

## Commissioners and sewer district opponents square off with IDEM

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

Carroll County Commissioners and opponents of the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District's (TLRSD) activities in Carroll County met with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management Tuesday morning for more than two hours. The outcome of the meeting was inconclusive, however IDEM representatives heard from a crowd that filled the gallery in the Carroll Circuit Courtroom about issues related to sewer district activities in the county. IDEM also heard from commissioners about their inability to govern a portion of that which they are responsible for - their own county.

Commissioner Bill Brown addressed IDEM representatives Bruno

Piggott, Lynn Newlin, Amber Kent Finkelstein, Pam O'Rourke and Beth Atmyer at the beginning of the meeting. After thanking them for agreeing to meet with commissioners, Brown said although he was not qualified to speak about how the sewer district constructs a sewer, he was qualified to speak about "the treatment of the people by TLRSD."

Brown said in his 12 years as commissioner he had never failed to come to an agreement with a property owner about how to continue a construction project. He said residents in Carroll County have been treated with "insolence, threats, fines and liens" by the sewer district.

**"No citizen of Indiana should be treated by their government as these people have been treated by the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District."**

Commissioner Bill Brown

"No citizen of Indiana should be treated by their government as these people have been treated by the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District," he said.

He said residents involved in the sewer district in Carroll County have suffered odors, destruction of private property, and an expensive sewer system. He said the behavior of the sewer district representatives "does not come up to the level of failure" in their treatment of county residents.

"We are asking IDEM to make

them go home," he concluded. "Send Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District home!"

Piggott, who is the IDEM assistant commissioner for the Office of Water Quality, said he has heard many complaints against the sewer district and has responded to many e-mails.

"I very much appreciate hearing from you folks," he told the crowd.

However Piggott said the sewer district was formed, and continues to function, within the Indiana Code. He said there was nothing IDEM could do about resident concerns but refer them to their local leaders. He said the state statute gave control of sewer districts to local elected officials

rather than the state agency.

Attorney for Free Jefferson Township Citizens (FJTC) Amy Romig disagreed. She said the state statute provides for sewer district violations enforcement. She said the Indiana Code allows IDEM to judge unfairness and said they could dissolve the sewer district if it was found to not be economically feasible or fair or reasonable in their actions.

"IDEM, step up and do your job," Romig said directing her comments toward the representatives. "Use your statutory powers to dissolve the district."

Piggott responded that what was not fair to one person could be considered fair to another person. He said the sewer district board is the entity

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## County fair opens Friday

Comet staff report

The 2008 Carroll County 4-H Fair will open Friday evening in Flora with a carnival, Little Miss & Mister Pageant, and concert.

Beer's and Jessop's Co. Inc. will have rides set up Friday through Friday July 11-18. Midway specials will be offered. Advance tickets are available for \$12 per sheet from The Flower Shoppe in Flora and Delphi and Salin Bank in Flora and Burlington. Flora Community Club is sponsoring the carnival.

The Little Miss & Mister Pageant will be held in the show arena, starting at 7 p.m. MCs are Bill Shidler and Miss Carroll County 2007 Desiray Simmons. Special guest will be Miss Indiana State Fair Queen Kristen Schmitt.

Samantha Lynn Hart will bring her multi-faceted style of

music to the Carroll County YMCA on Friday evening.

Born in New Orleans, Hart says she pulls her music inspiration from many genres and styles. In her own words, she wants the audience to feel what she is singing, not just hear it. Her inspiration musically is Dolly Parton.

Hart, her four children and two dogs are victims of Hurricane Katrina and most recently, the flooding in southern Indiana. They now make their home in Terre Haute.

Tickets for Hart's performance are being sold at The Flower Shoppe in Flora and Delphi and Salin Bank in Flora and Burlington. Cost is \$10 per person with children 15 and under free with a limit of two free child's tickets per one adult.

The Merchant's Building is opening, too, on Friday

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## Flora water rate increase probable

Susan Scholl  
Editor

Following his report on Flora's water rate study, John Julian, an accountant with Umbaugh & Associates, said the town has more than enough justification to raise rates.

The last water rate increase was in December 2002.

Julian said the study indicates that the town is not making strides in building up cash reserves for future capital improvements to the water system. He suggested a five-year capital improvement plan be established. A rate adjustment would be influenced by that plan.

