

Democrats take charge in Delphi

Demos win 3 of 4 in Camden; Progressive sweeps Burlington

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

It became apparent the Republican era ended for the City of Delphi as Tuesday night's election results were posted in the clerk's office in the Carroll County Courthouse. When the numbers were recorded on the chalkboard, the crowd began to do the math. Slowly everyone there realized Delphi not only would have a new mayor as of Jan. 1, but the city council would be predominantly composed of Democrats instead of Republicans. Only two Republicans remain on the city council, and they ran unopposed for the seats.

Randy Strasser told the *Comet*. "I feel good and the election results follow statements I made during the campaign."

"This is about what's been going on in Delphi over the past few years," he added. "I just listened to the public and they must have listened to me."

Although she has served as clerk-treasurer under the Republican administration, Janice Roe was appointed to the position when the elected clerk-treasurer left office. Roe was elected to



Strasser

the post over challenger Linda Gretter by nearly 59 percent of the vote.

"I'm on cloud nine," she beamed at Democratic headquarters after the votes were counted. "I'm thankful it was a sweep. This is going to be a brand new future for Delphi."

Nelson Smith, who ran against incumbent John Hampton, had a slightly different view of the election process. "John was the toughest opponent out there and his will be the toughest position to follow," he said.

When interviewed, Hampton said he was "really happy to run against someone I respected."

Justin Darling, the current Emergency Management Agency Director, is Strasser's pick for Delphi Chief of Po-

lice after Jan. 1. Darling said training, community involvement, which includes positive interaction with the school corporation, would be emphasized on his watch.

"I believe in prevention and there are lots of things we can prevent with proactive policing," he said. "There will be community policing with officers walking the beat and meeting with business owners to address issues and concerns."

"Ordinance enforcement will be a top priority also," he added. "We need to develop a plan for the downtown parking situation and then work that plan."

The person who organized the Democrats and kept them focused to the end was the Democratic chair, Dick

Roe.

"It's unbelievable," Roe said after the results were announced. "My pledge to this community is that we are going to make the residents proud. We promise this for the people."

"This is about 'we' - all of us," he concluded.

Delphi

Democrat Randy J. Strasser defeated the incumbent Republican mayor, Lee Hoard, by a margin of 192 votes (57.66%) to 141 (42.34%).

Democratic incumbent clerk, Janice K. Roe (D) defeated Republican Linda Gretter, 179 votes (54.57%) to 149 (45.43%).

City voters voted each district of the

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Commissioners approve slight rate increase for Carroll Manor

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

To help remedy the county's income not keeping up with expenditures, Carroll County Commissioners raised the cost for each Carroll Manor resident from \$25/day to \$28/day, beginning Jan. 1.

Carroll Manor director Martha Lewis told commissioners at the Monday morning meeting the rate could go no higher given the amount of services offered to residents. She said a facility with bathrooms in every room, which offered nursing care, could charge more. Carroll Manor does not offer those services. Lewis said there were only 19 other like-facilities in the state and each one of those charged \$28/day.

Lewis presented an admission application for Patricia A. Petry of West Lafayette, which was approved.

TLRSD

In a two-to-one vote, commissioners adopted Carroll County Resolution 2007-04 in support of a letter, written by the law firm of Plews Shadley Racher and Braun LLP of Indianapolis, on behalf of sewer district opponents which was sent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to dissolve sewer district expansion into Carroll County.

"It's very important that you support us in this as you have in the past," Jefferson Township resident Pat Robertson said.

Property owners in Phase IIIB are being billed for services, however construction has not begun there. Robertson said Twin Lakes Sewer District is out of compliance with Indiana Code about billing before construction begins.

Commissioners' president Loren Hylton disagreed with Robertson about the compliance issue. He said he wanted more time to examine the mat-

ter before the vote.

Bill Brown moved to endorse the letter, which stated in part, "given the glaring deficiencies which exist in the way that the TLRSD has conducted both its business and planning, IDEM must intervene." His motion received applause from audience members. George Mears provided the second; Hylton provided the nay vote.

Museum

The Historical Society's newly-elected president, Phyllis Porter, requested the reconciliation of the physical plant of the museum in terms of a 20-year lease. She said an occupancy commitment was needed before grant funding could take place. However, questions arose about the distinction between the county and the historical society.

Commissioners' attorney Barry Emerson suggested commissioners offer a year-to-year lease. He said the question of whether the historical society is a separate legal entity or is part of the county government had to be answered before proceeding. He said he was surprised to learn the historical society carried insurance for the museum.

Although supporters pushed for an immediate lease, a proposed lease, prepared by Emerson, will be presented at the Nov. 19 commissioners' meeting after the Nov. 14 joint meeting with the council.

EDC

A four-year contract was signed with Carroll County Economic Development Corporation for continuation of services presently provided.

"The only way out of our current financial problems is with this kind of approach," Brown said in support of the contract.

He added EDC was an "excellent organization, well run, has a great director and a fine board."

