

# CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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## Guest commentary: How to talk to your member of Congress

By Lee Hamilton

Sometimes, when it seems that a letter isn't enough, you just have to talk to your member of Congress. It can seem daunting, but it shouldn't be. Remember, for our system to work, you need to be willing to share your thoughts with representatives, and they need to be willing to listen.

In some ways, the easiest step is actually getting in touch. You may not get a member of Congress on the telephone right away, but leave a message, since most members set aside time each week to call back constituents.

Members also make time on their schedules for constituents, so if you're going to be in Washington, set up an appointment in advance. It's even easier to schedule a meeting back home, either in the district office or even at a local coffee shop, when the distractions of the Capitol are far away.

There are other avenues, too: public meetings in the district, virtual forums hosted by legislators, even inviting your member of Congress to speak to a local group to which you belong.

Then, once you're on the phone or face to face with your lawmaker, there are certain things you can do that will help you be more credible. Do research beforehand so you're knowledgeable about the issue, and do not overstate your case or try to mislead. Make your case with facts and figures instead of spin. And since you have limited time, be sure to stick to the most important points in your position.

Perhaps the most important advice I can give, though "and I speak from experience" is that how you say it is as important as what you say. It helps to be constructive, to find a way not only to raise a problem but also then help your legislator find a way to solve it.

Be patient, and be unfailingly courteous; knowing how to disagree without being disagreeable is the surest way I know to earn an elected official's respect. Above all, be open to compromise. Making some progress toward your goal is better than none at all.

Finally, relax! Say what you want to say, and enjoy your exchanges with your representative. We live in a democracy, and my experience has been that participating in it is both a privilege and a pleasure. I hope that's what you discover, too.

Lee Hamilton is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

## Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith

Superior Court judgments are gathered from public records on file in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi.

### New Filings

Patrick P. Boyles Jr. was charged with domestic battery, strangulation and criminal confinement.

Bladimer Martinez was charged with no valid license and two counts of possession of marijuana.

Greg P. Mejia was charged with possession of marijuana and visiting a common nuisance.

Sandra L. Blake was charged with harboring a non-immunized dog.

Marice D. Brown was charged with driving while

suspended and speeding.

Rickey Q. Jones was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person and domestic battery.

Deborah L. Spear was charged with public intoxication.

Karsten J. Cook was charged with operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more and two counts of operating a vehicle while intoxicated - endangering a person.

Floyd L. Arnold was charged with driving while suspended.

## 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.

### How often does your family sit down for a meal together?

Every night  
Three times a week  
Practically never

### Last Weeks results

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

49% The Oracles  
38% The Cougars  
2% A fan of both teams, it doesn't matter  
11% Not a football fan

Total responses: 105

### Reader's comments:

I graduated an Oracle and married a Cougar. I still like to see Oracle football win!

We got a deal on a little rental property last year. It's a homely 1950s ranch with a good tenant and lots of white vinyl siding.

Although there's no garage, the house came with a tall plastic shed. The shed was propped up against the fence in the back yard. A beige affair, it was, of large interlocking parts. I never even looked inside the shed until after we closed the deal. When I did take a look inside I found a rake, a shovel and an old red lawn mower - an unnamed brand with that familiar Briggs and Stratton engine.

I've never owned a shed. I know nothing of shed law or shed custom and usage. I've never owned a shed and I still don't own one. After we closed on the house the former owner came back a week later and took his shed.

"Wasn't in the contract," he mumbled.

He evicted the rake, the shovel and the mower and left them lying out in the open as he hauled his shed away.

Hmmmmmm.

At the closing we learned that the tenant was supposed to mow the little patch of lawn in the front and side yard. But that deal was as clear as the shed ownership issue.

The grass stayed long, the mower, rake and shovel stayed homeless and then fall turned into winter.

