

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Memberships include:



It takes courage

The information, about how the county finances got into the shape they are in, had to go public. The information about what the treasurer's and auditor's offices have and have not done independently and together had to go public. The information about what information the council and commissioners had and did not have to work with, and their ignorance to demand more information, had to go public.

The Indiana State Board of Accounts strongly recommends all discussions about taxpayer money be done at open meetings so taxpayers, and the media, can learn first-hand how government works and tax money is being spent. Taxpayers pay the bills and they have the right to know that each elected official is doing his or her job competently - or not.

Some might refer to this as "airing dirty laundry" but it is not. Public officials do not get to solve problems behind closed doors and merely present their solutions at a meeting. Although that might happen for a period of time, years maybe, that practice is bound to have a light shined on it sooner or later.

The role of the media is to be the eyes and ears of the residents and taxpayers. Media representatives many times ask the tough questions others do not have the opportunity nor skills to ask.

Four elected officials knew for four years that the financial books in the auditor's and treasurer's offices did not balance. No one checked if money deposited each year might cover the money spent when annual budgets were developed. If anyone else knew there was a problem they did not bring the information forward at a public meeting for discussion.

Letting this situation continue was wrong. Letting it continue for four years, and perhaps five, goes beyond wrong. Taxpayers should not keep quiet about this. Those not doing their jobs should have their feet held to the fire until they do what they were elected, and paid by taxpayer dollars, to do. Anything less is not acceptable.

Taxpayers will undoubtedly be asked to pay a price for this lack of service. Taxpayers must find the courage to address these issues with their county leaders.

However, county leaders have the biggest problem of all. They must find the courage to admit in public their mistakes and then continue to allow others to watch as they develop and workout the solution.

Going public takes courage.

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.

Roger D. Napier was charged with rape, battery resulting in bodily injury and sexual battery.

Jessie W. Snider was charged with possession of a destructive device, possession of a machine gun, dealing in marijuana, possession of marijuana and maintaining a common nuisance.

Thomas Marchand was charged with intimidation and criminal trespass.

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.

Monday, Dec. 3

- √ Drainage Board: 8:30 a.m.
- √ Commissioners: 9 a.m.
- √ Flora Town Council: 6 p.m.
- √ Delphi Board of Works: 6:30 p.m.
- √ Delphi Community School Corp. work session: 7 p.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Marshall Sale-Noble.....4B
- Sheriff Sale-Warf.....4B
- Hwy Dept. Bidders Not.....2B
- County Claims.....4B
- Hwy Claims.....2B
- Rogers Estate.....2B
- 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.

Travis Noel Catron, 34, and Laura Sue Wick, 35, both of Camden.

Bradley Lawrence Boyd, 19, of Delphi, and Katy Ann Hirt, 19, of Flora.

James Scott Cheever, 41, and Elizabeth Ann Rush, 31, both of Delphi.

Joe Tristan Sr., 49, and Isabel Solano Jimenez, 36, both of Flora.

Dianna Starbuck was named executor of the estate of the late Wanda Faye Rogers.

Dennis L. Kubly, Michael W. Kubly and Sandra D. Eismann were named executors of the estate of the late Ona Della Bettie Kubly.

Countrywide Home Loans Inc. filed a complaint to foreclose mortgage against Mary E. Rynard.

Red Rock Lake Finance filed a complaint against Vickie S. Leatherman.

Capital One Bank filed a complaint against Daniel Boone.

Capital One Bank filed a complaint against Tiffany M. Leuck.

Nation Star Mortgage filed a complaint on adj. rate note and to foreclose mortgage on real estate against Shayne D. Record and Ashley A. Record.

U.S. Bank NA filed a complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage on real estate against Jason Teel and Cynthia McIntosh.

Capital One Bank filed a complaint against April E. Zopp.

Dorail Valentine was charged with forgery, identity deception, possession of marijuana and false informing.

Adam M. Moniz was charged with eight counts of burglary.