Highway department

Highway superintendent Ron Francis announced work would soon begin on Wilson Bridge. He said construction is scheduled for Nov. 15 and the bridge will be officially closed at that

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Property taxes due Nov. 13

Comet staff report

Property taxes are due in the Carroll County Treasurer's Office on Nov. 13 by 5 p.m. Payments received after that time will be subject to penalty.

The Treasurer's Office will be closed Monday in observance of Veteran's Day.

Even though Clay Township tax statements were mailed just last month, both spring and fall payments are due on Nov. 13.

Questions may be directed to the Treasurer's Office at 765-564-3446.

Veterans old and new share the same honor

By Kevin Schnepf
Staff writer

As military men and women return home from wartime service, so are more names added to this country's list of veterans who've served to protect it.

Despite changes in American culture since the country's eldest veterans served, the honor of military service has not faltered. Whether fresh from the front or long-retired from service, veterans hold a special place in American hearts.

Veteran's Day will be celebrated officially Nov. 12 but many local ceremonies will occur this week and into the weekend. All those who offer thanks know it is not the age that matters, or the uniform, but the measure of the act of defending freedom.

Celebration Sunday on square

Carroll County veterans' organizations will hold a memorial celebration Sunday at 11 a.m. by the war memorial on the courthouse square. Bob Morrow of the county veterans' office said the ceremony will be simple but appropriate.

"Of all the things done for veterans these days and all that's talked about, the key is that we honor them," Morrow said.

Students to honor veterans

Delphi elementary teacher Susan Trueblood said it was important for the school to honor veterans because their sacrifices helped protect demo-



Honor for all ages

More than 60 years stand between the service of U.S. Navy personnel who served in World War II and U.S. Army veterans fresh from modern-day battles, but age and military branch dissolve when it comes to the united goal of American service people. Pictured is a handshake between Aviation Machinist Mate, Second Class, Dick Grantham and Staff Sergeant Charles Wolfe, both of Delphi, which is representative of the mindset of veterans of all ages - United We Stand. Comet photo by Kevin Schnepf

cratic freedoms.

As an annual honorary show of gratitude, DCES will host a Veteran's Day concert Friday.

During the days leading up to the program, fifth-graders learned songs and discussed what it meant to be an American and a veteran. They considered that some servicemen and women made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives for

our country.

Students will honor veterans near and far during the program which will feature songs and readings students memorized along with the introduction of nearly 100 local veterans from both world wars, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. Members of the Harry Bohannon Post of the American Legion and Delphi Veterans of

Foreign Wars will provide a 21-gun salute outside the school.

Trueblood said Delphi VFW and American Legion have participated in activities at Delphi schools for many years and the long-time connection helped make the day meaningful to students.

"The observance of Veterans Day allows us to teach students

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Belgium couple to start second large-scale dairy in county

By Susan Scholl
Editor

Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development LLC is helping a young Belgium family start a large-scale dairy in northeast Carroll County.

Optima Dairy Farm is in the permit process, according to Peter Vandervegt, a Vreba-Hoff consultant. Following review by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, they hope to have the permit by the end of this month, he said.

The dairy's owners will be Koen (35) and Els (32) Ally. Their operation will include 2,200-head of dairy cows and 40 calves. They plan to sell the calves to someone who will raise them and then sell them back to them.

The dairy will be located on ground purchased from Myron Sink at CRs 1000N and 300E in Liberty Township.

The Allys both come from agricultural backgrounds. Koen is a fourth generation dairy farmer. He took over his father's dairy farm in 1999 and married Els in 2002.

The couple invented a new stall divider that put them in touch with a lot of dairy farmers around the world. It was then that they realized that if they were to keep up with all the changes in the dairy industry, they would need to relo-

cate. According to Koen, Belgium is one-third the size of Indiana with a population of 10 million people. When Koen took over they were milking 60 cows. The couple increased that number to 75 and did not see it expanding again in the near future.

After visiting more than 30 different dairy farms in the U.S. in 2006, Koen was convinced that they needed to set up a new dairy in the Midwest. Els made her own trip to the U.S. to check out schools, social life, etc. After the trip, she too was convinced that their future was in Camden, Indiana.

"I'm always looking how to develop the farm for the future, like my father," said Koen.

"The U.S. is still an importer of milk," said Koen. "And the Midwest is the best place to set up a dairy because there are a lot of consumers within a day's drive of the dairy, available feed for the animals and fresh water."

The Allys said they chose Vreba-Hoff to help them relocate because of their experience with farms and helping families set up new businesses.

Optima Dairy Farm will be milking cows three times a day, seven days a week. The Allys expect to hire 20 people to help with the operation.

"Dairy farming is part of our



Koen and Els Ally

life and doing this is the American dream," explained Koen. "We want to show our parents that we are doing the right thing for our family. We want them to be proud of us when they come to visit."

Koen said there is only a six hour time difference between Belgium and the U.S.

"The web cams that will be set up around the farm should

keep the families back home in touch with us continuously," he said.

Koen and Els have three young sons - Tim, age 4; Stef, 3; and Dieter, 2. They plan to relocate to the house on the Sink property in January.

Carroll County Economic Development Executive Director Daryl Smith said that the

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