

# Saturday is Canal Earth Day

## Comet staff report

Saturday, April 19, is an opportunity for volunteers of all ages to come for PROJECT W.E.E.D. or "Wabash & Erie Earth Day," beginning at 9 a.m. at Canal Park, Delphi. If it rains, the alternate date is April 26.

Volunteer "captains" will be onsite to supervise specific jobs, and a work list will be available.

Some of the work will be near Pizza Hut/Dairy Queen and will include planting young trees associated with the completion of the recently re-

stored wetland. Work will be near the historic bridge completed last fall.

Other volunteers will accomplish trash removal, clearing brush, and trail building at Carrollton Bridge. For that effort the team gets to ride the Trolley out and back.

Another area to work is in Canal Park itself.

The Wabash & Erie Canal sponsors the event with support from the USDA/NRCS "Earth Team." Those wearing Earth Team white hats are designated

as "captains" and will direct work and answer questions at the various sites.

The work day will begin at 9 a.m. with a flag raising and orientation before breaking into groups. Work crews may go to various locations on other trails that may require driving to the sites and then returning for lunch. For the Carrollton Bridge crew, the Trolley leaves the park at 9:10 a.m. and returns at noon.

The area by Pizza Hut is accessible by trail or personal ve-

hicles.

Those who bring their own hand tools should put their names on them.

Volunteers should wear work clothes and shoes, gloves and other protective wear. No pets are allowed at the work sites.

Volunteer workers get a free lunch served at noon at the Canal Park shelter by the local Psi Iota Xi sorority.

Check the Canal Hotline for last minute weather cancellation notice by calling 765-564-6572.

# Daughter of vet to speak

Carolyn Donson will speak about her father, Dr. A. L. Keim, DVM, on April 20 at 2 p.m. in Greentown. Admission is free.

Dr. Keim had a veterinary practice in the Plevna area from 1942 to 1976. Donson will talk about her experiences assisting him with large and small animal care in a six-county area. (Howard, Grant, Tipton, Carroll, Miami, Cass)

The program will be held in the History Center Annex on the southeast corner of the in-

tersection of Main and Meridian Streets in Greentown. It is sponsored by the Greentown Historical Society.

The program correlates with the Historical Society exhibit "Is There a Doctor in the House?", featuring past and present dentists, physicians and veterinarians of eastern Howard County.

For more information, contact Sue Clouser, 765-628-7840; email, SClouser3@cs.com.\

## Obituaries

### Robert C. Lentner

Robert Charles Lentner, 89, of Lafayette, died April 10, 2008, at St. Anthony Health-care.

Born in Delphi on Oct. 2, 1918, he was the son of Clarence and Lona Woods Lentner. He married Georgia Louise Arnold in 1937 in Delphi, and she survives.

Mr. Lentner was self-employed in heating and air con-

ditioning as a contractor for more than 30 years in the Delphi area.

Surviving with his wife are a daughter, Shirley "Ann" Wilson (husband: James) of Lafayette, and a brother, Jack Lentner (wife: Mary) of Delphi.

Services and burial were held April 12 in Lafayette.

### Betty Lou Michaels

Betty Lou Brown Michaels, 84, of Delphi, formerly of Lafayette, passed away April 11, 2008, at 5:25 a.m. at her sister's house near Lafayette. She had battled breast cancer.

She was born March 23, 1924, in Lafayette, to the late Francis and Jennie Johanna Karlstrand Brown. Her marriage was to E.L. "Mike" Michaels in Frankfort on Jan. 21, 1956, and he preceded her in death on Aug. 2, 1986.

A homemaker, Mrs. Michaels was a 1942 graduate of Jefferson High School.

She was a member of the Lafayette Women's VFW Auxiliary and a former member of Bethany Presbyterian Church in Lafayette, where she was active with Sunday School. She also was a volunteer at St. Elizabeth Medical Center Pink Ladies Auxiliary.

Mrs. Michaels was an avid reader. Her hobbies were crocheting and crossword puzzles.

Surviving are two daughters, Madonna Kauffman (husband:

Richard) of Lafayette and Jennifer Chase (husband: Kenneth) of Aiken, S.C.; three sisters, Deena Ramey of Knoxville, Tenn., Norma Trout (husband: William "Rudy") of Lafayette and Marilyn Jones (husband: Paul) of Kokomo; a brother, Alan Brown (wife: Sandy) of Brownsburg; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a special friend, Hudson "Red" Pressler of Delphi.