Friday was a beautiful day, a gentle week's end after a Thanksgiving Day of eating well. I was in Delphi about noon and the sun overhead was warm and the air still. Still, that is, until a huge flock of geese honked at me overhead. I think they were letting it be known that they were headed for warmer spots.

The flock was magnificent in its sheer size and formation and all I could do was take it in and wonder at the variety, detail and beauty of our Creator's handiwork.

Down on Terra Firma I had recycling to do and so I spent a little time sorting over at the green bins just off Washington Street. From the look of things, more bins for glass are needed, although the Bud Lite drinkers are a neat crowd. There were dozens of bottled six packs where the empties were put back in their cardboard containers.

I noticed that although I tossed tin cans into one side of a bin, and aluminum into the other, well, gee, they mix together in the bin. I like to recycle. I don't like to feel foolish. What's the deal on that?

From the conversation at

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



in that department, but we did some serious shopping. I was in the local hardware the day before in Delphi. Shop locally is the lesson here - it's good for your feet.

Etc.

Jerry's Barbershop Friday it must be coon hunting season soon. I don't usually follow that sport but the barking dogs and the flashlights are always an interesting wake-up call out on the farm.

The barbershop and the local diner are always good spots for a little local color - and news.

The trouble with these mega-big box stores is they can be the equivalent of an hour on the treadmill if you don't know where to find something.

Saturday we were at Menard's doing a little shopping. On the list of items needed was an air conditioner cover. We asked no fewer than four salespeople where the covers might be located. The directions we got were a comical contradiction that had us traveling to all four corners of the place.

Mind you, the folks were mighty friendly, no complaint

The County Council sure has its collective hands full these days with the need to balance the books.

As a long time courthouse observer, I will throw my two cents in as far as the department head situation. Equal pay is set for each of those elected officials but the responsibilities and work load of the various offices is far from equal.

I don't think the department heads are paid enough for the responsibilities that go with that office. Having said that, some departments are much more complex to run than others. The jobs are not equal.

We've happened upon the best salsa ever. Given the nature of that spicy, south of the border concoction, one wouldn't think that the salsa maker would live in Adams Township. But it's true. She says she hasn't written the recipe down.

Are bribes ok when we're talking food?

Happy shopping.



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

Randy L. Cheeseman was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering, operating with an ACE of .15 percent or more, and habitual substance offender.

The following were charged with check deception: Ronald R. Bell (four counts); Jessica R. Martin; Richard B. Dex; and Dawn Northrup (two counts).

Terry P. Hyser was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person, operating with an ACE of .15 percent or more, speeding and habitual substance offender.

Joshua B. Bagwell, 22, of Burlington, pled guilty to criminal trespass. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all but 44 days suspended, and 321 days supervised probation.

Raymond C. Meyer was found not guilty following trial of domestic battery and two counts of battery.

Troy E. Baker, 37, of Delphi, pled guilty to battery resulting in bodily injury. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Jason R. Robinson, 29, of Delphi, pled guilty to battery resulting in bodily injury. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

James R. Dillman, 47, of Flora, pled guilty to strangulation and domestic battery. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all but 10 days suspended, and 355 days supervised probation.

Michael J. Mayhill, 28, of Delphi, was previously found guilty following bench trial of operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Cody A. Hufford, 21, of Lafayette, pled guilty to driving while suspended. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

State of Indiana vs. Austin D. Terrell was dismissed.

Stephanie L. Williams, 47, pled guilty to check deception. She was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one

year supervised probation. Williams pled guilty to interfering with the reporting of a crime and public intoxication in a separate case. She was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Roberto Garcia, 25, of Logansport, pled guilty to public intoxication. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Johnny F. Ovalle, 35, of Flora, pled guilty to harboring a non-immunized dog. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all suspended, and 180 days unsupervised probation.

