

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Resolve to be better in 2008

The end of the old year and the start of a new one is typically a good time to think about our lives – the good and the bad. Do we make resolutions or not?

We asked our readers last week what they thought about New Year's resolutions and sixty percent said that resolutions are a good idea, whether they follow through with them or not.

Because we agree that resolutions are a good idea, we have some suggestions:

- Reduce landfill waste - make the effort to recycle
- Take care of your health – get a physical
- Before heading out of town - resolve to check out what your local merchants have for sale
- Visit the local library and check out a book – not a video, a book
- Make the effort to get to know your neighbors, look out for each other
- Ask young people to join you and volunteer at a work day, community or school event
- Act in a respectful manner to your fellow human beings at all times
- Turn your cell phone off at meetings, in restaurants, in church
- Keep the pet population in check – spay and neuter your dogs and cats
- Change is inevitable and when faced with change, make lemonade out of lemons
- Criticize less and involve yourself more in your community
- Tell your elected officials that you appreciate the time and effort they put in to make this county a better place – whether you agree with all of their decisions or not
- Help someone less fortunate – donate to local food pantries
- And, find something new everyday to be thankful for.

After years of avoiding breakfast in general, and oatmeal specifically, I have fallen head over taste buds in love with Quaker Oats. I'm talking instant oatmeal here, pre-measured packets requiring 1/2 cup milk and two short minutes in the microwave. Stirring is not required - imagine that! And it's perfect every time.

I add nothing to my oatmeal, no milk on top, no crunchy extras for texture, nothing, that is, except for a bit of brown sugar stirred into the very hot, steaming middle to sweeten things up.

Here in Carroll County out on the farm we have a stock of brown sugar. It plays a supporting role in regular recipes from baked beans to coffee cake. This, however, is not so in our city place where baking anything but a frozen pizza is a rare occurrence. When I first introduced oatmeal to my breakfast menu it was in the city. I had to really hunt down the brown sugar. After plenty of looking I found it in the refrigerator. It was hidden behind the ketchup inside a glass storage container. There, in the back row between the mustard and barbeque sauce, the brown sugar had fused itself into a solid block and proceeded to lose most of its color. We speculate that the block of sugar is about eight years old, dating back to our purchase of the apartment.

My wife assures me that sugar does not go "bad." My

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Other ways

taste buds concur.

So, for months I've been hacking away at the brown sugar, using my two minutes microwave time each day to scrape, chip and hammer off a bit of sugar from the pale brown brick.

One morning while observing my sugar ritual my wife offered: "there is another way."

She proceed to place a piece of white bread inside the sugar container and sealed it back up. Then, all she said was, "wait until tomorrow."

The next day there was no chipping, no hacking, no hammering. The brown sugar was soft and spoonable - an overnight transformation! For the most part even the sugar's color had returned. This after two years short of a decade! And I have to say that with no scraping or chipping required, well, my morning portion of sweet brown sugar increased generously.

So often there are alternatives, other ways to do something, but I just don't know about them or haven't considered them.

Sometimes I need to simply ask.

The brown sugar got me to thinking about the year ahead. A resolution, or at least a theme, came into focus.

I'm going to try to be open to other ways of doing things. I intend to ask about options, query alternatives. Instead of always chipping and scraping for my own answers, I'm going to seek out from others - the other ways.

And about that bread...

Even though I don't know how the bread does it, the fact is that the leavened bread left with the brick hard sugar did something wonderful. The bread restored the sugar, it took away its hardness.

Leavened bread is full of symbolism in the Bible, in family life, at the hearth and at the table. Sustenance, hospitality, life, sharing, nurturing, these qualities all are found in simple leavened bread.

Perhaps a lesson is there for the taking. Sometimes we are the sugar, grown hard and away from our true selves. And sometimes others comfort us, help us, restore our softness and receptivity.

And likewise, sometimes we must serve others as the leavened bread and help take from others, simply by our presence, the hardness.

