

## Commissioners urged to sell land to IPC

### INDOT awards \$1.2 million for county road extension of SR 75

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

County leaders were urged to proceed with the sale of county-owned land to the north and west of Carroll Manor to Indiana Packers Corporation in a letter to Carroll County Commissioners and Council by the Carroll County Agriculture Association Board of Directors. Dean Scott, representing the association, presented the letter to commissioners at their Monday morning meeting. He encouraged them to put differences with the council aside to "do what is best for the county."

The letter read, in part, "IPC has expressed interest in expanding its property and operations to include a supplemental business to its slaughter operation. This location is adjacent to the current property and north of the Carroll Manor."

"It is time for the county officials to

move forward on this project," it continued.

Commissioner Bill Brown clarified commissioners requested a plan to proceed with a potential sale from IPC more than a year ago. A plan was never received.

"We've been much more active than Packers has been on this," he said.

Scott said IPC was waiting for the county to approach them about purchasing the land.

"They are ready to move forward on it," he said.

It was noted by commissioners two private appraisals are being done to determine the cost of the land. Neither appraisal was commissioned by the county. Commissioners' attorney Barry Emerson recommended commissioners send a letter of interest to IPC. He advised that any land sale would have to be approved by the county council if the appraised price

was equal to or exceeded \$50,000.

Emerson further stated an engineering sketch of the design, what foliage would be included, what the landscape plan would be and what sort of economic stimulus would be realized by the county among other information should be required before a sale was completed.

Emerson said commissioners have been wrongly accused of "dragging their feet" in this matter. He added that he did not understand why IPC has not approached commissioners recently about the purchase of the land.

Commissioners agreed to send a letter of interest about a land sale or swap to IPC.

#### County road extension of SR75

Highway superintendent Ron Francis announced the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has awarded \$1.2 million to the county to begin road construction to connect SR75 with the Hoosier Heartland

Highway. The "Water St." project would be built to state and federal standards north from Camden, however would be a county-owned and maintained road. County grant match would be \$230,000 set aside in the 2008 Economic Income Tax Development (EDIT) ordinance for the project, recently adopted by commissioners.

Francis said in a follow-up interview the award would fund preliminary engineering services for the project, create an "S" curve to link CR75W and CR50W and widen a bridge on CR50 north of CR650N. He said just that portion of the total project, which is estimated to cost \$8 million total, could be finished in 2015. Francis said INDOT could connect the new highway to CR50W before the Water St. project construction begins. He said economic development would be enhanced in the area by completing the first phase of the project.

#### Other highway business

Engineering proposals for Bridge #147, on CR1100N near the Landings, were opened. Francis will review each proposal and report.

The culvert on CR825N, east of Yeoman, was removed. A new culvert will be installed within the next two weeks.

Chip and sealing in Ockley, Owasco, on county roads 800S and 550S west of Pymont, 500S near Prince William and 350W from SR18 to Xenia Bridge was completed. Work on Illinois St., CR525N and Sleepy Hollow will begin soon. Residents were encouraged to contact Francis at with road areas that need to be patched.

Francis said the Wilson Bridge project is near completion. Paving is completed however guardrails, painting and ditch and should dressing must be

See Land sale page 5A

## Delphi's first budget reading delayed

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

When it was time to read the proposed 2009 city budget for approval on one of three readings, Delphi City Council President Carolyn Pearson said she was "not comfortable" with one item which was debated at the work session when the budget was developed. Pearson told other city council members and mayor Randy Strasser at the Monday night meeting she had concern about the need for one of the administrative assistant positions created when police dispatch funding was

eliminated.

Council member Danny Sterrett said he had the same concerns and was in favor of further discussion about the matter. Council members decided to table the first reading to allow them time to further discuss the need and feasibility of the position. The council will meet in special session Aug. 18 at 5 p.m., after the board of works meeting, to address the issue.

During the public hearing for the budget one resident expressed concern about being forced to pay a user fee for garbage collection and one resident praised council

See Delphi budget page 5A

## DLGF extends 2009 budget adoption date

### Property tax delay woes cited

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

In a surprise move, the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) announced Friday it had extended the date for local units of government 2009 budget adoption from Sept. 30 to Dec. 1. Although the measure gives more time for governmental units, such as the city of Delphi, the town of Flora and Carroll County Council, to process budgets, it might not do anything more than allow those developing the budgets additional information about how much revenue could be realized in 2008.

"Allowing local units of government the option of adopting budgets until Dec. 1 is in the best interest of taxpayers," David Bottorff, executive director of the Association of Indiana Coun-

ties, said in a press release. "It will give the counties increased flexibility as to when to adopt their budgets. Local governmental units will be able to obtain better information so they can evaluate potential tax rates, levies, budgets and the effects of the circuit breaker."

The director of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns agreed the extension could be helpful for entities such as Delphi and Flora.

"While most cities and towns are well on their way to finalizing budgets at this point, the added time may give some flexibility to those who are finding it necessary to run additional calculations to analyze the impacts of the new property tax caps," Matthew Greller said.

"By extending this deadline, local officials will have more time and information to plan and adopt budgets that will better match tax bills with the taxpayers' ability to pay," DLGF Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave said.

