

## DCSC prepares for future with land purchase

### 'Investment' will require \$270,000 from Rainy Day Fund

By Kevin Schnepf  
Staff writer

Delphi Community School Corporation Superintendent Ralph Walker recommended the corporation could be better prepared for school growth if trustees acted on an opportunity to purchase 15 acres of farmland directly south of the high and middle schools. He said he tried to determine how the Delphi area and school would look in the future and believed possibilities supported the acquisition.

"Sometimes it is difficult to get land adjacent to a school corporation," Walker said. "If Delphi becomes a large city, 15 acres might seem to a school board 30 years from now to be a huge asset for the community."

Walker cited the possibility that two roads may be added to the area by the

city in the near future. One could extend south from an existing drive at the west end of the middle school to a new east/west road from Dayton Rd./CR800W.

Board member Melinda Rossetter agreed the purchase would be a good "investment" because land prices typically increase.

"Even if we don't use the land, it's re-sale value alone could be worth it," she said.

According to Walker, Delphi United Methodist Church will consider the purchase of 25 additional acres of the field adjacent to the land purchased by the corporation. He said the church was "very interested" in working with the school to help children of poverty and possibly take over some care programs.

The board voted to purchase the property for \$18,000 per acre. The

price is contingent upon getting two appraisals that agree to that value, according to Walker.

The board approved an intra-fund transfer of \$400,000 from debt service to the rainy day fund, a portion of which will be used for the land purchase.

#### Extended Care Program

Delphi Community Elementary School will offer an extended care program for students beginning in the fall. DCES Principal Bill Shidler said parents can pay a fee to drop their children off early before school, pick them up later in the day after school, or both. Details are not completely established.

Board member Jerry Sparks, who voted against the motion, cited administrators' workloads and financial uncertainty as reasons not to offer the program right away. Walker and Shi-

lder agreed the program would be self-sufficient. Sparks said he would have voted in favor of the motion if he had been provided definite enrollment and income figures.

#### Administrators' contracts

Contracts were renewed for Walker and two un-named administrators. Each will receive a 3.5 percent increase in pay.

#### Activity bus purchased

The board purchased a new activity bus for \$67,947 after trade-in. Board president Robert Resler noted that Walker said he believed a bus the board purchased during the May meeting would be the last for the year, but the day after his comment an activity bus engine failed. The old bus' trade-in value was \$4,500.

#### New walk-in cooler

The purchase of a new walk-in cooler for the middle school cafeteria

for just under \$40,000 was approved. Construction company Flora, Allen and Arion will provide demolition and re-framing of the area the cooler will be installed for \$4,338.98 and Dienhart Refrigerated Specialists will deliver and install the unit for \$35,490.

#### Eight 30-day retirements

The board approved 30-day retirements for eight teachers - Charles Wilson, Elaine Wilson, Dan LePage, Dan Frost, Griffin Anderson, Joe Seurnyck, Sandra Cox and Bill Gray.

#### Other business

Camden Early Childhood Center Principal Carol Coon was approved as DCSC curriculum director.

Cafeteria bids were approved for the following: Bread - Nickles; Dairy - Prairie Farms; and Commodities - Fox River Farms.

2008-09 textbook rental fees were

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## Flora agrees to purchase Grubb properties

By Susan Scholl  
Editor

The Town of Flora approved the purchase of two properties on West Main Street owned by John and Margaret Grubb at Monday night's meeting of the Town Council.

"We want to own them for possible future fire station expansion," said council president Josh Ayres.

The agreed price for both properties was \$62,250 - \$44,500 for the property at 108 W. Main and \$17,750 for the property at 112 W. Main.

The Grubbs have until Dec. 31 to vacate the property.

Council member Vince Seward reported that work is complete on the buried tank environmental report at the airport. All the reports have been submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the town is waiting to hear back from IDEM.

After meeting with Steve Woody, vice president of site development with ERS Telecom Properties, Granger, about placing a communications tower on town-owned property on East Elizabeth Street, Council member David Albaugh recommended the town decline the offer. His recommendation was approved.

"There is not much value in us giving the property to them," said Albaugh, "and the neighbors feel it will devalue their properties."

#### EDC

Daryl Smith, executive director of the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation, explained that the EDC is working to develop marketable real estate in Carroll County.

"Our goal is to have four sites available and we are currently working on developing two," he said. "We have options to purchase 80 acres south of Flora (Johnson farm), near Flora's industrial park, and 60 acres south of Delphi (old Gray turkey

farm).

One of the many criteria to meet the state's Shovel Ready status is to rezone the Johnson property from agriculture to industrial. Carroll County Area Plan has already approved rezoning the property but recommended that EDC "make sure it works with Flora's land use plans."