I felt particularly bad about the little red lawn mower sitting out in the open exposed to

## Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



## Briggs, Stratton and me

the weather. Leaning against the house, I spied a rusty wheel barrow that had seen better days. Before the first snow fell I flipped the wheel barrow over and tucked the little red mower underneath. To make things cozy I also tucked in the gas can on the deck of the mower. I nestled the wheelbarrow, the mower and the gas up against the house with the rake and the shovel.

Then Mother Nature did her routine. The snow piled, the winds blew, winter roared and the little lawn tools just braved it out huddled all together.

The spring came. The grass sprang forth and I appeared on the scene with no plan, no lawn service and no tenant expecting to mow.

I wondered out loud what chance I would have getting the little mower to start up.

I pulled the mower out from under the wheelbarrow. I brushed a years worth of leaves from the deck. I then shook the gas can a little and topped off the mower's tank.

The choke on the mower is broken so I wasn't sure if the engine was going to get enough gas to get the thing to

start. I proceeded to tip the mower to its left, then I tipped it to the right. Next I tipped it forward, then backward.

And then I gave a huge yank on the pull cord. Actually, I yanked on it for a half hour or so. And then on one lucky yank, a sputter, then a whirl, next a backfire, and suddenly, I was in business.

Well, that was over three months ago. During those three months I've never pulled the spark plug. I've never bought gas for the thing, never cleaned its filter, never changed its oil. I'm living on borrowed mower time and the living is summer time easy.

I approach each mow as though it was the little red mower and my last mow together. I move quickly across the yard because I know that if we stop, we may stop for good. People asking directions from me get the brush off. Once I'm started, I've got to keep on mowing.

I have to admit that I've taken to sweet talking the little red mower. We have long conversations each time I go to start her up. And I'll admit further that I've made some promises to the old gal (shed, tune-up, new spark plug) which I've not yet kept.

I have to think the mower knows I helped get it through the winter and that maybe, just maybe, I'll figure out my own shed issues and find everyone a real home before the snow flies.

## Restaurant Inspections

### The Burlington Scoop

Routine inspection: 8/1/07  
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

### The Burlington Locker Plant

Routine inspection: 8/1/07  
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

### Kristen's Homemade Delights

Routine inspection: 8/2/07  
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

### The Office Tavern

Routine inspection: 7/31/07  
Summary of violations: 1 Non-Critical

There was not a thermometer in the refrigerator to measure the air temperature. Directed to correct by three days.

### Brosman's IGA

Routine inspection: 8/7/07  
Summary of violations: 1 Critical, 5 Non-Critical

1) The rib tips in the deli cooler had a temperature of 48 degrees. Directed to correct by 1 day.

### Non-Critical

The vents above the fryer in the deli had a heavy accumulation of grease and dust. Directed to correct by 2 days.

There were some paper products not being stored 6 inches off the floor. Directed to correct by 3 days.

There was some packaged food in direct contact with ice in the freezers. Directed to correct by 1 day.

The ceiling in the deli is missing a ceiling tile. Directed to correct by 3 days.

The seal on the walk in milk cooler needs repaired. Directed to correct by 2 days.

## Marriage Licenses

Micah Curtis Dillon, 26, and Sadonna Marie Goyer, 23, both of Delphi.

### 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.

### Thursday, Aug. 23

✓ Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m.-White County Gov. Building

### Tuesday, Aug. 28

✓ Comprehensive Land Use Plan/Area Plan, selection for steering committee: 6 p.m. (unconfirmed)  
✓ Carroll County Area Plan Commission: 7 p.m.

