

Commissioners declare emergency for flooding...again

Flooding forces evacuation

By Debbie Lowe
 Staff writer

According to Carroll County Emergency Management Agency Director Dave McDowell, commissioners declared an emergency in Carroll County due to flooding of the

Tippecanoe River in the past 24 hours. McDowell said Tuesday afternoon that the county had not had the opportunity to develop an early warning system for another flood before Tuesday morning. However, he said he met with sheriff Tony Burns Monday af-



McDowell

ternoon after a telephone conference with the National Weather Service and two calls from NIPSCO.

Burns decided to send deputies to patrol the most likely flood areas overnight. By 7 a.m. Tuesday, deputies were alerting residents along some county roads with the public address systems and sirens from their cars.

According to a press release from McDowell, "as of 2 p.m. Tuesday, Carroll County has declared a Flood

Emergency. Residents are warned of high waters along the Tippecanoe River, with flooding in areas previously flooded in January. The National Weather Service expects more rain and snow...which raises the possibility that flooding could worsen before it gets better. Residents are strongly urged to leave flood-prone areas. Residents needing shelter are welcome at the Red Cross emergency shelter at the First Presbyterian Church in Delphi, 213 S. Indiana St.

Those needing evacuation from flooded areas should contact the Sheriff's Department at 911 or (765) 564-2413. To date the sheriff's department has evacuated less than ten residents. Many residents are still out of their homes from the earlier flood."

McDowell can be reached at 101 W. Main St., Room 1-B Delphi (in the basement of the courthouse), at dmc-dowell@cacoshrf.com or by calling (765) 564-4243.



Delphi Chamber presents awards

Award recipients at the annual Delphi Chamber of Commerce Banquet were (l-r): Norm Miller, Samuel Milroy Award; Sara Daly-Brosman, Making A Difference Award; and Anita Werling, Lynn Corson and Dick Traeger, representing the Delphi Preservation Society, Community Appearance Award. Comet photo

Miller is 27th Milroy winner

Comet staff report

Delphi Chamber of Commerce held its annual banquet and awards presentation on Jan. 28 at the Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center.

Three awards were presented during the banquet.

Samuel Milroy Award

Norm Miller was presented the 2007 Milroy Award for his entrepreneurial and philanthropic efforts on behalf of Delphi and its citizens.

Miller and his late wife, Cheryl, were deeply involved in the community, with their church and through their children's athletics and academics after they came to Delphi to

teach. When she passed away due to ovarian cancer, Miller started a cancer walk in her honor, which has grown steadily in its first five years. His efforts inspired other groups to start their own educational awareness and fundraising programs.

The Milroy Award has been presented annually for 27 years.

Making A Difference

Delphi Public Library employee Sara Daly-Brosman said she was surprised and honored to receive the 2007 Making A Difference Award. Recognized for her diverse methods of education, Daly-Brosman has led programs in-

volving expressive talents, taught art classes using several mediums and directed local plays through the high school, library and home school programs among other activities.

Her teaching style was said to differ from traditional sit-at-the-desk learning which helped students step out and see the world in a new way.

The Making A Difference Award is presented annually to someone in the community who has accomplished the following: dedicated their work and donation of time to some form of education, unselfishly given of personal time to the betterment of the education of

the Delphi Community School Corporation community.

Community Appearance

Chamber representatives said several good nominations were received for the 2007 Community Appearance Award. Instead of choosing an individual, Delphi Preservation Society members were presented the acclaim for very visible work performed to restore one of Delphi's oldest buildings, the Delphi Opera House.

DPS President Anita Werling acted as public information person and frequently checked on restoration expert

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The ins and outs of getting help

By Debbie Lowe
 Staff writer

The amount of disaster relief information swirling around the county right now is staggering. Some of it is old news, some of it is rumor and some seems like the right information. Now that rain has come back to the region, swelling the rivers and forcing evacuation again, the situation could seem almost hopeless...but it is not.

Flooding occurred Tuesday at Horseshoe Bend, Tecumseh Bend, below Oakdale Dam, at Sleepy Hollow and Tippecanoe Ranch Estates, according to Carroll County Emergency Management Agency Director Dave McDowell. He said the county has not had an opportunity to develop an early warning system since the last flooding, but the sheriff's department stepped in to travel roads alerting residents of the flood danger.

Many in and out of the community are working to help those in need and provide quality information to property owners and those displaced by either flood.

President Bush declared Carroll County as a disaster area last week which then released funds through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help property owners rebuild, displaced renters find housing and government

entities recover money spent to haul debris, repair roads and pay employees overtime.

FEMA opened an office in Delphi today, Wednesday, to see clients immediately. The Disaster Recovery Center is located at the Monroe St. Gym, 210 High St. Wednesday hours are 3 to 7 p.m. Thereafter the center will be open every day, including weekends, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice.

The center is sponsored by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Melynda Petrie, FEMA spokesperson, said Comet Tuesday that flood victims need to register with FEMA prior to going to the disaster recovery center. She said registration can be made by calling (800) 621-3362 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. or by going online at www.fema.gov.

