

# Camden formally endorses SR 75 extension

Susan Scholl  
Editor

The Camden Town Council approved Resolution 2008-A voicing the town's support of the SR 75 extension project at its February meeting.

Council president Pete Wagoner said the resolution has been sent to the Indiana Department of Transportation and others involved with the Hoosier Heartland Highway. He said the town's support is contingent on economic site development around the intersection of that road with the HHH.

"We do not want more truck traffic," said Wagoner.

Camden will have a voice on the Hoosier Heartland Highway Coalition with Wagoner being recently appointed to that board.

Carroll County Economic Development Director Daryl Smith commended Camden for its support of a SR 75 extension project. He said it added significance to the proposal that Camden has offered water and sewage to the area.

The Hoosier Heartland Coalition is supporting the

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project, said Smith. And support is being sought from Congressman Joe Donnelly.

Smith was present to briefly explain the Strategic Directions marketing study which the Town of Camden helped support.

The purpose of the study, he explained, is to jump start the county economically.

The study was prepared by Dick Heupel, 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.

They identified three imperatives which they believe Carroll County must act on if it is to get ahead: 1) Build on the county's leadership in agriculture, tackle controversy and build alliances; 2) have shovel ready building sites available; and 3) raise money to develop a real estate plan, suggesting that the county's Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) be raised from .1% to .25%, the equivalent of a cup of coffee.

The EDIT has been around for 10 to 12 years, raising approximately \$300,000 a year for economic development, said Smith. Of that total, the county receives about 60% with the rest going to the incorporated city and towns.

Smith said that they are not requesting that the tax be raised without putting together 10 to 15 projects that could benefit from the funds.

If the EDIT increase is approved, it will go into effect in 2009, he added.

"We're at a crossroads in

this county," said Smith. "We're being left behind very quickly."

Carroll County has the same amount of residents today that it had in 1890, around 20,000, said Smith. "We need a broader tax base."

Smith specifically requested that the town support the increase in the EDIT.

Wagoner replied that the town's support will be dependent on how those extra dollars will be spent. Unless they are dedicated to economic development projects, the town will not be in favor of the increase.

"The days of us being a bedroom community are over," said Wagoner. "If Carroll County doesn't create jobs, we're going to wither. EDIT has to be used on meaningful projects to create jobs."

**Other business**  
Mr. and Mrs. Mario Sacco complained about safety issues with a vacant house located next to their property. They said insulation and singles are blowing in their yard, not to mention unwanted animals frequenting the property.

The Saccos were assured that the town will do what it can to help them. Wagoner said they will initiate the steps provided for in the town's nuisance ordinance to get the property cleaned up.

The town is starting to see an increasing number of complaints regarding stray dogs and cats.

"We're starting to see the effects of the county pulling the plug on animal control," said Wagoner. "The program was de-activated the end of the

year." He went on to say that there is not much the town can do about the problem without financial resources.

Wagoner announced that the future of the Camden Fall Festival depends on one or more people in the community stepping forward to lead the organizing of the festival. This is not a town-sponsored event, he said, but the town supports it.

Funds are available through the Indiana Housing Grant to rehabilitate more houses. According to Star Development, the grant administrator, to qualify for grant specifications, contractors must be certified to handle lead-based paint. Star Development will provide training.

The council approved adding terrorism coverage to its Indiana Worker's Compensation Insurance for a cost of \$9 per year.

A follow-up meeting for the emergency shelter was held with the Red Cross and the community volunteers.

The town is working to put up "No Engine Braking" and welcome signs.

**Public hearing**  
A public hearing was held for the town's wastewater project re-application to the Office of Rural Affairs. The town's lift station is over 30 years old and needs to be replaced.

The grant has been re-written, plus new pictures have been taken with attention to detail. The formal application will be submitted by March 14 and winners will be announced in May.

The grant application will be enhanced with letters of support from town residents. Those interested in helping are

asked to contact clerk-treasurer Pat Casserly.

The next council meeting will be March 13 at 7 p.m.



By Ron Francis  
County Highway Superintendent



Francis

As I drive through the countryside enjoying the peace and serenity of our beautiful county, I look across the fields and rolling hills that are all fresh and clean with new fallen snow. I think to myself how much it looks like one of those Thomas Kinkadee paintings when suddenly I am jolted out of my revelry; I've hit one of the enormous potholes that seem to have developed over night.

