

River dweller upset about source of flood relief funds

By Kevin Schnepf
Staff writer

It isn't that Carroll County resident Gene Rossetter doesn't appreciate the government's generosity — he simply doesn't think taxpayers should have to pay for others' mistakes.

Rossetter owns property on the Tippecanoe River near CR525W. He said his grandfather purchased the land in 1932 and began to build homes for family members there in 1940. He said family still stays in other dwellings on the property during the year.

Rossetter's home was situated on the bank of the river until last week, but he paid to have it moved a quarter of a mile from the river after recent record flooding damaged his home. He said he did so because he wanted to keep from having his home condemned at the will of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and he was concerned about where the money came to pay for the damage.

"I was told by (Carroll County Zoning Administrator) Dale Huffer my home could be condemned if

damage was over 50 percent of the home's assessed value," Rossetter explained to the Comet. "They can't do that. I'm going to move my house before the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) causes it to get flooded again."

Rossetter said he was grateful for a check he received from FEMA to repair his home, but felt the burden should not have been placed on taxpayers' shoulders. He maintained that NIPSCO created the record flood by not operating the gates in a responsible manner.

"They (NIPSCO) used to let out water to prepare for rising levels," he said. "Why did it stop, what changed this, and why is FEMA giving away taxpayers' money because of a NIPSCO mistake?"

Rossetter said he greatly appreciated the financial help to build his home and did not use any of it to move the house. He said not he or any other "river rat" should have been put in the situation in the first place.

"The money will be spent on this house after I move it," he stated. "There are a lot of people who live up and down this river who need

help and future protection. None of them should have had to go to FEMA for assistance, but they will need help and future protection."



Moving up
Gene Rossetter stands in front of his flood-damaged home as workers he hired move it to higher ground away from the Tippecanoe River. Rossetter said he felt Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) should have foreseen the need to release more water ahead of recent storms that caused flooding. "They used to do it all the time," he explained. "I don't know why they stopped, but it's a big problem for those below the dam." He said he received a check from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to rebuild but was not going to use taxpayers' money for the work until it was moved to a safer location. "I'm going to move my house before NIPSCO causes it to get flooded again," Rossetter said Friday. "I feel bad using taxpayers' hard-earned money when NIPSCO caused the problem. It's the same for a lot of us along the river. It'll just happen again if something isn't done." Comet photo by Kevin Schnepf

Electrical safety expert presents live line demo

Comet staff report

Area volunteer fire departments, wrecker services, EMS, sheriff's, city and town police departments and local construction companies were

able to witness a live line safety demonstration on Feb. 11. The two and a half hour demonstration was presented by Kyle Finley, owner of Live Line Demo, Inc., and was held at the Wabash & Erie Canal

Center in Delphi.

Finley's expanded program for First Responders was sponsored by Carroll County REMC.

In his program, Finley explains the importance of what to do and what not to do in case of downed power lines. He teaches how to protect one's self and others from downed power lines and electricity-related tragedies.

Finley gave graphic examples of what happens when farm machinery, tools or people come in contact with the electric lines. He also emphasized to never assume a line on the ground is not dangerous.

"It doesn't have to be arcing or sparking to be deadly," he said. "If in an accident involving an electric pole, stay in the car until help arrives. As long as there isn't a path to

ground, you are protected."

Finley, a former lineman for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in Illinois, started Live Line Demo in 1998 to educate the public about electrical safety. He saw a definite need for public awareness. His program has been presented in as many as 12 states for events and companies such as Caterpillar Corporation, Anderson Grain Elevators, Cargill, Farm Progress shows, state fairs, schools and even Indiana Touchstone Energy Camp.

Finley said he can't emphasize enough that in case of an accident and with no fire, "Stay in the car, Stay in the car, Stay in the car!"

For more information, go to www.liveline-demo.com.



