

New veterans service administrator named

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Carroll County veterans have a new leader to help them with resources. After being served for decades by recently retired Bob Morrow, Larry Leach of Rock Creek Township was appointed to fill the position at the Monday morning commissioners meeting.



Leach

Leach, originally from Cass County, is a Purdue University graduate in Electrical Engineering. He retired in 2004 from an Air Force testing facility in Tennessee. He and his wife, the former Judy Bowman, who graduated from Deer Creek High School, decided to return to her family's homestead in Carroll County after retirement. Leach said the couple has three adult sons and has been

married 43 years. Leach said he is looking forward to beginning his duty of service to area veterans.

"I've got a lot to learn," he said Monday.

Leach will begin his new job Aug. 4. He said he intends to computerize the office and provide the best quality service possible.

EDIT funding

Amid vocal protests about a \$45,000 proposed distribution of 2008 Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) to the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, commissioners approved the proposed spending plan without changes.

"Why should taxpayers' dollars be used for a private organization?" asked audience member Carl Perry.

Commissioners president Loren Hylton explained that money appropriated to the chamber was for economic development activities. He said the commissioners gave the

group seed money three years ago with the understanding it would be self-sufficient in two years.

"The mission of the chamber is to sustain and retain local businesses," said chamber director Sana Booker. "Becoming independent is taking a little more time than they (organizers) thought."

Perry said based on projected income from an expected increase in EDIT, and a spending plan recommended by the chamber, that organization would receive close to 20 percent of the overall EDIT budget in 2009.

"I don't have any rebuttal at all to what you said," commissioner Bill Brown told Perry after reviewing the figures provided.

"We're supporting an organization that businesses can get help from," said commissioner George Mears.

After a question about a county-generated job description for the EDC director, Brown explained the director is not a county employee. He

further stated there is no approval required from commissioners for the person selected to fill the position.

Mears moved to accept the spending plan as developed, which was based in large part on county chamber recommendations. Brown provided the second noting a concern about the lack of independence on the part of the chamber. The motion was unanimously approved.

Highway department

Bridge inspector Leo Rumschalg, while providing annual inspection reports, was questioned about an exception to the weight limit on the Burnett's Creek Arch. Mears said in discussions with Canal Interpretive Center representatives he learned it was desirable to allow tour busses, well over the load limit, use the bridge.

Rumschalg explained there were stones missing from the middle of the bottom of the foundation that would prohibit a 15-ton vehicle from using the bridge. He said there were questions about the

bridge's structural integrity. "I can't imagine how to get an exception," he said. "I don't see a way to get around it (the weight limit)."

Highway superintendent Ron Francis reported Bridge 129 on CR600W north of SR25 is open after being closed for more than three years. The deck was replaced and the road was widened.

He said work would begin this week on culvert 2227 on CR825N east of Yeoman, and he said Wilson Bridge "looks really nice."

Grinding roads in Ockley and Owasco is complete and the roads will receive a coat of chip and seal. Francis said it will cost the county approximately \$25,000 per mile for the material for the work.

Other business

Carroll County Historical Society was granted permission to use the courthouse and grounds Aug. 6 to 9 during Old Settlers.

The next meeting will be Aug. 4 at 9 a.m.

Provide input to the process

Draft of Comprehensive Land Use Plan available, meeting set

During the next few months, a new Comprehensive Land Use Plan for Carroll County will be finalized. The plan will present a vision for Carroll County's future and a roadmap for its growth and development over the next twenty years.

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan will provide the framework for zoning, subdivision, and other ordinances that will govern actual land use; and, its goals and objectives will guide the decisions of the Area Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals.

This plan will replace the 1968 Carroll County Development Plan, which was last updated in 2001. The new Comprehensive Land Use Plan will depict current and future land use patterns in the county. It will address the changing landscape, infrastructure requirements, and economic development environment that will be introduced as the Hoosier Heartland Highway crosses the county. It will also reflect the changes mandated by new state and federal regulations. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan will cover all parts of the county under the jurisdiction of the Area Plan Commission including all incorporated towns and cities with the exception of Flora, which has its own planning commission.

Work on the new Comprehensive Plan has been underway since the spring of 2007 when Ground Rules, Inc., a Zionsville-based planning firm, was hired by the Commissioners at the recommendation of the Area Plan Commission. Several meetings were held in 2007 by the consulting firm to obtain public input from individuals and

groups. By virtue of a separate contract between the City of Delphi and Ground Rules, the Delphi Comprehensive Plan update has been part of this planning initiative. In early 2008, a steering committee appointed by the Area Plan Commission began reviewing drafts of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and maps.

The steering committee includes 15 members: Janet Ayres, Judy Berkshire, Dick Bradshaw, Pat Casserly, Sam Deiwert, Dan McCain, Elaine McCain, Stan Moore, Joe O'Donnell, Bret Rinehart, Miriam Robeson, Daryl Smith, Randy Strasser, Larry Trapp, and Anita Werling. The draft of the Comprehensive Plan is now available for public review and comment. Four public meetings have been set, beginning tonight in Flora at the First Christian Church. Other meetings are as follows: July 29, Wabash & Erie Canal Center, Delphi; July 31, Burlington Community Park Building; and Aug. 6, Sportsman Inn, near Monticello. All meetings are at 7 p.m.

