

Burlington to work on collaborate efforts to improve the town

Susan Scholl
Editor

Township trustee Al Jackson reported at the Feb. 12 meeting of the Burlington Town Council that Janet Ayres, a professor and Extension specialist in leadership development at Purdue University, is willing to assist various groups and organizations in town in coming together as a community to brainstorm how to collaborate and make the community better.

"This will be an opportunity to sit down and connect the dots," said Jackson. "She will help us establish goals."

Jackson also said that he had met recently with the park board and working together was "excited about the possibilities."

Jackson said he challenged the board "to be visionary about what we can do in a collaborative effort."

Speaking on behalf of the park

board, Milt Rodgers said that officers are Larry Sedwick, chairman; Louis Mann, vice chairman; and Ruth Ann Johnson, secretary. Three new members of the board are Matt Jackson, representing the town, and John Conn and Rob Jordan, representing the township.

Kiwanis Club matched a \$750 grant that was used to purchase new park benches.

Council member Teddy Huffer reported that the park lights are working now after being fixed by Duke Energy at no charge.

County EDC

Carroll County Economic Development Director Daryl Smith highlighted the Strategic Directions marketing study for the county put together by Dick Heipel, who is with the Center for Economic and Community Development at Ball State University, Muncie, and Bob St. Claire, president of the St. Claire Group, an Indianapolis consulting firm. The study had wide financial

sponsorship throughout the county, including the Town of Burlington.

Smith said the plan provides for basic, practical approaches to growing the county economic base through strategic imperatives. They are: 1) build on leadership in agriculture; 2) create a real estate development plan; and 3) raise the money.

"These are things we must do," said Smith.

The EDC has identified areas for growth in each community and "we want to partner with those communities to develop those areas," said Smith.

He explained that one way the EDC proposes to raise funds for economic development is for the county to raise its Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) rate from 1% (the lowest in the state) to .25% (the capped rate).

"We are not asking the county to raise the tax without a plan for

the revenue," said Smith.

Smith recognized Milt Rodgers and Jay Bordner, who were both in attendance, along with Ruth Ann Johnson as the town's representatives on the county EDC board. Rodgers was recently elected vice president of the group.

Council president Stan Moore said he was impressed with the report and offered assistance in educating the public about the plan.

Street and utility

Moore's proposal to restructure the street and utility superintendent's position was approved. Currently one person handles the position and is paid \$10,800 per year. Moore said he believes it will be more cost efficient to split the job between two people and pay them each \$4,000 per year and maintain a pool of trained substitutes. The \$2,800 savings can be used for other purposes such as tree trimming, etc.

Fred and Steve Michaels have agreed to split the street and utility position.

Grant problems

The council thanked the community members who spent hours and hours going over paperwork regarding problems with two grants announced at last month's meeting.

The council learned Jan. 2 that those two grants for sewer system improvements, which were received a few years ago, were out of compliance with federal standards.

Moore said that the council was told that this could have been a six to nine month process to straighten out and in a little over 30 days, "we have one knocked out."

"Burlington has stepped up to the call and we appreciate all the hard work by these anonymous residents," said Moore. "It made it easier for us to concentrate on other issues."

Other business

Moore said the council is working on having snow removed at intersections in town. "We need to get these corners moved out," he said. A couple of places have been secured to dump the snow.

A clean-up work day at the sewage plant will be held at 9 a.m. March 1.

Teddy Huffer explained that the surface drain in the parking lot at Burlington Meats is causing problems and the town needs to fix the problem.

Moore said that the council intends to work with the new street superintendents to put together a 5-year plan for street work.

He also said they want to start looking over town ordinances and make revisions where necessary with assistance from the town's new attorney, Justin Alter.

The council will review Huffer's suggestion that \$30,000 be transferred into the town's Rainy Day fund.

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Trueblood files for DCSC board

William Trueblood, a retired Delphi Community School Corporation administrator, has filed to run for election to Delphi Community School Board from Liberty Township.

Trueblood has been a resident of Delphi Community School Corporation since 1987. Since his arrival, he served as an administrator at Delphi Community High School, the central office and Hillcrest.

"My wife Susan (Allread) and I live on our farm in Liberty Township," Trueblood said. "As an administrator, I always felt that it was important for me to

live in the school district."