Julian suggested a mini-

mum increase of \$2.43 (10%) per 5,000 gallons of water (an average bill). Presently that cost is \$25.57.

Once a decision is made to raise the rate, Julian said it would be another 45 to 60 days before the new rate would become effective.

**EDIT**

Town officials agreed in principle to a proposal by the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation in the event that the county's Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) rate is increased from the current base level of .1%. The proposal suggests that the towns of Flora, Burlington and Camden and the City of Delphi place all monies above .1% in a special pool of funds to be used for larger infrastructure or similar projects involving the three towns and the city. Allocation of the funds would be determined annually by representatives of each municipality.

Currently, at the .1% rate, Flora receives \$34,996 in EDIT funds. If the county council passes a proposed increase to .25%, Flora's share would be \$87,490. The pooled amount would be \$52,494.

CCEDC Director Daryl Smith asked town leaders for guidance to make it work.

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## Canal Days



**Rope weaving**  
Terry Sargent of Greenfield demonstrates how to rope an antique bed at the Reed Case House during Canal Days. He said a basket weave is used. The rope is secured by pegs on the bed. For extra reinforcement, the rope is wound around the bedposts and then finally, stretched between diagonal posts. The rope framework provides the support for feather tick or straw tick mattresses. Sargent said when both kinds of mattresses were used together, the feather one would be on top in the winter (for warmth), and the straw would be on top in the summer. He said a rope bed takes about 100 feet of rope. As it is slept on, the rope stretches. A wooden bed wrench, also called a bed key, is used to tighten the rope. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

## Private party to survey, appraise land surrounding Carroll Manor

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

Once again, land around Carroll Manor became a controversial topic during a Carroll County Commissioners meeting. Early last year Carroll County Economic Development Director Daryl Smith proposed county leaders enter into a conversation with Indiana Packers Corporation to purchase the land. After receiving criticism from taxpay-

ers and Manor staff, the matter was not pursued in an open meeting.

Smith approached commissioners a second time about the matter at the Monday morning meeting. He requested permission to allow a private unnamed party to survey and appraise the approximately 30 acres. He said it would be a "preliminary" action to assess the county asset. The request was unanimously approved.

Smith said although IPC has

the first right of refusal, with which commissioners attorney Barry Emerson agreed, IPC management had not expressed interest in developing the site immediately. He assured commissioners the survey and appraisal would be paid for by an unnamed private source.

"It would not involve county funds," Smith said.

Smith said the site could become an industrial site for any development, used in a trade

for another parcel of land or a combination of a sale and trade. He said nothing could happen until information about the value of the land was known. He said all parties with vested interest in the land, such as Manor staff, the commissioners attorney and the commissioners, would be involved in a land sale. County resident Galen Perry objected to proceeding to a sale of the land. Smith said the goal of his

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## Annual EDC request approved by Delphi

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

After a brief presentation by Carroll County Economic Development Director Daryl Smith at the Monday night meeting, the Delphi City Council unanimously approved a funding request for \$11,313, which was \$1,898 more than the 2007 award. The amount was figured at a rate of \$3.80 per city resident according to Smith.

In a second request Smith asked council members to consider the dedication of any Economic Development In-

come Tax (EDIT) revenue increase to a "pool." The "pool" would be established in conjunction with anticipated increased revenues from Camden, Burlington and Flora, in the event the county council increases the overall tax rate. Smith said a representative from each town would participate in a group to decide how to best use the combined money county-wide.

He suggested the city consider the combined funding mechanism for county-wide economic development purposes for a one-year trial basis.

"It is an idea worth contemplating," council president Carolyn Pearson said. "I would like to think about it."

According to a handout provided by Smith the proposed 2009 EDIT revenue generated for the city, if the tax is increased, would be \$182,315. The city would contribute \$109,389 of that to an economic development "pool." Given the same information, Camden would contribute \$9,651, Flora \$52,494 and Burlington \$8,610.

**Additional appropriations**  
Resolution 2008-03 was ap-

proved unanimously for a cumulative capital improvement additional appropriation for \$22,885 for roof repairs and another \$50,000 for engineering and consulting fees.

Mayor Randy Strasser received approval to advertise for another \$43,600 additional appropriation for paving already done on Prince William Rd., and for paving needed on Armory Rd.

**Unoccupied/unsafe structure ordinance**

Council members passed an ordinance to address unoccu-

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