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

Estate-Lilly.....	7B
TLSC-Bus Replacement.....	7B
DCSC-Tax Levies.....	7B
TLSC-Tax Levies.....	6B
DCSC-Bus Replacement.....	6B
Sheriff Sale-Davis.....	6B
Rock Creek Cons.....	6B
Flora Mon. Lib-Tax Levies.....	7B
Wash. Twp-Tax Levies.....	7B
Sheriff Sale-Dukes.....	7B
Sheriff Sale-LaPlante.....	7B
Sheriff Sale-Lynch.....	5B
Watson Estate.....	7B
Notice of Suit-Wells.....	5B
City of Delphi-Add'l Appr.....	7B
Indiana Lien.....	7B
griswald Adoption.....	7B
CCSC-Tax Levies.....	5B
CCSD-Tax Levies.....	6B
CCSC-Bus Replacement.....	6B
CCSD-Bus Replacement.....	6B

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.

## 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.

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.

## 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.

### Appreciates YMCA

As a committed member and long-term user of the Carroll County YMCA, I urge everyone to attend the YMCA Open House on Aug. 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. All of Carroll County needs to know what the YMCA has to offer, and this is an opportunity to take a look at the facility and the many programs offered.

I have been using the YMCA five days a week since it opened in 2003 and have maintained my good mental and physical health. I look forward to each morning at the Y, knowing my YMCA friends will be there to make the workout more enjoyable. The Carroll County YMCA has made a difference in my life.

Why don't you give it a try? Become a member, donate time or money and let the Carroll County YMCA make a difference in your life.

William L. Helvie  
Flora

### Supports no kill shelter

This is in response to Carl Perry's letter objecting to a no-kill shelter. I am a Carroll County taxpayer and I would be more than willing to pay one dollar to support Trisha Davis's dog shelter/"hobby."

Mr. Perry, I am sad for you because you have not experienced the joy of having a dog that will love you unconditionally. What is one dollar these days - the price of a candy bar, soda, bottled water, or a lottery ticket? We waste money on these items everyday.

One dollar could make a difference in someone's life. In addition to the wonderful companionship pets provide, it has also been proven that they can serve a therapeutic purpose.

I encourage other Carroll County taxpayers to write in and show support for Ms. Davis's no kill shelter! This is not a hobby but a much needed cause!

Sheri Johnson  
Flora

### Conservancy district clarifications

Jefferson Township is in a situation where a quasi-governmental entity is pressing its will upon us. This entity - the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District (TLRSD) - has all of the backing of law to course through the township with no representation of the Jefferson Township citizens. This group has undertaken to attach every home along its meandering path wherever it goes. Whether a

trailer park in its way has a new septic system, a sub-division recently built has recent approved septic - it does not matter to the TLRSD. They have admitted in print that they need the revenue of all homeowners along their way to finance this monster.

The Jefferson Township Conservancy District (JTCD) is an alternative to the sewer district. Should it become established, JTCD will be the entity tasked with resolving any sewage/septic issues in Jefferson Township. As we have envisioned, JTCD will have three board members, all township landowners, initially appointed by the Carroll County Commissioners. Subsequently an election of candidates by all township landowners will decide who sits on the board. Notice - the election is by all of the landowners in the township, not just the customers of the JTCD. This is significant.

Property owners with inadequate land area, soil type or elevation to accommodate a septic system will be the customers of the JTCD. Local landowners, contractors, and interested persons will be sought for input. We will seek guidance from Midwestern universities that have extensive

data on this subject. While our goal is to assure that no functioning septic is condemned, we will work zealously to resolve those problem sites where a septic simply will not work. We have discussed with experts viable solutions to these issues and are assured that in virtually all cases there is a remedy that will not require a new waste water treatment plant.

Treatment plants are a scourge on this world. (See coptonline.org for photos of the TLRSD discharge sites).

We are proposing that Jefferson Township people take charge of our problems - that we do not add pollution to our environment even if it is out of sight to the most people. We propose that we do not sign on to an entity that will not hear our individual voices, nor our collective voices, not even the voice of our entire county.

We believe reasonable people will do reasonable things.

The future of Jefferson Township and Carroll County is at stake here. If you have doubts about the proposed conservancy district, please contact me at valleyaero@earthlink.net and put JTCD in the subject line.

Terry Dill  
Jefferson Township resident