Mrs. Michaels was preceded in death by two sisters, two brothers and a grandson.

Services were held Tuesday at Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi, and were officiated by the Rev. Nord Zootman. Burial was at Tippecanoe Memory Gardens in West Lafayette.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Envelopes are available at the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent to abbotfuneralhome@verizon.net.



# Voter registration numbers increase by the thousands

## Comet staff report

Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita has released preliminary voter registration numbers for the upcoming May 6 Primary. County voter

registration offices throughout Indiana processed thousands of voter registration applications over the last week.

The Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS), an

electronic database that simultaneously links all of Indiana's 92 county's voter registration records, was created in 2006 in coordination with Secretary Rokita's office and all 92 counties. County input, testing, and use has been critical in developing and enhancing a system which complies with federal mandates and provides accurate voter registration data.

The system is also linked to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Social Security Administration databases to help verify voter registration records. Additional data provided to the system from the Indiana Department of Health and Department of Correction assist local election officials in their efforts to remove the records of deceased and incarcerated voters. With these additional tools, the SVRS provides a dramatic improve-

ment over the counties old, individual systems by keeping the voter rolls current and accurate, at the time the individual voter's information is input into the system. This approach has allowed the removal or inactivation of approximately 600,000 records from the rolls, which would otherwise clog up the system and lead to inaccurate results.

As of 5 a.m. on April 10., SVRS reported a total of 4,260,783 registered voters, with over 52,000 applications still pending. Since the General Election in 2006, 332,679 Hoosiers have added their names to the voter registration rolls, including over 150,000 since the start of this year.

The voter registration numbers will continue to rise over the next few weeks as all of the applications are entered into the SVRS.

# SBOA From page 1A

during tax payment time. She said if she was not able to hire the usual five workers as she had in the past, taxpayers would have to stand in line when making payments.

Council member Ann Brown suggested taxpayers mail payments to the treasurer's office rather than making a trip to the courthouse, which would ease the need for additional help to wait on them at the window.

Noting that a line of credit would be available to the county by April 29 or 30, Ashby recommended the council pay all outstanding bills out of the cumulative capital improvement fund immediately. He said it was necessary to repay that fund as soon as the line of credit became available. The motion received unanimous approval.

In order to prepare for upcoming budgetary needs, auditor Beth Myers agreed to prepare a spending prediction chart, with information germane to May and June, for the April 29 meeting.

An ordinance for a private donation line item for Carroll Manor will be established. Donations to the Manor will be kept separate from the general fund account.

Ashby announced the company that owns Mulberry Health & Retirement Community is willing to tour and evaluate Carroll Manor.

"This would give us an unbiased opinion of what we have," he explained.

Council members encouraged Ashby to engage a county commissioner to pursue the walk-through.

The next scheduled meeting will be April 29 at 8:30.

A meeting is expected to be set prior to the next meeting date. Readers are encouraged to consult the *Comet* Web site, click on the "County Government Meetings and Agendas" page in blue on the left side to learn the date and time of the meeting, which will be posted when the information is released to the media.

# Delphi recognized for urban forestry management

## Comet staff report

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (DoF), has recognized 61 Hoosier cities and towns as Tree Cities USA for outstanding management of their urban forests. The City of Delphi was one of 14 to be awarded a Growth Award, which exemplifies a higher standard of excellence for urban forestry management activities.

"In 2007, Indiana's 61 Tree Cities planted over 10,938 trees, removed 6,269, and pruned 19,296," state forester John Seifert said. "These municipalities are to be commended for utilizing the urban forest as a tool to enhance economic development, environmental health and quality of life in their communities."

To achieve Tree City USA status, communities must draft and pass a public tree-care ordinance, designate a municipal department and tree advisory committee, spend at least \$2 per capita on their tree-care program, and have an Arbor

Day observance and proclamation.

"Becoming and remaining a Tree City is not an easy task," state community and urban forestry coordinator Pam Louks said. "Since 2004, we have lost two Tree Cities each year. Out of the 568 cities and towns in the state, these 61 are truly unique in that they are making a concentrated effort to care for their urban forest, which cleans the air we breathe and the water we drink."