Safety first

Carroll County REMC hosted a live line safety demonstration for area First Responders and others on Feb. 11. The program was presented by Kyle Finley, owner of Live Line Demo, Inc. (pictured in hard hat). Photo provided

Police & Fire Calls

Police reports are gathered from available records on file at local police departments. This information is a matter of public record and does not imply guilt or innocence. Information for fire reports is also gathered from reports on file with local fire departments.

Delphi Police Dept.

Dec. 31 — Theft, Delphi. Shavone Goddard, Lafayette, reported that while attending a party somewhere in Delphi her identification and credit card were stolen. Case is still under investigation. Vondrasek responded.

Feb. 1 — Leaving the scene, 900 block of Tally Ho Dr. Guillermo Ramos' mailbox was damaged by unknown vehicle. Vondrasek responded.

Feb. 1, 2:45 p.m. — Property damage, Main and Washington streets. Michael Cooper, Mt. Gilead, Ohio, sideswiped a parked car. Vondrasek responded.

Feb. 3, 11:35 a.m. — Property damage, Blimpies' parking lot. Tyson Huber, 29, Burnettsville, backed into a parked car. Vondrasek responded.

Feb. 5, 1:30 — Invasion of privacy, victim's workplace. Samantha Galloway, Delphi. Vondrasek responded.

Feb. 6, 10 a.m. — Property damage, Franklin and Hamilton streets. Timothy Harper, 31, Delphi, and Stephen L. Dexter, 53, Brookston. Harper was cited for disregarding a stop sign. Vondrasek responded.

Feb. 7, 9:35 a.m. — Hit and run, 100 block of E. Main St. Witness observed a red semi hauling scrap metal traveling west on Main St. The rear gate of the semi's trailer was swung open. The door struck a second vehicle which was parked, as it passed. The truck was not located. Vondrasek responded.

Feb. 7, 9:52 p.m. — Theft, Discount Tobacco, Delphi. Energy drink taken. Kent responded.

Feb. 7, 11:23 p.m. — Information report taken for adult female who was missing for the night and came home early the next morning. Kent responded.

Feb. 9, 1:19 a.m. — Possession of controlled substance, legend drug description, public intoxication, minor consumption, Wilson and Monroe

streets. Benjamin Johnson, 18, Monticello, and two juveniles were arrested. Officer Shane Bernhardt investigated.

Feb. 11, 3:40 p.m. — Property damage, US321 and CR100N. Lisa M. Roth, 42, Denver, and Jose Villareal, 22, Logansport. Vondrasek responded.

Feb. 11, 6:10 p.m. — Criminal mischief, Delphi Community High School. Derek Rector, 19, Delphi. Rector's vehicle was damaged. Kent responded.

Feb. 12, 2:56 a.m. — OWI, Arby's parking lot. Leshawn Justice, 30, Delphi, was arrested during a traffic stop. Officer Chuck Kent responded.

Feb. 12, 1:40 p.m. — Property damage, SR25 near Trail Head Park. Brandon Jenkins, 24, Delphi, and Tara Fure, 33, Westfield. Officer Paul Vondrasek responded.

Feb. 13, 3:25 p.m. — Property damage, SR25 and Union St. Allen J. Beckett Jr., 17, Camden, and Jose M. Diaz, 35, Delphi. McCain responded.

Sheriff's Dept.

Property damage reports
Feb. 12, 4:53 p.m. — SR18 at US421. Brian T. Hamilton, 43, Marion, and Mary M. Simpson, 49, Bringhurst. Sheriff Tony Burns responded.

Feb. 12, 2:35 p.m. — SR18 at CR350W. Billy J. Small, 53, Sheridan, and Jason C. Miley, 21, Flora. Deputy Mike Thomas responded.

Feb. 12, 3:11 p.m. — SR39 near CR150W. Estevan M. Montoya, 18, Flora, and Douglas R. Stewart, 50, Camden. Montoya, seen by EMS at the scene, was cited for an infraction and a misdemeanor. Stewart was treated at the scene by EMS and transported to a local hospital. A passenger in the Montoya vehicle was pinned in the wreckage and transported to a local hospital with severe injuries. Thomas responded.