Carroll County Council President Nancy Cripe viewed the extension positively. She said Tuesday the state added a step to the budget process this year and that is taking time which the council has little of this time of year.

"The deadline is being ex-

See DLGF page 5A

## Window to the past



Some of the windows in downtown Delphi have been decorated for Old Settlers. Each window represents the history and heritage of one or more townships in Carroll County. Pictured above is The Flower Shoppe II window, with historical items from Democrat and Madison townships. Some of the items that can be seen are a school desk, quilt, and child's rocker. The school desk is from the New Hope Grade School, Madison Twp., 1924-1970. The hand stitched quilt was made by Radnor postmistress Madge Bougher, 1888-1953. The rocker belonged to William Dickinson who was born in Madison Twp. in 1918. The Old Settlers celebration is always held in the county seat, and the reflection of the courthouse can be seen in the window. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

## Skydiver falls to his death

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

A student with Air Indiana Skydiving Center LLC, based at Flora Municipal Airport, was killed Sunday when the parachute he was wearing failed to open successfully. He fell to his death from approximately 11,000 feet above the ground.

According to Flora Police Chief Paul Redmon, Cpl. Daniel Drust, an Elkhart police officer, was making his

18th jump when the accident happened. The preliminary investigation indicated he experienced a malfunction with the primary parachute and became entangled in the secondary emergency parachute, which prevented its deployment.

Redmon said his department was notified at 4:40 p.m. and officer Randy Larimore made the scene immediately. Carroll County EMS was already present at the accident site along with the Carroll

County Sheriff's Department and the Indiana State Police. The victim sustained major trauma and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The 36-year-old Drust was a six-year veteran with the Elkhart Police Department. He also worked for the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department and the Mishawaka Police Department. According to a press release from the Elkhart police, Drust was married with no children.

Redmon said the Federal

Aviation Administration (FAA) was at the airport Monday for the investigation. He said the Carroll County portion of the investigation was concluded.

An autopsy was performed in Lafayette Monday as well. The body of Cpl. Drust was released to his family Tuesday.

Air Indiana Skydiving Center LLC is owned and operated by George Capitanio Jr. of Rossville and Terry Plank of Kokomo.

## Old Settlers begins tonight

Comet staff report

Old Settlers begins tonight (Wednesday) on the courthouse square, with rides and amusements, entertainment, art show, local organizations' booth fair, and plenty of food.

The annual festival continues Thursday through Saturday. The Rendezvous encampment is held at Canal Park and continues through Sunday.

Rides and amusements are from 5 to 10 p.m. tonight and Thursday, 5 to 11 p.m. on Fri-

day, and noon to 11 on Saturday. Wristband will be honored from noon to 5 on Saturday, and there will be a bicycle giveaway at 3 p.m.

The Delphi Chamber of Commerce has lined up entertainment each evening on the courthouse east lawn. More than one act is planned each night, so bringing lawn chairs is suggested.

The Delphi Art Club's annual art show will be held in the courthouse throughout Old Settlers, including evenings

and on Saturday beginning at noon. Visitors can cast their vote for People's Choice awards. There will be a raffle for a painting donated by Robert Sales.

The Carroll County Historical Society Museum on the ground floor of the courthouse will be open the same hours as the art show. The museum also sponsors free children's games (with prizes), old-time craft demonstrations and displays, and musical entertainment. Some activities are inside the

museum, but most are held on the south lawn.

Children's games will be offered Friday night and on Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m. Crafts will be Friday night and from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday.

The museum's musical entertainment will include the Dulcimer Gathering from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and Banjo Nutz from 5 to 6 p.m., both on Saturday on the south lawn.

Smiles Unlimited will do face painting tonight from 6 to

See OS begins page 5A

## Old Settlers meeting – a continuing tradition

Comet staff report

Carroll County Old Settlers Association will have its 153rd annual meeting at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Delphi United Methodist Church. Registration begins at 12:30.

The meeting will also celebrate the 180th anniversary of the founding of Carroll County in 1828. Earliest settlement of the area was near Delphi in 1824, and in 1828,

General Samuel Milroy presented a petition for the formation of Carroll County.

Carroll County Old Settlers Association is believed to be the oldest continuing organization of its kind in the United States.

The first meeting of Old Settlers was held Aug. 4, 1855, at the Milroy woods near Delphi. The purpose was to collect the memories of those settlers who arrived

prior to 1831 and to preserve that history.

Meetings have been held the second Saturday in August every year since 1855. As many as 10,000 people used to attend. After Milroy woods and Lenon woods, and the courthouse square, the meetings were held for many years at the Delphi City Park shelter house, then at the high school, and back at the courthouse. For the past several

years, they have been held at the Delphi United Methodist Church.

Over the years, the meetings have had special programs, including a celebration of the Centennial in 1955 and the 150th anniversary in 2005.

This year's program will be provided by storyteller Doane Carson of Battle Ground. She will tell stories of early Indiana. She has been a storyteller

for 22 years and performs for audiences of all ages at schools, festivals, meetings, and other social occasions. She received training from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. A co-founder of the Tippecanoe Storytellers Guild, she offers workshops in the art of storytelling.

Awards will be given at the meeting for Oldest Man, Old-

See OS meeting page 5A