Copies of the plan can be found at the Area Plan Office in the Carroll County Courthouse at Delphi, at Burlington Community Library and at each of the public libraries in Delphi, Camden, Flora, and Yeoman, and online at www.carrollcountyin.gov and www.townofcamden.org

Comments can also be submitted in writing to Area Plan Director Kathy Mylet, or to any of the members of the steering committee through Aug. 15. After that date, the steering committee will review the comments, make

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Helping hands save treasurer's office



Given a threat from the treasurer that her office would not have enough time to prepare two sets of property tax bills this year, a group of concerned Carroll County citizens volunteered to stuff envelopes and do whatever treasurer Jane Brewington deemed necessary to put tax bills in the mail as soon as possible. The volunteers, mostly from the Radnor United Methodist Church but joined by other residents, met in Brewington's office Thursday morning to work until closing time to accomplish as much as possible. "My church is supporting me," Radnor Church member Brewington said. Tax payments will be due Sept. 19. Volunteer Pat Mills said she called the office and offered to help as did Sharon Christiansen. "We are doing this to save the county," said volunteer Krenta Keller, who brought along her husband, Don. Brewington said a group would be needed next week again because she has between 10,000 and 50,000 bills to prepare to send out. "We aren't half-way done printing the bills yet." Additional volunteers included Mary Nell and Jack Hiatt and courthouse custodian Sheryl Shockley, not pictured. Brewington said those wishing to volunteer could call her office at (765) 564-3446. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

Flood clean-up properties needed

Comet staff report

There are 100 college-age volunteers available to help property owners rid houses and land of flood debris the mornings of Aug. 18 and 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteers will be available to help homeowners move flood debris, including working indoors to remove walls and floors, but the homeowners will have to provide whatever safety gear is needed. Items needed include gloves for picking up and carrying, facemasks if working in dusty or moldy environment, and preferably a pair of cheap

safety glasses. The volunteers will not have tools or trucks, but can load, unload, and tear out walls, with supervision.

Homeowners who want to use the help should call, write, or E-mail Carroll County Emergency Management Agency Director Dave McDowell with contact information and a description of the work to be done. Use only McDowell's cell phone number as the courthouse number does not save messages to voicemail.

McDowell should be notified as soon as possible to facilitate planning.

McDowell reported he is working with NIPSCO, NWS, and USGS to update flood inundation maps. Data is needed for the project. Copies of photographs with accurate dates and times, showing flood levels are needed. Descriptions of locations and contact information is also requested.

By correlating the dates, times, and locations with river flow information, more accurate information than presently available will be compiled.

Another component of the project is obtaining accurate

elevation numbers for every house in the floodplain. Volunteers on Aug. 18 and 19 will be collecting the data. Several surveyor grade GPS units are being acquired. Volunteers will visit residences door-to-door, documenting the elevation of each home's living areas. This is only for flood mapping purposes, and has no input or reporting to any regulatory agency.

For information concerning flood debris clean-up and GPS mapping contact McDowell at dmcdowell@cacoshrf.com (765) 564-0028.



Mailing label goes here

New program launched to highlight progressive livestock farmers

Comet staff report

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced Monday the statewide launch of the Certified Livestock Producer Program. "Governor Daniels and I believe Indiana livestock farmers do a great job, specifically with their commitment to the environment and the livestock on their farms," said Lt. Governor Skillman. "This program and these Certified Livestock Producers exemplify Indiana's leadership in innovative ways to help improve understanding of modern livestock production in today's communities."

ISDA developed the Certified Livestock Producer

Program with the assistance of a 19-member advisory group as a way to recognize Indiana livestock producers who use progressive farm practices and procedures. This voluntary program recognizes farmers who are willing to publicly demonstrate their commitment to the environment; animal well-being and food safety; emergency planning; biosecurity and being a good neighbor in their community.

To become certified, livestock farmers must be in good compliance with all state and federal permits and requirements, as well as attend a program-specific seminar and use a self-study manual. The seminar and program manual assist farm-

ers in evaluating their practices and exploring new progressive actions they can use in their operations. When

complete, the farmers will review their assessments with professionals such as veterinarians, local fire offi-

cials and ISDA representatives.

"Certified Livestock Pro-

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Concrete runway project open house

Comet staff report

The Indiana Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association is hosting an open house at the Delphi Municipal Airport today, Wednesday, from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Delphi Municipal Airport is the first general aviation airport in Indiana to utilize a concrete overlay for rehabilitation of the runway. The concrete overlay concept was chosen over the traditional asphalt paving method to cover

the current 20-year-old topping. The concrete option saved the city of Delphi and the airport approximately 20 percent over the cost of the traditional asphalt method of rehabilitation.

Registration and breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m., welcome and opening comments are scheduled for 9 and an explanation of design options and how the project was constructed will be from 9:15 to 10. A visit to the paving site will follow.

The airport is located at

8296W. Division Line Rd., approximately three miles south of Delphi.