Feb. 12, 5:15 p.m. — CR225E at CR250N. Jerry Markovich, 59, and

Washington Twp.

Marilyn Hile
Deer Creek 859-4871

Faith Lutheran Church will have a soup and sandwich Lenten Supper on Wednesday evening starting at 6 p.m. The Lenten service will start at 6:45 p.m. Choir practice will immediately follow the service. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Deer Creek Community Center is making plans to again host a style/brunch show on March 15 to raise funds for the Center. Fashions will be from The Grapevine Boutique in Flora. Tickets are available from board members.

Fred Martin, who winters in Fort Myers, Fla., hit his third hole-in-one at a course there while playing with friends, Joe Jones, Don Kelly and Bill Dyke.

A surprise birthday party was held recently at Lisa Brown's home for Scott Hile. Those attending were Dana and Tracy Hile of Carmel, Deb and Tom Bradford, Marilyn Hile and Sarah Brown.

Feb. 14, 4:10 p.m. — CR500S near CR575E. Kinsey L. Price, 23, Cutler. Driver was treated at the scene by EMS. Chapman responded.

Feb. 17, 9 a.m. — CR600W at CR575S. Cassie A. Hayes, 16, Rossville. Thomas responded.

Feb. 17, 10:19 p.m. — CR825N at CR175W. Haley N. Lynde, 16, Delphi. Deputy Jay Schimmel responded.

Feb. 17, 6:34 p.m. — CR375S near SR75. Jared M. Peters, 16, Bringhurst. Schimmel responded.

Deer reports
Feb. 16, 9:38 p.m. — CR900W near CR600N. Troy R. Hollingsworth, 40, Delphi. Schimmel responded.

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County police nab gun burglars

Comet staff report

On Feb. 9 at approximately 4:30 p.m., Carroll County Sheriff Deputy Grant Davidson responded to a residential burglary in the southeast portion of the county. The victims informed him of missing firearms, computer equipment, jewelry, cash and other items.

An Indiana State Police Crime Scene Technician processed the scene. With assistance from Frankfort Police Department and the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, a suspect was located in the early morning hours of Feb. 10.

The missing firearms including three long guns and a .44 Magnum, along with ammunition, were located at a residence in Frankfort after two search warrants were issued. The residence was a short distance from a church and an outdoor soccer field.

Kevin Bray Lovett, Jr., 19, Dustin Bogard, 18, and Chad Bottoms, 24 all of Frankfort were arrested. Bray-Lovett and Bogard were each charged with Class B felony burglary and Bottoms was charged with receiving stolen property, a Class D felony.

Burlington

Cheryl Milburn
Burlington 566-3453

Kiwanis Club meets every Saturday morning at 7:30 in the fire station for breakfast and meeting.

Burlington Church of Christ will have a soup luncheon Sunday at noon.

Monday in the Burlington Church of Christ.

The United Methodist Cluster Lenten Breakfast will be held Sunday at 8 a.m. at the Hillisburg church. Burlington church will host the March 2 breakfast.

Crossroads Community Christian Church will have a ski trip on Sunday.

Chocolate Boutique for young ladies from sixth through twelfth grades will be held Feb. 28 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Faith Church of Christ. Linda Mirante will be guest speaker.

Faith Church of Christ will host a soup supper and talent night at 6 p.m. Sunday.

First Brethren Church will have a dedication service for the facility on Sunday. Youth will serve a chili lunch. The evening Lenten service will be held at the Loree church at 6 p.m.

Camden

Mary Whitfield
Camden 686-2553

Camden Preservation Society will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the Fireman's Lounge with Barb McCain as hostess.

Jesus Junction will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wed., Feb. 27, at the United Methodist Church.

Guests last Saturday afternoon of Mary Whitfield and family were Gene Whitfield and Scott Myers of Wentzville, Mo.

Legion Auxiliary will have its annual Stanley party on March 3 in the Legion Home.

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