

Fireworks set for the 4th

Comet staff report

Fourth of July plans, including fireworks, for communities in Carroll County are being announced.

Delphi

"A fireworks display is our traditional and symbolic way of celebrating the 4th of July, the birthday of our nation," said David Krause DDS, co-organizer of the city's 4th of July celebration.

Festivities will begin at dusk around 9:45 p.m.

Delphi Educational Foundation will operate the concession stand at the football field and will also sell light tubes (necklaces).

The Delphi Chamber will pass out flavored ice pops.

The annual event is sponsored by the Delphi Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the City of Delphi. Private donations also help sup-

port the event.

"It may sound somewhat like a cliché," said Krause, "but I think the Chamber is sincerely trying to give something nice back to the city."

"Find a good, safe place to park near the high school," he added. "Music will be simulcast at 88.9 on your FM dial."

Rain date will be July 5.

Burlington

Burlington will celebrate the 4th of July with festivities at the Community Park. A hog roast will be served from 5 to 9 p.m. Miniature golf will be set up to play and other games and entertainment are planned. The Volunteer Fire Department will set off the fireworks display beginning at dusk.

The celebration is sponsored by the Burlington Community Club.

Flora

Flora's fireworks, sponsored by



the Town of Flora, will begin at dusk at Flora Community Park. (Raindate will be July 5.)

Flora VFD chief Scott Sisson said they have worked to improve the show and will have a special set piece to celebrate the department's 100th anniversary.

Preceding the fireworks will be Gospel Fest from 6 to 9:30 p.m., sponsored by the Flora First Christian Church. Featured performers will be Resurrection, Gospel Tones, and more. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Picnic food will be available from Living Faith Church of the Brethren.

Adams Mill near Cutler

A living history encampment awaits visitors to Adams Mill on July 4, 5 and 6. Adams Grist Mill Museum will be open for tours, while the scenic grounds will make a nice area for a picnic lunch.

Creek access is also available.

Boat Parade and more

The Madam Carroll with 400 veterans and young men and women currently serving and their families will lead 60 decorated boats in the 4th annual patriotic boat parade on Lake Freeman. Grand marshals will be World War II heroes.

The community is invited to the Sportsman Inn deck at 11:45 a.m. to watch the parade pass in review.

Afterwards, flag bearing skydivers will kick off a celebration in Monticello City Park to be from 1 to 4 p.m. There will be free carnival games and bike wars – a bicycle obstacle course.

Snacks will be available for sale in the park or attendees may bring their own picnic lunch to enjoy.

The Banjo Nutz, along with the White County Community Band, will perform. Fun for all ages is planned throughout the afternoon and a family movie with free popcorn begins at 4 p.m.

Additionally, the Monticello Rotary Club will be dedicating the White County Iraq Memorial garden on the courthouse lawn in memory of the four young men from White County who lost their lives in this war.

Military families, of both veterans and young people currently serving are invited to ride the Madam Carroll at no charge. World War II veterans are also invited as grand marshals. For more information, contact Joe Crivello at 574 583-9751

Penns to lead Independence Day Parade

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Bill and Sue Penn have lived and served in the Carroll County area all of their married life. Both grew up in and around Delphi—he was born and raised in Burrows and she was born in Mulberry and moved to Delphi when she was 16. Bill graduated from Delphi High School in 1951 and Sue graduated in 1954, however they did not know each other at that time. Life brought them together soon after and they married in 1956 at the Delphi Presbyterian Church, had three children



Bill and Sue Penn

which produced eight grandchildren and continue to live a life of service to others in this community.

"I enjoy the community service," Bill said. "I like helping other people and building things like walking paths and the swinging bridge. All the money we Lions make must be spent on community service projects."

As a reward for their long service record, both combined and separate, Bill and Sue have been chosen Grand Marshals

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From bucket brigade to highly trained firefighters

Flora Fire Dept. celebrates 100 years



Fire chief

Scott Sisson has been on the Flora Volunteer Fire Department for 31 years and has been chief for 18 years. The department, which is supported by the Town of Flora and Monroe Township, will celebrate its 100th anniversary at an open house July 5. For more information on the history of the department, see pages 6A and 7A. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Flora Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate its 100th anniversary with an open house on July 11 from noon to 4 p.m. at the fire station.

There will be a slide show, memorabilia on display, fire-related give-aways, and activities for children.

"We're proud of our 100 years," said Mike Titus, who has been with the department for almost 30 years. He is the lead fire investigator and unofficial historian of the department.

