

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Memberships include:



Clarification of 'pulling the plug'

The *Comet* needs to clarify why it believes it is necessary to close Carroll Manor. It is not that the *Comet* wants to see residents turned out with nowhere to go. Nor is it that the *Comet* believes the facility is not first class with caring staff.

There is only one reason – plain and simple – Carroll County taxpayers can no longer afford to provide a facility to care for the aged.

It is not the responsibility of county taxpayers to provide a place for the aged to live, and subsidize them to live there, when they can afford to live somewhere else. But, that is what county taxpayers have been doing.

The county has been providing approximately \$10,000 per person, per year for each resident to live at the Manor. That is over and above the fees residents pay. County taxpayers might as well write each resident a check.

When the county has to sacrifice sheriff's deputies and ambulances and staff, we obviously cannot afford to subsidize a home for the aged, even with fee increases.

Carroll Manor's director recently reported that all but one of her 19 residents can afford the increase to \$56 a day (from \$28) which the county council believes will help make the facility self-sustaining. With the completion of the ongoing elevator project, she proposes to work diligently at filling the Manor to capacity (40+).

But what no one has addressed is that with increased capacity, there will be a need for more food, more utilities usage, and more employees. That \$56 a day will then not cover expenses, so fees will need to be increased again.

It is feasible to expect residents would be able to secure suitable alternative housing within two to three months. When the Indiana State Department of Health closed the former Brethren's Home in Flora, those families only had one or two days to move their loved ones.

But it might not be necessary to move loved ones, that is, if the county commissioners explore other options. They are the county entity that has the responsibility to maintain county property, and they could choose to privatize the Manor.

Let the county lease the building and grounds to a private company. Residents could go on residing there, but someone else would be responsible for making the place financially sustainable. Perhaps the people who work there could even keep their jobs.

That would be a win-win solution, not only for the county, but for Manor residents and staff.

However, if privatizing is not feasible, then pulling the plug on a facility that is a financial drain is what has to be done. Within two years the county could repay the \$500,000 obligation for the elevator grant through recouped funds that were previously budgeted for the Manor.

The building could then be used for other county purposes, leased or sold. Taxpayers would not be subsidizing a home for the aged that they no longer can afford.

Does a good scolding get your attention? Does a finger pointing, guilt ridden, mend your ways lecture inspire you to change?

Me neither.
And right now, I feel like I've been lectured and finger pointed at and scolded by one too many celebrities and plenty too many politicians on the subject of conservation.

I like green, I respect the earth, but I'm confused.

I feel like the shaming of the common man on his energy use and the lecturing at him concerning precious resources comes from limo riding, mansion abiding, private airplane flying folk who absolutely never, ever practice what they preach.

I hate waste, any kind of waste, be it food or energy or time. It seems immoral to take more than one's share and foolish to claim as yours that which you cannot or will not consume or use or set aside.

But I'm green with confusion.

Lately the subject of bags seems to be in the news in a big way. And it has got me seriously frustrated. The mega-grocer says if I will only bring with me some old tote container I can make an impact on the environment by him not giving me a bag for my groceries.

Really? An impact?

Well sure, I suppose. But wouldn't a bigger impact come if I just skipped a month's shopping at the mega-grocers? Wouldn't things be better if, instead, I cleaned out my cupboards, made due with what's on hand, and didn't

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Green with confusion

shop anywhere I needed to travel to by car.

Wouldn't that produce a better, bigger impact on the earth?

And by eating less and exercising more, wouldn't I fit back in a whole new wardrobe previously banished to the back of my closet? And wouldn't that new wardrobe render unnecessary many trips to the mall for clothes shopping?

Why, multiply out the savings from consuming less and the impact gets bigger and bigger. We could do with less roads, fewer stores, less importing, less truck traffic.

I know wealthy and wise seniors who haven't bought an appliance in decades. My aunts used to wear good wool suits that were 30 years old. The celebrities and politicians better be careful what they hope for. What happens to a consumer society when the consumers don't consume?

My daughter lives in a neighborhood where three-car garages are the standard. My sister tells me that out in Colorado the four-car garage is becoming common. I'm not sure my grocery bag makes a real difference.

Let's face it. We should shop local, consume less and put on a sweater instead of

pushing the thermostat. But right now we don't appear to be ready for all that.

I suspect our ancestors would wince at our consumption and at our waste. Or maybe, just maybe, they would be envious of all this bounty. I don't know.

But preach to me about grocery bags.

Oh, please!

Swedish furniture maker IKEA has gotten lots of press over their policies aimed at reducing plastic bag use by their customers. Let me stress this, I love IKEA, love their products, love their stores. But the truth of the matter is that every single piece of furniture I have ever purchased at IKEA, every single accessory, every gizmo or knick-knack, every bit of it I could have done without. I could have improvised or bought used or paid considerably more for an heirloom piece.