Petrie recommended victims have pertinent information ready when they make the call or visit the Web site. Victims should give their legal name, current telephone number and social security number. They should have a list of damages ready, the name of their insurance carrier and their policy number. Being able to provide bank account coding for direct deposit will shorten the time find housing and government

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Council will address long-term money plan with DLGF

By Debbie Lowe
 Staff writer

Carroll County Council has initiated a public meeting with the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) set for today, Wednesday, at 1 p.m. The goal of the meeting is to develop a plan to reverse poor money management practices of the past four years.

"We've got to do something now," said council president Nancy S. Cripe. "We can't rely on short-term fixes - we must develop a long-term plan."

Cripe said when the council asked DLGF for the meeting, the first date offered was today. The decision was made to seize the opportunity to meet with an expert. She said although the proposed meeting time was when the courthouse would normally be closed (courthouse employees work a 36-hour work week and the courthouse is closed every Wednesday afternoon) it was decided it was imperative to meet as soon as possible.

DLGF Indiana East Supervisor Dan Eggermann will participate in an exchange of information with the council and the auditor. (Cripe said treasurer Jane Brewington was invited to attend but had not responded to an invitation to par-

ticipate at the time of the interview.) DLGF is expected to help council members develop a long-term plan designed to establish positive forward momentum to correct deficit county spending.

Cripe said the public is encouraged to attend and sit and listen quietly, but not to participate in the work session. Time to comment will be provided after the council and DLGF finish their discussion without inter-

ruption. "I think we need to be as open as we can," Cripe said. "We want taxpayers and residents to understand that we're trying to solve the problem. We want people to have confidence in that."

Cripe said the council needs advice from DLGF in order to develop and then proceed with a plan of action. She said there was a limit to the amount of times the council could approve inter-fund loans to be able to pay the monthly bills. Two loans have been approved so far...one from the cumulative bridge fund for more than \$600,000 and one from the Tax Increment Finance Fund for over \$400,000.

The public should use the north doors to enter the courthouse Wednesday for the meeting.



Cripe

Unexpected bridge costs socked to county

By Debbie Lowe
 Staff writer

The last thing Carroll County needed to hear at the Monday morning commissioners' meeting was that two former bridge projects were not quite paid for. But that's exactly what faced county leaders when highway superintendent Ron Francis gave his report.

An outstanding change order for the Lancaster Covered Bridge, completed in 2007 for \$35,569.77, was presented to commissioners for approval to pay. Francis said although the change order is 600 days delinquent, according to the Indiana Department of Transportation, the highway department had no record of it. Francis reported Aceon Engineering advised him the county's financial ob-

ligation to the project had ended and no money was encumbered into the 2008 budget for the bridge.

In addition, a disputed change order for \$15,811.24 from 2000 for the Maxwell Bridge was recently resolved by INDOT. Francis said it was determined the money was owed by the county to the engineering firm hired for the project, which was finished in 2001. Francis said he did not know where the change orders for either project could be located in order to check facts.

Francis recommended he request an additional appropriation from the cumulative bridge fund to pay for the Lancaster Bridge bill and a transfer from Bridge 129 for the Maxwell Bridge issue at the upcoming Wednesday morning council meeting. He said failure to pay the designated

amount to INDOT for the Lancaster project would result in no more federal funds for the county until the bill was paid.

Although commissioners' attorney Barry Emerson explained transfers would be more "palatable" to the council for consideration and recommended transferring both amounts out of the Bridge 129 account, Francis said he wanted to preserve money in that account to be able to share the cost of raising and rehabilitating the Tioga Bridge as a walking bridge. Francis said some who donated money to the Tioga Bridge project "would be upset" if county funding for the project was interrupted or stopped.

Bill Brown moved to approve Francis' recommendation to request an additional appropriation for the Lancaster Bridge and a transfer

for the Maxwell Bridge.

Flood update

Francis reported the highway department made 162 trips with debris to various landfills. The cost so far to dump the refuse is \$10,791. Fuel costs have not been computed.

Francis said he will ask the council for an additional appropriation to pay the dump fees until reimbursement is possibly received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

It was determined by consensus that Feb. 8 will be the last day the department will haul debris to a landfill.

"I think you've done an outstanding job," Brown said. "But it can't go on forever."

Carroll Manor

Grant administrator Tina Henderson presented a claim from Cooley Construction for \$74,188 for the renovation/elevator project at Carroll Manor. She said that was the last claim for the project from the contractor.

Concern about the lack of progress by the contractor was expressed by commissioners and council member Steve Ashby. Ashby said the project was supposed to be completed by Dec. 31 and Carroll Manor was already given one extension to the end of February to complete the project because the contractor "was not showing up." Henderson said she

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Annual school performance reports

Found in this week's Comet are the School Performance Reports for Delphi Community, Carroll Consolidated, Rossville Consolidated and Twin Lakes school corporations. The reports are to help Hoosiers become more knowledgeable about the progress of their students and schools.

The reports feature test scores, attendance rates, high school graduation data, school safety statistics, teacher salaries, and dollars spent per student for the 2006-2007 school year.

The reports can be found in the second section on pages 4, 5, 6 and 7B.

First Assembly of God Annual Sweetheart Dinner

5pm Saturday, February 16th

Tickets must be purchased in advance at 765-564-2200

Childcare is available for children ages 3 years and up for donation. Please call church office to reserve your spot.

Cost \$37.50/Couple

You will enjoy a full-course meal and the humor of Christian Comedian Will McDaniel

The church is located at 9835 W. U.S. Hwy 421 in Delphi