Titus has been accumulating and putting together the history of the Flora VFD since the 1980s.

Although there were some organized firefighting efforts before 1908, Titus said it was in that year that the Flora Town Board adopted an ordinance to create a volunteer fire department, starting with 12 members. Firemen were to receive \$1 per fire from the town's general fund.

Titus said he has assembled the history by going through loose papers, ledgers and other fire department records, town board minutes, the *Hoosier Democrat*, Carroll

County Comet, and the Flora Centennial book.

Over the last century, the department has continually updated its equipment, gear, and safety and communication devices. The number of firefighters on the department has increased, and they have increasingly been better trained. They started out exclusively fighting fires, but now are asked to help with other disasters, wrecks, and emergencies.

Titus said when he joined the department in 1979, the firemen wore rubber coats, and all the boots were the same size – 13. He said his training was tagging along with one of the older guys at a fire and doing what he was told.

"Today there is state-mandated training before a fireman makes his first run," Titus said. "We hold to the same standards as the paid departments."

He has organized the department's history by dates, including memorable fires and other emergencies, and important purchases of equipment and devices.

There are a number of "firsts" recorded. Several are listed below.

1918 – First motorized apparatus (fire truck) purchased.

1924 – First recorded fire run, to Mrs. Smith's barn on South Center Street, only slight damage.

1981 – Bought first "Jaws of Life."

1992 – Women's Auxiliary formed.

1993 – Bought first custom-built-pumper.

1996 – Bought first aerial ladder truck.

1998 – Bought first infrared imaging camera.

100 runs a year

"We average 100 runs a year, with eight to ten of them being serious structure fires," Titus said.

He has totaled all the runs from 1924 through 1996, coming up with 2,359.

In a hundred years, the department has recorded 10 fatalities. Titus said to his knowledge, there have been no fire-related deaths or serious injuries among the firemen.

Titus said the first few fire chiefs were appointed by the town board. Now they are elected annually by the department membership. There have just been nine fire chiefs in the department's history. Charles Stouse served the longest – from 1939 to 1969. Scott Sisson, the current chief, has served the second longest term, 18 years and counting.

Veterans of the Flora VFD

Sisson has been on the department for 31 years. He and Titus are the current longest-serving members, followed by Mike Hoffman, with 28 years.

"I was recruited by fire chief Walter Allen in 1977," Sisson said.

On Sisson's wedding day, in September 1987, he was at the church when he heard the fire trucks go by. On impulse, he started to take off, but was held back by his best man. Right after the reception, he and his bride, Michelle, still dressed in their wedding attire, drove to the scene of the fire. It was in Bringhurst at the old hotel, and arson was suspected. The other firemen assured Sisson that he didn't need to stay.

Sisson said the department has vastly improved its equipment in the last three decades. They currently have eight pieces of equipment, including pumps, tankers, aerial truck, and rescue unit. One of the pumps has a maximum pumping capacity of 1,500 gallons a minute.

"We've worked hard to improve out fire department," Sisson said.

In the last 18 years, the department has improved its ISO (fire insurance) rating from 8 to a 5.

Terra chemical fire

In his time on the department, Sisson said one of the most dangerous fires the men fought was a chemical fire at Terra International in 1997. The Flora firefighters spent 19 hours on the scene. More than 700 people from

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APC, BZA table controversial decisions

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Carroll County Area Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals members were faced with significant and vocal opposition to two requests at recent meetings. In both instances the issues were tabled.

A request to re-zone five acres of lake resort property to a commercial boat storage usage by Findlay-Summers LLC on 11028N. 1175W. in Jefferson Township was presented. The request for a special exception recommendation to the BZA

was presented by Justin Frazier of Tbird Designs. He said the plan was to sell lots to individuals for boat storage. No residential development is planned for the property, which is adjacent to a residential neighborhood. Neighbors John and Patricia Alford objected to the project.

"We don't want people there," Patricia Alford said.

She explained neighbors were not notified although they witnessed dirt being moved in preparation for building. The Alfords offered a list of neighbors opposed to the request to change the zoning designation.

The matter was tabled for further investigation and for a drainage assessment by county surveyor Wayne Chapman, who is a member of APC but not present at the meeting.

In other APC business APC gave a favorable recommendation to a re-zoning request by Herschel and Alisha Irvin of Burrows from suburban residential to general business. Irvin restores antique furniture and is required by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to provide separation of the home from the business.

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Titus



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