So do without plastic bags? How about do without that curio cabinet or that designer magazine rack or that plasma TV stand? That is, if you really want to make an impact, if you really want to conserve.

I don't have the answer. I'm not sure I really know what the question is. We should respect the earth, clean up after ourselves and conserve for generations to come.

But we should not placate one another, be silly or do things for show, not when it comes to something as serious as conservation.

The silly talk, it certainly has a green effect on me. It makes me green around the gills.



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.

Keep Carroll Manor

It is with deepest sympathy for Carroll County that I write this letter. I was so saddened by last week's editorial in the *Carroll County Comet*. How could you be so uncaring to say pull the plug? The residents that receive your paper read it and then shared it with the others. You can imagine their dismay at the callousness of the article. Some of them have resided there for many years and this is truly their home. If they have to leave the community, you will literally be pulling the plug.

Carroll Manor is one of the best-kept secrets of Carroll County and I ask that you please visit and see for yourself. Those of you who are so fired up to close it cannot possibly have ever been here. It is a beautiful, historical building with a great story to tell. It is not a facility, it is a home.

We need to stop and think how many sad things have happened to us as a community in the last year. I sincerely believe that the Manor can be one of the assets, if given a chance. A new wing was added and hopefully the elevator will enable the second floor to be filled. I have been an employee for 10 years and I love my position there. I do not call it work. The residents are my family and I love them very much. Yes, it could be closed and sold, that would put a band-aid on some of the sore, but what will we get rid of next year?

We have heard from many caring people. I would ask all of us as a community to stop right now and say a prayer for the ones that have lost jobs, had to take cuts in pay and are just plain scared of what the future holds. We not only have county problems but also the closing of Pe-

ters-Revington. Many people have been affected by these times. We can get through this but not if we are all fighting and pointing fingers.

We must stay focused on the good and not the bad.

Martha Martin
Delphi

Prefers television coverage to local paper

To everyone who watched Channel 18's coverage of Carroll Manor in Delphi on April 9, do hope you enjoyed it and will take the time to come to see for yourself what kind of home it really is.

But, for those who read the local *Carroll County Comet* on the same day, seems they feel they have the right to decide whether or not these residents should have the "plug pulled," because they are elderly and no longer a benefit. Am sure family and friends feel otherwise.

To Channel 18, thank you for the beautiful coverage and care of our elderly citizens. To the local community who agree with the damaging words of our local paper, I honestly cannot see how you can live with yourselves.

Carroll Manor, nor its residents, are responsible in any way for the financial fiasco created by our elected county government officials have gotten us into. Therefore, they should not be punished for the stupidity and greed caused.

Barbah Wine, Delphi
Proud Carroll Manor employee

Wants accountable county leadership

Thanks, *Carroll County Comet* for all the needed information each week. I know I speak for many taxpayers in Carroll County. We all deserve to know about our tax dollars being spent by the county. After all, we are the ones who help foot the bills.

County officials need to work together keeping good reports each month and a monthly balance at hand at all times. If something seems not right,

check it out – don't let it ride for five years. We farmers would be out of business in short order if we didn't keep good records and balance our books each month. It is the taxpayers and others who elect county officials. We need to elect qualified people to handle the job, and who care about the county and spending tax dollars wisely. Everyone needs to be accountable at all times and want to inform the public.

This current situation is a disgrace for Carroll County.

Thanks again to the *Comet* for doing a great job reporting for all of us.

Joan McCain
Bringhurst

Appreciates Moore's service to county

I take exception to Rob Baker's statement regarding Phyllis Moore. I have known Phyllis and her husband, Don, for 55 years. They have always been honest, forthright individuals.

In my opinion, his remark demonstrates a total lack of respect and appreciation for her years of dedicated service, and her efforts to promote Carroll County.

Carl Perry
Rossville

Appreciates coverage

I just want to thank you and your staff for the excellent job in reporting on the courthouse problems. Not everyone can attend the meetings and at this crucial time everyone should know the where, what, who and when about all of this and through your reporting we are kept "updated."

Keep up the good work.
Myna Ruth Walters
Camden

Supports Carroll Manor

I grew up in Carroll County and many of my relatives have lived there all their lives. It was a wonderful place to grow up and call home. One of the things that I took pride in was the way the community would come together

in times of crisis.

Having said that, I felt compelled to write a letter after reading many disturbing things in the *Comet* over the past few months.

