

# Sheriff Burns recoups 2002-2006 DOC funds

## Comet staff report

Carroll County Sheriff Tony Burns and his staff have done their part to bring funding into the county. Burns received the last of Indiana Department of Corrections (DOC) reimbursements from 2002 to 2006 this week. Monies collected for those years totaled \$184,330.

Counties are reimbursed at a rate of \$35/day per inmate for individuals who are sen-

tenced to DOC time. Each county has the capacity to invoice the state for payment if the DOC-detainee is held in the county jail beyond five days.

"Without the assistance of our staff, especially jail commander Lori Sustarsic and jail officer Jon Randle, this would have been a large undertaking for one individual to complete,"



Burns

Burns said. "Through their diligent efforts we were able to compile the reimbursement numbers to report to the DOC." "During my first year in office in 2007, we received \$32,550.00 from DOC," he added. "We are still awaiting additional DOC reimbursements from the beginning of this year. But through this process, we are actively bringing addi-

tional dollars back to our county."

Burns said the reimbursement is deposited into county general. It does not go directly into the sheriff or jail budgets.

The break-down of funds reimbursed to the county per year follows.

- 2002 - \$21,000.00
- 2003 - \$22,365.00
- 2004 - \$52,465.00
- 2005 - \$46,060.00
- 2006 - \$42,440.00

# Burlington keeps an eye on town clean-up

## Susan Scholl Editor

Burlington Town Council president Stan Moore praised the efforts by some to clean-up their properties, but "we still have problems," he said at the council's Aug. 12 meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Christy Shepherd explained the process for unkept properties. She said the town mails a letter to the homeowner stating the property needs to be mowed, along with a deadline for getting the work done. If there is no response, the town has the authority to mow the property and then send the homeowner a bill for mowing. If the homeowner fails to pay the bill, the town can place a lien against the property.

The recent town clean-up days have been beneficial, said Moore.

"The town is doing some great things," he said, "but we need to make sure that we take care of the eyesores. We want to continue to enhance what we are doing."

Town attorney Justin Alter was instructed to see if the town has other recourses it can take to force homeowners to take care of their properties.

## Chamber of Commerce

Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Director Sana

Booker explained the Chamber's new Business Partner Program.

"We're offering businesses extended marketing through this program," she said.

This marketing tool to help businesses grow is offered in three levels according to the need and investment resources of the business. In just two months the program has generated \$10,000, said Booker. "The Chamber is not as self-sufficient as we'd like it to be," she said, "but we have 138 members and we continue to grow."

Booker said other counties are starting to take notice that Carroll County does a lot of things right.

"We have a strong sense of community and people here do more volunteering than any place I've ever seen," she commented.

Upcoming Chamber events include a golf outing in September and a men's celebration dinner in November.

Stating "we need everyone in Carroll County pulling together," Moore recommended that the town become a member of the Chamber and council members Teddy Huffer and Joe Armstrong agreed.

## Community Club

It was reported that the Community Club's fundraiser for Christmas lights was a success. There are enough

funds for lights this year and a good start for lights next year.

The lights will be put up around Nov. 10 and taken down after the first of the year.

The Community Club would like to find five to seven interested individuals to be on a Christmas Decorating Committee to help manage the account and help with fundraising. Anyone interested in being on the committee is asked to contact the town office.

Plans are underway by the Community Club for the annual Fall Festival in September.

The club needs help with the festival, said Moore. "It should be a lot of people doing a little work and not a few people doing a lot of work. He encouraged people to volunteer.

## Other business

Hawn Drive from SR 22 to Mill Road will be paved at a cost of \$4,480 by Milestone Contractors. ENB Paving, a division of Milestone, will seal the ally beside the fire department at a cost of \$418.

The town expects reimbursement by FEMA of a little over \$2,100 for expenses related to the log jam clean-up, reported council member Teddy Huffer.

The council signed a resolution to reduce the budget by

# Health officials urge Hoosiers to protect against West Nile virus

## Comet staff report

State health officials are urging Hoosiers to take steps to protect themselves from the West Nile virus, which is transmitted by mosquitoes. Last year, there were 24 human cases of West Nile virus in the state.

"When we look at what has occurred in previous years, the recent increase in the number of mosquito groups testing positive for the virus suggests a greater risk of people getting infected with West Nile virus," said James Howell, DVM, state epidemiologist at the Indiana State Department of Health. "The best thing people can do to prevent getting infected is to take some simple steps to protect themselves from getting bitten by a mosquito."

Dr. Howell recommends, if possible, people avoid being outdoors during prime mosquito biting times, dusk to dawn. When outdoors, Hoosiers should:

- Apply insect repellent containing DEET, Picardin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus to clothes and exposed skin; and
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.

"August and September have been the months when most human West Nile cases occur," said Dr. Howell. "We will continue to see this until evenings are below 50 degrees, and we have a hard frost. There are many factors that can affect mosquito populations, including weather patterns. Unfortunately, these factors are impossible to predict ahead of time, so we must be prepared."

Dr. Howell says through-

out the summer people should:

- Dispose of old tires, tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or other unused containers that can hold water;
- Repair failed septic systems;
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers left outdoors;
- Keep grass cut short and shrubbery trimmed;
- Clean clogged roof gutters, particularly if leaves tend to plug up the drains; and
- Aerate ornamental pools, or stock them with predatory fish.

Most people have very mild disease. Health officials report individuals age 50 and over are at greatest risk for serious illness and even death from West Nile virus. However, people of all ages can be and have been infected with the virus.



## Titus honored

Penny Titus was recognized recently as the 2008 honoree from her Republican Women's club - Carroll County Republican Women - at the 28th annual "Tribute to Women" dinner. It was hosted by the Indiana Federation of Republican Women at Primo West Banquet and Conference Center in Plainfield.

Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, State Auditor Tim Berry, State Attorney General Steve Carter, and Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Suellen Reed joined IFRW President Marcie Thompson in honoring Titus for her outstanding service and leadership in the Indiana Republican Party.

"The Tribute to Women is one way that Indiana Republicans can acknowledge the tremendous volunteer work women contribute to make a difference in Indiana," Thompson said.



Titus

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