The council enthusiastically endorsed EDC's plans for the property and adopted Resolution 2008-2, supporting the rezoning of the property and authorizing clerk-treasurer Joretta Tinsman to write a letter of support for the project to submit to the state.

Smith also commended the town on its selections for representation on the EDC - Bret Hanaway, Bret Rinehart and Joe Moss. He said they provide a lot of input and ask good questions.

#### Senior Citizen garden

The council approved Purdue University Master Gardener Sue Burge's request to develop a raised vegetable garden behind the Senior Center on North Division Street. She said that Carroll County Master Gardeners would provide the expertise on preparing the bed and determining what and how much to plant, while senior citizens would maintain the garden.

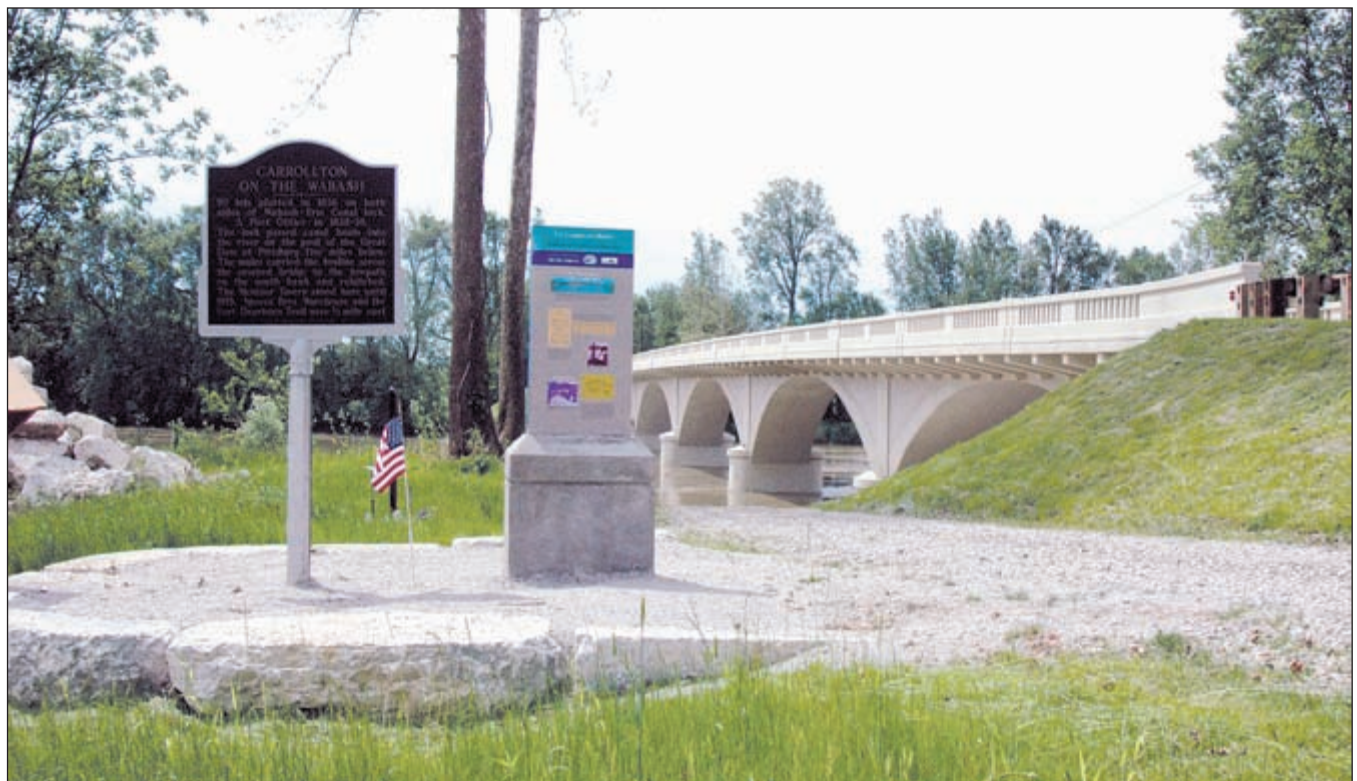
She explained that the project would be open to all senior citizens, not just those in the apartments.

Similar projects have been successful in other communities, according to Sherry Hensley.

Burge said they are too late to do a raised bed this year, but plan to get one going for next year and eventually have it wheel-

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## Heritage Transportation Festival this weekend



### Three dedications on Sunday

As part of the Heritage Transportation Festival, there will be three dedications at the Carrollton Bridge on Sunday. First, at 2 p.m., will be the re-dedication of the rehabilitated Carrollton Bridge. This will be followed by the dedication of Grantham's Landing and Mary K's Overlook, canal-related historic sites that will be further developed. Third will be the dedication of the Wabash Water Trail. Concluding the afternoon will be an antique auto climb, up Carrollton Hill, and a canoe race. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Delphi's annual Heritage Transportation Festival will be June 14 and 15 at four locations.

