

# School board split on land purchase

## Tie-breaker moves project forward

**By Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer  
Delphi Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session with members of Delphi United Methodist Church before the regularly scheduled Monday night meeting. When the vote came at the public meeting to decide whether to proceed with a land purchase it was three in favor of the purchase and three against. Board president Robert Resler cast the deciding vote to proceed with the project.

Jim Garrison made the motion to purchase the 15 acres for no more than \$15,500 per acre, Nick Cronk and Melinda Rossetter voted to proceed.

In a follow-up interview, Resler said church representatives said they would offer the land for sale to the school corporation for \$16,000 per acre. He said he as-

sumed that would be the motion, not the one for \$15,500.

Board member Jerry Sparks, who voted against the proposed land deal, said other corporation needs were more pressing than purchasing 15 acres. He said he placed education first.

"I've heard tonight that we have needs for education and additional staff," he said.

Bill Trueblood, who also opposed the motion, said the purchase was not needed at the present time. Chris Nipple provided the third nay vote.

Resler stated there were no plans "on the drawing board" for use of the land. He said the church would provide an access drive from US421, which could eventually become a city street.

### Drug testing

Middle and high school principal Barry Stone reported drug testing would commence Oct. 15 in the high school. He said each month a pool of

15 students would be selected from those who possess driving privileges or who participate in extra-curricular activities.

Stone explained the program was designed to provide each student with another opportunity to say "no" to drugs, not to punish them. Parents will be required to sign permission forms for testing their children. Failure to give permission would result in the student losing driving privileges and/or the privilege to participate in outside activities.

According to a representative from the company that will administer it, the test will gauge usage of alcohol, amphetamines, cocaine, THC, barbiturates, methadone and other drugs. It will test for metabolites which indicate the body has metabolized the drug. The representative said there was no way for the test to produce a false-positive result.

### Proposed renovation

Board members voted, in a five-to-one vote, to proceed with a public hearing to determine how to proceed with the proposed renovation project at the middle and high schools. Trueblood voted against the action.

When the project was first proposed earlier this year, opponents launched a remonstrance against the cost of the project, which stalled progress. The board decided to table the issue.

A new law became effective July 1 which could put the final decision to proceed to registered voters in the school district in the form of a referendum that could lead to a special election. The cost for the election to taxpayers was not known.

A work session will be held Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. for board members and the public to learn about the process.

### Other business

Energy saving devices will be in-

stalled on school corporation equipment by the end of October. Predicted corporation cost savings are \$62,089.08.

A public hearing for the 2009 budget was held. Superintendent Ralph Walker said the tax rate would be reduced by approximately 48.7 percent due to state intervention and debt retirement by the corporation.

A resolution to approve the extension of the term of multipurpose bonds, used to fund an addition to the elementary school in 1994, for two years at the same tax rate, was approved in a four-to-two vote. Nipple and Trueblood voted against the extension. Money generated will be used for upgrades at the elementary and early childhood development center buildings.

Indian Trails Education Cooperative will be allowed to build a building on  
**See DCSC page 5A**

# Alleged fire setter still incarcerated

**By Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

Larry E. Farner, 62, Delphi, who was arrested Sept. 3 on suspicion of arson for setting the Wabash & Erie Canal Center's playground canal boat replica on fire during the early morning of Aug. 31. According to Maj. Tobe Leazenby of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Farner remains in the Carroll County Jail with a \$50,000 bond.



**Farner**

Investigating county officer Sgt. Dennis Randle said no additional charges have been filed in the case. All evidence was forwarded to the laboratory at the Indiana State Police Post in Lowell for examination. He said testing results are not expected before mid-October.

According to Delphi Police Chief Justin Darling, Farner may face additional charges from the city for unrelated crimes.

# Kindergartners raise funds for burned canal boat

## Project idea popped into their heads



**Popcorn Project**  
Sherri Cripe's kindergarten class at Camden Early Childhood Center sold bags of popcorn to their fellow kindergarten students last Friday. The proceeds will go to the Canal Association to help rebuild its burned playground boat. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

**By Jennifer Archibald**  
Staff writer

Even little kids can contribute to community projects.

Kindergartners in Sherri Cripe's class at Camden Early Childhood Center heard about the arson fire that destroyed half of the playground canal boat in Delphi, and they wanted to help.

The students had been talking about letter writing in their class, so they wrote a letter to the canal volunteers, telling them how sorry they were that the boat was burned.

Mrs. Cripe said the students talked about some of the things the canal volunteers would need to rebuild the boat. The children decided they could help out by raising money. They came up with the idea of selling popcorn. To finish their project quickly, they concluded that they would sell bags of freshly made popcorn to the other kindergarten classes at the school.

They had to arrive at a price for their popcorn, and Mrs. Cripe said the first price suggested was \$100 a bag. After some discussion, they settled on a more af-

fordable price of 50 cents a bag.

Their project was carried out toward the end of the day last Friday. Head custodian Robert Smith helped out by popping the corn. Mrs. Cripe's class wore special hats, which they made themselves, designating them as the sellers and money-takers.