The following cases were dismissed: State of Indiana vs. Misty Mulkey; State of Indiana vs. Matt W. Payne; State of Indiana vs. Michael T. Stone;

Rachel Hettmansperger, 27, of Flora, pled guilty to maintaining a common nuisance. She was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

For convictions related to alcohol, the following were meted a combination of jail time, with some suspensions, probation with fees, community service, house arrest, participation in a court-approved drug and alcohol program, and suspended and/or probationary driving privileges:

Georgianna L. Rush, 45, of Flora, public intoxication; Jason J. Schroeder, 30, of West Lafayette, operating a vehicle while intoxicated - endangering a person and possession of mar-

ijuana; Juan A. Hernandez, 29, of Logansport, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated - endangering a person; Brandon C. Kelly, 26, of Flora, operating a vehicle while intoxicated - endangering a person; Robert J. Brown, 26, of Monticello, public intoxication; and Curtis E. Hawk, 40, of Rossville, possession of marijuana and furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Kyle D. Hughes, 22, of Flora, pled guilty to driving while suspended. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Ernesto G. Hernandez, 35, of Flora, pled guilty to a charge of indecent exposure. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Phillip M. White, 30, of Lafayette, was found guilty of driving while suspended. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Christopher L. Runion of Delphi pled guilty to check deception. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Marriage Licenses

Roy Arthur Mitchell, 44, and Tamara M. Dicks, 44, both of Delphi.

Joe Tristan Sr., 49, and Isabel Solano Jimenez, 36, both of Flora.

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.

Do you believe the council finance committee is releasing too much information about the county's financial woes?

- Yes - it's best to take care of matters privately
- Yes - there's not a financial crisis
- No - Problems need to be aired to be solved
- No - public officials are and should be held accountable for their jobs

Last Weeks results

How much will you be spending on gifts and other items for Christmas?

- 28% The same as last year
- 07% More than last year
- 65% Less than last year
- Total responses: 60

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.

INDOT waste

INDOT (Indiana Department of Transportation) grant money is not free money. It is money that comes from federal and state taxes. INDOT could better spend tax dollars on road construction/maintenance, better transit systems, etc.

Think about how many county roads have been put back into gravel and are no longer black topped in Carroll County. I am not saying this is not a worthy cause; however the money should come from private and corporate donations.

In this time with health care issues, Social Security, and a war reaching the trillion dollar mark, the government needs to be put on a budget. The other issue is that this project only brings in a very few jobs to the county tax base. It is doubtful the people building the boat are even Carroll County residents.

A Woodstock Museum was voted down by Congress - isn't this just as wasteful of our tax dollars? Think about it...

Terence Snoberger
Indianapolis,
a former Delphi resident

Restaurant Inspections

Smitty's Tacos

Routine inspection: 10/12/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Maple Leaf Country Store

Routine inspection: 10/12/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

McDonald's

Routine inspection: 10/16/07
Summary of violations: 1 Non-Critical

The hand washing sink by the drive up window did not have cold water. Directed to correct by one year.

Delphi Discount Tobacco

Routine inspection: 10/17/07
Summary of violations: 1 Non-Critical

There was not a thermometer in the freezers in the back room. Directed to correct by two days.

All BBQ's

Routine inspection: 10/18/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Little Bit Country

Routine inspection: 10/19/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Arby's

Routine inspection: 10/22/07
Summary of violations: 2 Non-Critical

There was a food employee without a hair restraint in the food prep area. Directed to correct by one day.

The ice scoop was not being stored properly. Directed to correct by one day.

Pizza Hut

Routine inspection: 10/23/07
Summary of violations: 1 Critical

There was a beverage not covered in the food prep area. Directed to correct by one day.

Hollow Acres Golf Center

Routine inspection: 10/29/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Graham's

Routine inspection: 11/2/07
Summary of violations: 1 Critical, 1 Non-Critical

There were some raw hamburgers being stored above some ready to eat foods. Corrected.

Non-Critical

There was a case of meat being stored on the floor in the walk in cooler (not six inches). Directed to correct by one day.

The Office Tavern

Routine inspection: 11/5/07
Summary of violations: 1 Critical

The sanitizer in the 3 bay sink measured over 400 ppm. Corrected.

Alco

Routine inspection: 11/5/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

River Lodge

Routine inspection: 11/7/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Lake Village

Routine inspection: 11/7/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted