox.

PHH Mortgage Corp. filed a complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage on real estate against Melinda D. Martinez.

Washington Mutual filed a complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage against Victor A. Humphrey.

Deutsche Bank filed a complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage on real estate against Paul E. and Sandra Lucas.

Asset Acceptance filed a complaint against Mary J. Long.



## 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.

### Praises commissioners and council

Thanks for your fair and honest reporting of the Jefferson Township proposed conservancy, controlled and governed by the citizens of Jefferson Township. The Carroll County Commissioners and County Council are true examples of what elected officers should be - a voice for the local citizens.

Glen Lock  
Frankfort

### The play's the thing!

If you did not get to experience the plays, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," presented by the Stargazers Children's Theatre, or "Cinderella," by the Red Brick Theater, you missed a real treat.

What a wonderful job by everyone involved in these productions. The children and adults did a tremendous job of acting, singing, and displaying a sense of comical timing. The costumes, sets, lighting, but most importantly the acting, was superb! We have some very talented youth in this community, and we can be proud of their performances.

I want to also thank Sara Daly-Brosman for her excellent directing skills. She always does a fantastic job of bringing these plays to life in just a short amount of time. Thank you Sara for all your hard work, time, and dedication to these productions. We are very fortunate to have someone who is willing to work so hard to bring quality productions to our community.

Jayne Abbott, president  
Friends of the Delphi  
Public Library

### Objects to no-kill shelter tactics

I submit this letter as a response and rebuttal to the article appearing in the Aug. 9 edition of the Lafayette Journal and Courier. This article pertained to Tricia Davis' dog shelter.

Several weeks ago Davis appeared at the Carroll County Commissioners' meeting pleading her case, resorting to statements that I deemed gross exaggerations.

Davis requested the commissioners initiate a one-dollar per county resident fee to support her personal hobby. The commis-

sioners rejected her proposal, stating she should consult the county council regarding the subject.

Apparently, according to the J&C article, her plea to the council was rejected. In light of these rejections, I presume she approached the news media with the intention of obtaining public support in order to pressure either the commissioners or council to accede to her request for public monies to support her personal hobby.

Concerning her complaint, she was not being paid as other county employees, she is NOT A COUNTY EMPLOYEE.

I own no pets therefore I do not contribute to the problem. I deeply resent her attempts to force me, and the other county residents, to provide funds to solve her self-created personal problem.

Carl Perry  
Carroll County resident

### View on sewer and conservancy impasse

It seems as though the sewer and conservancy situation is all the buzz in Carroll County. I attended one of the meetings and was disheartened when told our situation was not the conservancy's problem.

On the other hand, we're to believe they'll address the situation. Well, if you don't care why should any of us trust you?

I especially appreciated the kind comment to get a port-a-pot. A ludicrous solution! Such a commodity is not allowed by the local ordinance. I'm not real interested in a visit from the sheriff for breaking the ordinance. Going to jail is not something I'm interested in doing but if it happened I realize it is "not your problem." However, if a port-a-pot was allowed, I'd like it to include a shower and sink!

We don't need band-aids and we don't need ludicrous suggestions. If this is how the conservancy plans to help, then it is short sightedness on their part. The sewer is a legal solution to a serious problem. Of course, "it is not your problem" as stated so eloquently in the meeting. Would you have us break the law and the ordinances where we live?

Can you create land for new septic systems? I think only God can create like that.

Can you change the current laws in the next few months or years to accommodate our needs? Even God wouldn't tackle that one!

How about all that tax money we provide to Carroll County?

Since there is this "It's not my problem" from the conservancy, I would like to suggest that those of us who live on the lake only pay taxes for the time we're there. If this cramps the ability to accomplish community improvements then according to popular theory, "That's not my problem."

We can't use the same systems we put in 40 years ago. How many amenities have you changed in the last 40 years to improve the quality of your home and life?

I hope to retire in Carroll County and was looking forward to a warm and friendly community where people actually cared about each other and their needs.

I'm proud to be an American but think this impasse over the sewer and the conservancy is just so much crap.....much like what I can't flush down the toilet.

Sharon Carbaugh  
Monticello

### Who benefits?

Lest we forget one of Carroll County's truest friends, I wanted to shed some light on recent events fermenting in the shadows.

Eccentric and quietly brilliant, Charles Gerard was a scholar and guru of local and regional history. He fought hard to preserve the things that most citizens of Delphi take for granted like the Canal and associated trails. If not for his hard efforts and the efforts of others associated with him, Delphi would have gladly forgotten its own past.

Regardless, Charles' memory lives on in a court battle that has been raging since his death in 2005, and since facts began being uncovered in June 2006. It's not a fight by family members over money. It's more insidious than that. I have been fighting for over a year now, at my own expense, to try to...expose...incompetence and...possible fraud.

Usually, the easiest way to find out who is at the heart of a crime is to ask "Who benefits?" Unfortunately, that is not an easy question to answer.

I urge interested members of the community to be at the Carroll Circuit Court on Sept. 7 at 1:30 p.m. to witness what I hope will be my final stand in the fight for Charles' own final memories and desires. I urge the community to learn more about this case and let's get this out of the shadows.

Michael Griffey II  
Attica

## Web poll

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

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.

### The annual Bacon Bowl football game pits the Delphi Oracles against the Carroll Cougars on Aug. 24. Who's going to win?

- The Oracles
- The Cougars
- A fan of both teams, it doesn't matter
- Not a football fan

### Last Weeks results

Do you think school uniforms would be a good idea for local schools?  
69% Yes - it would equalize students.  
31% No - it would take away individuality  
Total responses: 134