"I believe we should provide the best educational opportunity for our students that we can afford," he continued. "We must be cognizant of our patrons' ability to pay property taxes. According to the report from the Department of Local Government Finance dated January 31, 2008, the total tax rate collected by property taxes for Delphi Schools for the 2007 pay is \$1.89 per \$100 assessed evaluation. Carroll's rate is \$1.31. For Carroll County residents living in the Rossville and Twin Lakes districts, the rates are \$1.39 and \$1.28 respectively. This information can be found online at www.in.gov/dlgr/rates/reports.html."

"We need to maintain our schools, but we need to use our Capital Projects fund and not rely on Debt Service to accomplish this," Trueblood continued. "According to the School Report Card printed in the *Carroll County Comet* on Feb. 6, the latest reported Total Expenditure Per Pupil Three-Year average is \$9,700. We have a responsibility to maximize the use of this money in our students' educations."

"I believe my background in education and my professional training makes me the best candidate to serve on the Board of School Trustees of Delphi Community School Corporation," he concluded.



McClain

International Cooperation.

While proud of his record while at the Statehouse, McClain noted there is more work to be done at the Indiana General Assembly.

"First and foremost, we must implement permanent property tax relief. Also, fixing our state's system of school funding, attracting jobs through the development of our infrastructure, supporting Indiana agriculture and promoting fiscal responsibility are still at the top of my list of priorities. I will continue to fight for these issues as we continue to make Indiana a better place for Hoosiers to live," McClain said.

A former township trustee and Logansport City Engineer, before McClain worked with the city as a public official, he served in the United States Navy and received a degree from Purdue University.

"A background in my own small business and in electronics manufacturing makes me particularly aware of the needs and concerns of our district. As a concerned citizen, I have dedicated myself to being involved and want to be part of wise and frugal use of our state's money," McClain said.

He has been a member of various community organizations throughout his district including the Indiana Farm Bureau, 4-H, Jaycees, Boy Scouts, Red Cross, United Way, American Legion, and Lurcene Christian Church.

He and his wife, Barrie, a teacher at Pioneer Jr.-Sr. High School, have twin sons and five grandchildren.

Mattox files for County Clerk

Nancy S. Mattox has filed as a candidate for the Republican nomination for Carroll County Clerk.

Mattox is a resident of Delphi, where she resides with her husband Mark at 423 W. Front St. He is an architect and principal in the firm of Mattox and Associates, headquartered in Delphi.

Mattox has worked in legal administration for 28 years and is currently associated with the Kurtis Fouts Law Firm in Delphi. She is associated with the American Legion, served on the Delphi Public Works Recycling Study Committee, and worked with the American Red Cross in Houston, Texas, assisting hurricane Katrina victims.

"I feel I am especially qualified to efficiently manage the clerk's office as a result of the 28 years experience I have in legal administration," said Mattox. "I understand the need for timely filing of legal papers from attorneys and the importance of being attentive to the details of managing time-sensitive tasks which comprise a large amount of the clerk's duties. I have learned in my 28 years of legal administration how to work with people in sensitive situations and treat everyone fairly and professionally. I look forward to serving the taxpayers of Carroll County."

McClain seeks re-election

State Representative Rich McClain (R-Logansport) has announced he will seek re-election to the Indiana House of Representatives in House District 24.

McClain represents of Cass, Carroll, Miami and White Counties.

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1 lb bag Farm Fresh Mini Peeled Carrots	8 oz. pkg, Selected Varieties Blue Bunny Personal Ice Cream	15 oz. tub, Selected Varieties Country Crock Spread	8 oz. pkg, Regular or 1.5 Low Fat IGA Cream Cheese
15 oz. can, Selected Varieties Healthy Choice	15 oz. can, Selected Varieties Hormel Chili	14.75-15 oz. can, Selected Varieties SPAGHETTI	6 oz. can or 3 oz. pouch Chicken of the Sea Solid White Albacore Tuna or Boneless Skinless Salmon
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1 lb bag Farm Fresh Mini Peeled Carrots	8 oz. pkg, Selected Varieties Blue Bunny Personal Ice Cream	15 oz. tub, Selected Varieties Country Crock Spread	8 oz. pkg, Regular or 1.5 Low Fat IGA Cream Cheese

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