A metaphor for the new year. How sweet it is. How sweet, indeed, it can be.

Happy New Year to our readers and wishes for a joyful 2008.

Restaurant Inspections

29 Mara Mart

Routine inspection: 11/16/07
Summary of violations: 1 Non-Critical
There was not a thermometer to measure the air temperature in the small upright freezer. Corrected.

The Dinner Bell

Routine inspection: 11/16/07
Summary of violations: 1 Critical, 2 Non-Critical

Critical
The sanitizing solution for the wet wiping clothes measured over 400 ppm. Corrected.

Non-Critical
There was not a thermometer in the freezer to measure the air temperature. Corrected.

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

Camden Mid-Land Meals

Routine inspection: 11/19/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Flora Mara Mart

Routine inspection: 11/20/07
Summary of violations: 1 Critical, 2 Non-Critical

Critical
The sanitizer for the wet wiping clothes was under 50 ppm. Directed to correct by one day.

Non-Critical
The condiment table by the oven did not have a thermometer to measure the air temperature. Directed to correct by 3 days.

There was a case of French fries on the floor in the walk in cooler. Directed to correct by one day.

Jones IGA

Routine inspection: 11/20/07
Summary of violations: 1 Non-Critical
There was a food employee without a hair restraint. Directed to correct by one day.

Kristen's Homemade Delights

Routine inspection: 11/20/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Carroll County Jail

Routine inspection: 11/26/07
Summary of violations: 1 Non-Critical
There was an accumulation of dust on the ventilation system. Directed to correct by two weeks.

Country Candies and Confections

Routine inspection: 11/29/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

The Secret Garden Studio and Gallery

Pre-Operational inspection: 11/29/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Treece's II

Routine inspection: 11/27/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

The Burlington Scoop

Routine inspection: 11/27/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Burlington Pizza and Bar

Routine inspection: 11/27/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted



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

Justin M. Erdie was charged with possession of paraphernalia.
Cori A. Wenrick was charged with possession of marijuana.

Russell G. Stout Jr. was charged with illegal consumption.
Samantha J. Russell was charged with driving while suspended.

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.

Where was respect?

I am disappointed! With respect to Debbie Lowe's usually-fine reporting, I thought that she under-reported the demeanor of the rude, irate, and disrespectful folks who attended the Dec. 17 Carroll County Commissioners' meeting for the purpose of opposing the Liberty Township dairy. "Get out! Get out! Get out!" Bill Brown yelled as he pointed at one audience member," she wrote. What she failed to mention was that this citizen was told to leave because he was spewing profanity at the commissioners. Another citizen was told to leave because she, too, was using vulgar language and verbally assaulting both the commissioners and anyone else in the room that did not share her views.

What was also not mentioned in the watered-down account of

the tone of that meeting was that the behavior of the majority of the citizens who were present for the purpose of opposing the dairy was abominable.

From the start, these citizens verbally attacked the commissioners, the livestock industry, and the County Economic Development Commission. For every question asked, no answer was allowed to be given. For every remark in defense of the livestock industry, the speaker was talked over, insulted, or shouted down. Several audience members constantly interrupted the speakers (those that did not share their anti-dairy views, that is), spoke loudly amongst themselves, and generally disrupted the proceedings.

What is wrong with these people?! I understand that some citizens are not happy with the proposed dairy. But, nothing excuses rude and belligerent behavior. It was clear that the troublemakers in the room failed to respect the forum, failed to accord common courtesy to their fellow citizens, and failed to conduct themselves as reasonable, ra-

tional adults.

Regardless of what we think of the commissioners or the issues, we owe a duty of respect and decorum to the proceedings and to other citizens. Our remedy for government that we don't like is available at the voting polls - not as violence and disruption of the process. For shame!