Does this sound familiar? If you live in Carroll County it does. The winter weather though beautiful at times has wreaked havoc on our county roads. While we have been repairing damage and removing debris left over from the February floods, Old Man Winter has been doing his best to destroy what little roads we have left.

As a result of the weather I had to extend our debris pickups until March 7. Of course, since we've been doing the clean up we haven't been able to patch as much as I would like. My plan when we finish with the flood clean up is to

turn our focus to pothole repair. As the warmer weather arrives I will have all the patching machines out, working our way through the townships until we get all the potholes filled.

I have been asked recently to explain my policy on pothole filling. I have always stressed to the crews to never drive over a pothole to go fix another one. If we are working in an area we try to stay in that area until all the holes are filled. Sometimes we have to fill potholes prioritized by need. The more dangerous the pothole the higher the priority it receives for repair.

With public safety as our main concern, we will change locations or projects to go correct a major driving hazard that has been called in. If time and distance allow, we try to pick back up where we left off.

Potholes will always be the biggest complaint so please keep calling in the locations to help us get them filled in a timely manner. Thanks again for your patience as we work to make traveling in our county safe and enjoyable.

## Severe Weather Preparedness Week is March 2-8

Comet staff report

To focus Hoosiers' attention on the threats posed by tornadoes and thunderstorms, Governor Mitch Daniels has proclaimed March 2-8 as Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

The National Weather Service will conduct a statewide test of communication systems on Wednesday, March 5, between 10:30 and 11 a.m. EST and between 7 and 7:30 p.m. EST. March 7 is the make-up drill day if weather postpones Wednesday's drill. These tests should be used as times to practice your plan.

The goal of Severe Weather Preparedness Week is to better educate people about the hazards of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, and to help everyone be prepared should severe weather occur.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is offering these tips during times of severe weather.

- Tornado safety tips**
- Basements, inner rooms of a house, and storm cellars provide the best protection.
  - Stay away from exterior walls, windows, and doors. Stay in the center of the room.
  - If you are in your car do NOT try and outrun the tornado because it can switch direction and can cover lots of ground quickly.
  - Get out of vehicle and go into a strong building if possible. If not, lie flat in a ditch or low area and cover your head.
  - Do NOT go under over-

passes, wind speeds actually increase under them and can suck you out!

- If you live in a mobile home, get out IMMEDIATELY. Take shelter in a building with a strong foundation.
- Listen to radio or watch TV so you can be alerted about your current situation.

- Thunderstorm safety tips**
- If a thunderstorm is coming postpone or cancel outdoor activity.
  - Do NOT go near tall trees or any other tall objects.
  - Seek shelter inside a building or in a hardtop vehicle, but don't touch any of the metal inside.
  - Do NOT use the telephone. Stay away from other electronic devices, bare metal, and water.
  - Do NOT go near downed power lines.
  - Keep your eye on the sky as well listen to weather reports on the radio or TV.
  - If caught out in the middle of a large body of water, return to shore as soon as possible. Get off the water immediately.
  - If caught out in middle of an open field: If walking with others stay a minimum of 10 feet apart; Also, keep low and move quickly to seek shelter. If there is no shelter lay in a ditch or get to the lowest place around.

- For more information about preparedness for severe weather and other emergencies, go to [www.in.gov/dhs/3638.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/3638.htm).

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<p>Family Pack <b>Fresh Lean Ground Chuck</b> 1 lb <b>1.79</b></p>	<p><b>Dole Bananas</b> 1 lb <b>37¢</b></p>
<p>64 oz etcn, Regular, Calcium Added or Country Style <b>IGA Orange Juice</b> <b>2/4</b></p>	<p>40-50 Loads Per Btl, Selected Varieties <b>Xtra Liquid Laundry Detergent or Nice'n Pluffy Fabric Softener</b> <b>5/10</b></p>
<p>4 qt pail, Selected Varieties <b>Prairie Farms Ice Cream</b> <b>4.99</b></p>	<p>16 oz box <b>Lucky Charms</b> <b>5/10</b></p>

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