The festival celebrates transportation through the years, with exhibits, rides, dedication ceremonies, a canoe race, food, entertainment, and more.

#### Saturday

Activities on Saturday will take place on the Courthouse Square and at Canal Park. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

New this year will be a Bicycle Rodeo, for all ages, from 10 a.m. to noon in front of the

REMC building. The location was changed from Riley Park. The rodeo will offer tips in bicycle safety. Two bicycles will be given away, and helmets will be given to those who do not have one, while

supplies last. Call Sherri Cripe at (765) 564-6984 for more information.

A Motorcycle Rodeo also will be held on the Square in the afternoon.

Other modes of transportation on exhibit will include antique automobiles and school hack, highway department equipment, Delphi Limestone vehicles, and antique

and modern grain wagons.

The Assian Ruffing Opera House and Carroll County Historical Museum will be open to the public, and there will be craft and food booths, and a moon walk for the kids.

A Norfolk Southern exhibit train car will be parked next to the VFW all day on Saturday.

There will be a shuttle service available between the downtown and Canal Park, on North Washington Street.

The playground boat at Canal Park will be dedicated at 1:30

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## 30th annual Hog Jog set for Saturday

### Cruise-In now in 20th year

Comet staff report

The 30th running of the Carroll County Hog Jog will be Saturday at Flora Community Park. Also on Saturday, Idlers Car Club will host their 20th annual Hog Jog Cruise-In, under the shade, at the park.

The day will get underway with a French Toast and

Sausage Breakfast at the park, sponsored by Flora Rotary Club. Serving will be from 6 to 10 a.m.

Sponsored by Flora Lions Club, the Hog Jog will begin at 7:30 a.m. with the two-mile run/walk, followed by the 10K run at 8:10 a.m. and the 50-meter Runt Jog for ages 2 to 7, at 9:15 a.m.

Registration will be open in the park on Saturday starting at 6:15 a.m. Packet pickup will also begin at that time.

The entry fee includes a free T-shirt to the first 500 entrants. The fee is \$20.

The walk is free for those not wanting a T-shirt.

The End Result Company will provide electronic time and

scoring. Application forms are available throughout the county at various businesses and online at [www.hogjog.com](http://www.hogjog.com).

Registration for the Cruise-In will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a \$15 entry fee. Judging will be by participants and awards in 21 classes will be presented at 4 p.m. There will also

be five specialty awards given, plus door prizes and goodie bags. For additional information, visit [IDLERSec@yahoo.com](mailto:IDLERSec@yahoo.com).

Last year's Cruise-In attracted over 200 entries.

Both the Hog Jog and Cruise-In will be held rain or shine.

There will also be garage sales throughout the town.

## Committee pushes toward land use plan finish

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

The committee appointed by Carroll County Area Plan Commission to oversee the development of the comprehensive land use plan continued the process of hashing out concerns and refin-

ing the first draft of the plan at a Tuesday morning meeting.

Members plodded through a list of revision suggestions to be included in a preliminary document prepared by Ground Rules Inc. representative Brad Johnson. Committee members discussed changes to the public

infrastructure and services section of the plan, municipal plan elements which included the City of Delphi and other incorporated towns and a review of future land use, thoroughfare plan and historic bridges and cultural resources maps.

Johnson reported that although

commentary about the draft was solicited from communities such as Camden and Burlington, none has been received.

According to committee organizer Miriam Robeson, plans are for the first draft to be finished by the end of June and public meetings to review it will

begin in July. Groups slated for the review include county and community leaders, special interest groups, city leaders and the general public in an open house-workshop session.

The steering committee plans to regularly to continue to propel the project to completion.

## Airport fuel production project to be explained

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

A domestic for-profit corporation planning to establish an alternative fuel production plant at the Delphi Municipal Airport will present plans to the Delphi City Council and board of works

members Thursday night at 6 p.m. in a public meeting in city council chambers.

Swift Enterprises Ltd. principals, Mary and John Rusek located at the Purdue Research Park, appeared on Inside Indiana Business at the beginning of May to discuss their project and

future plans. During the interview, the fuel developers stated they would be producing lead-free aviation fuel at a pilot facility in Delphi in 17 months. The Ruseks stated the plant would produce approximately 2,000 gallons of fuel per day. A second plant was to be built in Lafayette

and produce 200 gallons per day.

Delphi Mayor Randy Strasser said Monday he first heard that the city would possibly be asked to assume ownership of land purchased for the project adjacent to the airport at the May airport board meeting. He said it was his understanding the cor-

poration intended to fly prospective clients into the plant and hangar their airplane in a private hangar at the airport. Strasser said the Federal Aviation Administration requires all hangars located near an airport to be on airport property.

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