The current financial state of the county has certainly brought out the worst in many folks. In particular, the absolute disregard for the employees and residents of Carroll Manor. For those in the community who feel this facility should have the "plug pulled" (even though the size of this budget would do little to affect the county's financial problems), I would ask that you remember this is more than a "facility", this is a place many elderly residents call home. I have visited Carroll Manor on many occasions and would strongly encourage those who have never been there to visit, meet the residents and the wonderful employees who care for them.

The administrators and em-

ployees of Carroll Manor continue to work diligently to reduce their cost in all areas. But at the end of the day, their primary responsibility is to provide a safe and healthy environment for the residents. Cutting staff levels too low would put the county, employees and especially the residents at risk. Nutritious meals and a clean environment are not areas that can be ignored in this type of home.

The entire county has felt the impact of incompetent financial management. Each department whose budget has been reduced and whose employees have experienced reductions should be given our support. I have seen and heard many other departments receive much support, but I have seen very little for our aging residents or their caregivers. I wrote this letter, in part, to send my support and encouragement out to those at Carroll Manor. We should all be working

Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie

New filings are from public records available in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi. Other information regarding judgments and marriage dissolutions is gathered from public records found in the clerk's office.

Discover Bank filed a complaint against Gretchen N. Longfellow.

Reo Prop. Corporation filed an In Rem complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage against Gary Short Jr., Ginger Short, Lafayette Bank & Trust Company and unknown occupant.

Capital One Bank filed a complaint against Michael W. Brafford.

Citifinancial Services Inc. filed a complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage on real estate against Seth L. Baker Sr. and Linda A. Baker (whose true name is unknown).

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company filed a complaint for foreclosure of note and mortgage against April L. Wasielewski.

Tina Napier filed a complaint against Thomas A. Curtis.

Discover Bank filed a complaint against Rob S. McKinney.

Discover Bank filed a complaint against Tara S. Wood.

HSBC Bank USA filed a complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage on real estate against Ronald E. Pierce and Brandy Sibray.

Salin Bank & Trust Company filed a complaint against Blackburn Hauling LLC.

In a summary default judgment and decree of foreclosure, Rebecca A. Brown and unknown tenant were ordered to pay \$80,951.33 to GMAC Mortgage LLC.

Adam M. Monize pled guilty to five counts of burglary. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison, all but two years suspended, and five years on supervised probation.

A summary judgment in favor of the defendant was ordered in the case of Billy G. Best vs. Carroll County and the Carroll County Commissioners.

Joshua A. Lovvorn, 22, pled guilty to battery resulting in serious bodily injury. He was sentenced to three years in prison, two years suspended, and two years supervised probation.

Thomas Marchand, 48, pled guilty to intimidation, attempted residential entry and domestic battery. He was sentenced to five years in prison.

toward ensuring the very best care is given to these important members of our community.

I would like to think that Carroll County is a place where the wisdom that comes with aging is not only valued, but respected and protected. The recent events make me question whether this community really values its elderly residents or simply sees them as a burden.

Mitzi Hamilton
Canton, Ga.

Because the public has a right to know...

In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are happening when and where, the Comet will now print upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

Thursday, April 17
√ Flora Town Council executive session: 9 a.m.

Monday, April 21
√ Delphi Board of Works: 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22
√ Area Plan Commission: 7 p.m.
√ Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Sheriff Sale-Price	5B
Sheriff Sale-Cade	5B
Sheriff Sale-Baker	5B
Sheriff Sale-Lyke	5B
CC Council-Tax Antic	5B
CC Council-Bidders	5B
Sheriff Sale-Maloy	5B
Sheriff Sale-Funkhouser	6B
Sheriff Sale-Johnson	6B
Sheriff Sale-Denton	6B
INDOT Cont Activity	5B
Flora-Monroe Library	6B
Area IV-Notice	4B
Camden-Not of Bids	6B
Sheriff Sale-Brooks	4B
Primary Election Notice	5B
Jackson TWP-Ann Report	6B
Jackson TWP-Notice	6B
Camden-Bid Instructions	4B
CC-Add Approval	6B
CC Election Board	4B
CC Financial Report	5B

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.

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.

Would you be willing to mail your property tax payment instead of making the payment in person to alleviate the need to hire extra workers in the treasurer's office?

You bet! Anything to help!
No, the county should hire enough people so I can pay my taxes in person.
No, but I don't mind standing in line until I can get waited on.

Last Weeks results

Should council reduce the budget by \$90,000 more to accommodate the courts' refusal to accept further appropriation cuts?

32% Yes, the courts need to do what they do.
68% No, make the judges force the issue.

Total responses: 113
Reader's comments:

I feel if all the county reaped the benefits of the mistake, then the entire county needs to tighten the belt to make up the shortage. One other place to look is the libraries, like Camden; in my opinion, not used anywhere near its full potential.