Tree City and Growth Award communities will be formally recognized by DoF staff during this month and next at Arbor Day ceremonies throughout the state. The National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters sponsor the program, which now includes 3,216 Tree Cities nationally with 503 receiving the Growth Award.

For more information on urban forestry or how to become a Tree City USA, contact the CUF office at (317) 915-9390 or online at urbanforestry@dnr.IN.gov.

# DCSC From page 1A

extra cost of running service to them.

## High ability academy

Camden Early Childhood Center (CECC) Principal Carol Coon provided results of a high ability survey sent to parents of elementary-age children. The survey inquired of parents which of three "models" they would prefer for students with high abilities. Coon reported a large majority of those surveyed called for a separate facility, or high ability academy, for students.

"Best practice is to get these kids in a self-contained classroom," Coon stated. "I am amazed at how many we have that are high ability. It's exciting (how many there are)."

## Financial outlook provided

Superintendent Ralph Walker stated DCSC taxpayers would pay about 41 percent less in property taxes to the school corporation next year as part of recent property tax reform. He cautioned board members to keep an eye on how the state will handle taking over schools' general funds. He explained he was not sure if the state planned to take the cash balance in the fund, so he advised moving that balance to the rainy day fund to protect it.

## Board denies curriculums

The board supported a request by a CECC reading committee to write a waiver to request the school be allowed to continue its guided reading program instead of adopting a book based on the state's curriculum. Coon said the committee, which was comprised

of parents along with staff, felt children were learning better and faster in small groups. Walker agreed.

"Basically it is whole group learning instead of individualized reading," he said. "I heartily recommend we don't use the traditional (method)."

Walker warned he would ask for perhaps as much as \$50,000 to \$100,000 at the next meeting to support the comprehensive literacy program, of which guided reading is a part.

## Other business

A revised middle school athletic handbook was approved. Changes include a shorter waiting period before evaluation for student athletes on academic probation.

The high school athletic handbook was approved with no changes.

The board discussed the possible purchase of laptop computers. Walker suggested students could be issued a laptop computer they could use their entire high school career. He said he had seen evidence that the idea increased production and proficiency.

Linda Draper, a Title I aide at the elementary school, will retire effective May 29.

Maternity leave was approved for Jessica Berger beginning May 2.

Lisa Hollingsworth was approved as high school Spanish teacher.

Dan Garner was approved to be substitute special education bus aide.

The next meeting will be May 12 at 7 p.m. in the corporation office.

# ISP conducts Move Over Patrols

## Comet staff report

The Indiana State Police Lafayette District is conducting enforcement patrols this month, directed toward motorists who fail to move over or reduce speed for stopped emergency vehicles.

During the history of the Indiana State Police, there have been seven state troopers, and one motor carrier enforcement officer struck and killed while working alongside Indiana roadways.

Lieutenant Jay Janke, commander of the Lafayette District, reminds drivers it is the law in Indiana to slow down or change lanes safely when approaching emergency vehicles with their emergency light activated.

The intent of this law is to protect the emergency and highway personnel who serve the public. Violating the law

can result in a fine and license suspension for up to two years if damage is caused to emergency equipment, or there is injury or death to an emergency worker.

Motorists must change lanes away from the emergency vehicle if they can do it safely, if not they must slow down and proceed with caution. We are asking motorists do not stop in the roadway, this may cause a chain reaction rear end collision with other vehicles, but slow down and/or move over.

Emergency vehicles include:

- Police vehicles
- Ambulances
- Fire trucks and rescue equipment
- Highway incident-response vehicles
- Highway work vehicles
- Vehicle recovery equipment (tow truck).

# Book From page 1A

special about his actions when he went to help with the tragedies and that each person had the same ability. He encouraged students to act when they witnessed injustice, whether locally or globally.

"Don't take your blessings for granted," he concluded. "9/11 changed a lot about our country. You can change things, too. They're the types of things that will define and shape you."

Morrison resides in southern Indiana with his wife and three children. He left firefighting due to an on-duty injury. He currently works in the health-care field.

nation process within the Church of God and is an ambassador for Promise Keepers. He has volunteered for many mission trips including helping people impacted by hurricane Katrina and the Lakota people in Allen, S.D. When he is not writing, he enjoys fishing, traveling, public speaking and teaching men about Christ.

His book can be found at www.buybooksontheweb.com and other online merchants.

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