Mrs. Cripe said the project raised \$311.69, which will be given to the Canal Association.

She said the total includes extra donations given by the children and their families. It also includes \$67.19 that

student Karissa Tomson raised over the weekend by asking members of her church to donate to the project.

Mrs. Cripe said one of the most sacrificial donations came from one of her students, Cynthia Rossi.

"She had been saving all summer for an American Girl doll," Mrs. Cripe said. "And she gave all of it for rebuilding the boat."

"I am very proud of what these five and six-year-olds have accomplished," Mrs. Cripe said. "They definitely are showing love to their community."

# Residents voice concerns over Armory Road

**By Theresa Replogle**  
Contributing writer

Dick Hawkins, representing eight neighbors on Armory Rd., addressed the Delphi City Council Monday night. Hawkins complained about the decision to chip and seal the road instead of paving it. Five other residents also attended the meeting.



**Strasser**

Hawkins read a two-page letter asking for a "straight, honest answer." He said residents "feel that we were let down by the city."

Concerns were for the safety of children who travel the road each day, the poor quality of the workmanship, the amount of dust and noise that has been created and whether the council handled the decision in a responsible manner.

The letter indicated a concern for how Delphi would look to visitors from out-of-town who attend sporting

events or visit the nursing home. Residents noted a possible negative effect for anyone looking to buy property in the city.

Hawkins called for a police officer and signage to address the issue of speeders.

According to Hawkins, neighbors feel the street should have been a priority when the city appropriated dollars for repaving due to the proximity of the schools, sporting facilities, nursing home and medical clinic located there.

Hawkins said street commissioner Aaron Lyons swept some of the loose gravel with the street sweeper.

Milestone Contractors, the company that did the work, did not fill potholes before adding the chip and seal. Residents said there is water now standing in them.

There is also no sidewalk on Armory Rd. Hawkins told  
**See Armory Road page 5A**



Mailing label goes here

# Flora to consider charging for trash pickup in 2010

**By Susan Scholl**  
Editor

Flora Town Council will hold a work session to discuss specifications in the 2009 trash contract and to get public input on what type of program the community might want in anticipation of charging for trash pickup in 2010.

Clerk-Treasurer Joretta Tinsman said at Monday night's council meeting that the current contract with Clinton County Disposal is costing the town \$98,000 plus. With the considerable increase this year in the cost of fuel, she anticipates a significant increase in the cost of the service.

"We should have enough in our 2009 budget to cover the increase," said Tinsman, "but with the one percent cap on property taxes there may not be enough money coming in to pay for all the services the town provides in the future."

Because there has been some discrepancies in what is and is not picked up, Tinsman said the council needs to set clearer expectations before advertising for trash pickup bids for 2009.

Pay options include a pay as you throw program or charging utilities customers a set charge on their monthly bill. Supplying trash totes for each residence is also being considered.

The work session will be held at 6 p.m. Sept. 22 in the Fireside Building.

### County Chamber

Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Director Sana Booker gave an update on new Chamber sponsored programs and events.

She said this week's golf outing fundraiser has attracted 70 participants and will be held at Angel Hill Golf Course, Rossville. Angel Hill was selected for the outing because it is a Chamber

member. Planning for the event began last February/March.

The Business-to-Business luncheons have been renamed Informational Series Luncheons. Upcoming topics for the monthly gatherings will include billboard marketing, diversity training and conflict resolution.

Because a Women's Celebration Luncheon was held in April, Booker said plans are underway to celebrate men with a similar event in November.

Booker explained the Chamber's Business Partnership Program and said there are currently 10 members.

"These are businesses that want to move their business to the next level of marketing," she explained.

Brenneco Fire Protection, a Business Partnership member from Flora, recently sponsored the Chamber's Legislative Dinner. Legislators who

make decisions about Carroll County were invited and attendees had the opportunity to ask them questions. U.S. Representative Joe Donnelly, State Senator Brandt Hershman and State Representative Rich McCain attended.

"Interest is growing," said Booker. "Attendance was up from last year."

### Other business

Sgt. James Bishop presented the police department's report for August which included 7 arrests/misdemeanors, 3 felonies, 30 citations, 73 warnings, 113 calls for service, 5 accidents and one warrant.

The Plan Commission approved two building permits in August: Nancy Fowler for a fence and Curt Hufty for an addition.

Council President Josh Ayres said the council has agreed to provide a natural screen for the residents to the west and north of the site for

the new communication tower on East Elizabeth Street town property.

For the first time in four quarters, Indiana Municipal Power Agency's energy cost adjustment to its members is going down. The decrease will amount to \$4.51 for every 1,000 kilowatt hours consumed during the last three months of the year.

Roadwork on Monroe Street has been completed at a cost of \$4,700.

Final adoption for the 2009 budget was held. The Cum Sewer Ordinance 2008-4 was passed.

Superintendent Chuck Everett will attend the Indiana Municipal Electric Association Fall Conference Oct. 7-9 in Indianapolis.

Moonlight Madness will be held in downtown Flora on Oct. 4.

The next regular council meeting will be Oct. 6 at 6 p.m.