Miriam Robeson
Flora

Credit where due

In my previous letter to the Comet, what I said about the county treasurer, Jane Brewington, was left out. We owe Brewington recognition/credit for being the first elected official to bring the county's financial difficulty to light. She said in an interview with another newspaper last summer that:

1. In January or February 2006 she, Brewington, transferred money from a reserve account of \$8,000,000 at

Thursday, Dec. 27
√ County Council: 8:30 a.m.

√ Camden Town Council year-end meeting: 6 p.m., town hall
√ Delphi City Council year-end transfers: 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 28
√ City of Delphi Swearing-In Ceremony: 6:30 p.m. Council chambers

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Sherrif Sale-Woodhams5B
Nance Estate5B
Oakley Estate5B
Sheriff Sale-Wilt5B
Huftys - Mechanics Lien5B
Cupp Estate5B
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.

Lafayette Bank and Trust to cover deficits.

2. By December 2006 the amount was \$4,000,000 and she went to councilwoman Ann Brown to tell her that she had needed to spend \$4,000,000 out of savings. The county council formed the finance subcommittee of Ann Brown, Ron Slavens, and Steve Ashby, Jan. 26, 2007, to determine why the shortfall occurred. Brown contacted the Indiana State Board of Accounts for help.
3. Brewington said that the savings was started in 2001 and had always had \$8,000,000 in it and she had never before had to take money out of it. Her concern was what if it happened again in 2007.

As most are aware now, the county is thought to have somewhere near a zero balance now at the end of 2007, unless the tax rebate is put into the county general fund (which the state has recommended not be done).

Brewington has been criticized, and rightly so, along with quite a few others, for her part in this financial boondoggle. There is plenty of blame to go around, but she deserves our thanks, too, for bringing this to light when she did and not waiting longer.

We (they) still need to find where this money went.
Joanne Ratcliff
Delph

Wants taxpayers to have a say

Monday evening (Dec. 17) at the commissioners' meeting I witnessed three examples of professional men of our county. An Economic Development Corporation director who is wanting to put a feather in his cap, a doctor who recognizes the dangers of that action, and commissioners who were called upon to make some tough decisions.

Dr. Tom Anderson made a passionate plea that we control the influx of cattle factories in this county. His plea was not

concerning money – or fame, his plea is simply – Please be aware of what this will do to the health of our citizens. His concern came through loud and clear. Here is a doctor who is aware of the dangers we are facing and he spoke straight from his heart as he appealed to the commissioners to act in the behalf of the citizens they represent.

Emotions ran high and tempers were raw, but that doctor's compassionate plea stands out in my mind more than anything else that was said! EDC director Daryl Smith tried to explain why he feels we need not one, not two, not three but ? more cattle factories in this county. But his words rang hollow.

Apparently Mr. Smith and the folks who comprise the Economic Development Corp. in this county have no restraints placed upon them - including their conscience.

My questions are: Who are the individuals who make up the Economic Development Corp. in Carroll County? What are their roles? How are they justifying this influx of cattle factories? Are they going to profit from this endeavor? Who is ultimately in control of this group? and, How can the citizens be heard?

I would welcome the chance to discuss these questions as I am certain many others would welcome that opportunity also. I believe if our taxes help to fund Economic Development Corp. (in even the smallest way), we deserve answers.

Commissioner Bill Brown hit the nail on the head when he stated that IF it were possible for this to come to a vote, he had no doubt as to what the outcome would be. We all know that if the citizens were given the chance to say Yes or No to cattle factories in Carroll County our vote would be NO – and it would be loud and clear!

Pat Robertson
Jefferson Township resident

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.

What will you do with an unwanted Christmas gift?

Take it back
Put it in a drawer or closet and forget about it
Donate it to charity
Regift it

Last Weeks results

What's your attitude toward New Year's resolutions?

18% 1. Good idea for self-improvement
42% 2. Good idea, but I never follow-through
39% 3. Just a waste of time
Total responses: 38

Galen Perry
Delphii