

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Memberships include:

Let's be open, up front and take our time...

A new day is dawning in Carroll County. The November general election is a mere 40 days away. When the curtain goes down on that event, the county could have up to three new council members, perhaps a new county recorder and surveyor, and definitely a new county commissioner. The county will also have a new leader at the county highway department.

Let's get it right voters, taxpayers and residents. Take your time to learn about your candidates. Ask questions and make them answer you. Do not accept answers that sidestep the question and the issue being discussed.

And let's not rush into a decision about who will be the next county highway superintendent.

Commissioners, take your time to decide what qualifications you will be searching for in that new hire. Take the time to ask the taxpayers and residents what they need and expect in that position. Take the time to visit with the county council about what kind of person or qualifications they would like to see in that position. Do not be afraid to engage the guy who will be commissioner after the first of the year as well as the guy who is sitting in the chair right now. And do your talking in the light for all to see. Do it in open meetings. Resist the temptation to visit with each other and other county leaders behind closed doors to discuss how to make the replacement.

This is a critical time in Carroll County and we can't afford not to get it right the first time.

Our first house was a little frame, one-story on a 50-foot wide city lot. Today, the house would be described as functionally obsolete, but when my wife and I first saw it, it was simply love at first sight. The kitchen was so hopeless that there was absolutely no place for a refrigerator. We wound up installing an under-counter refrig so as not to disturb the wonderful French windows that lined the two outside walls. Those windows stole more than their share of cabinet and appliance wall space but they invited in the light and provided a room devoted to whimsey.

The house was as eccentric as the owners from whom we purchased it. Though it was empty and a wreck with a leaky roof, those owners had held onto the house, unused, for a decade or so. During all those years the place sat empty and unattended. The yard was left to return to its natural prairie origins. The backyard was a sea of bluebells and assorted volunteer plants. There was nothing to resemble a lawn.

To the east of the house lived Betty and Bob Martin and their three children. To the west were Eleanor and Auggie Muller. The day we moved in Auggie introduced himself by uttering as his first words, "you overpaid for this house."

The Martins and the Mullers were all happy to see a family move into the house that sat between them. Some-



Next Door

one once said to me that a vacant house is never a happy house because it is not fulfilling its purpose. I think there's truth to that.

But as much as the Martins and Mullers were happy to see a family in the house, they were also happy to be relieved of a decade of chores associated with their adjoining neighbor. They were now excused from mowing the lawn, shoveling the snow and picking up the flyers and mailers that accumulated at the front door of the old place.

That's right, rather than live next to an unintended mess, the neighbors of the little brown house on Oakwood Avenue took matters into their own hands. They kept things tended to "next door."

I think of the Martins and the Mullers when I hear or read a discussion of all the vacant houses that have resulted from the sea of house foreclosures occasioned by the financial crises in the ongoing sub-prime mortgage meltdown.

The coverage of this mortgage mess almost always includes some reference to the overgrown yards and untended appearance of vacant houses in the midst of fore-

closure. And I wonder to myself, "where are the neighbors?"

Call me selfish, call me nerdy, but I could not live next door to a vacant house and ignore the unmown lawn or the accumulated trash or the banging screen door blowing in the wind. Couldn't do it, wouldn't do it. I'd be mowing and cleaning up and securing - just like the Martins and the Mullers did on the vacant house that stood between them for so many years.

This foreclosure mess is going to take a long time to get resolved. A lot of houses are going to sit empty and neglected for long periods of time. The lawns will go uncut, the litter will pile up, the shutters will blow off and the front gate will blow open and slam shut. And the mortgage holders, the reluctant owners of these properties, many have already proven unwilling and incapable of tending to their inventory.

The neighbors next door can play a helpful role in the mess left behind by this mortgage foreclosure epidemic. Call and complain to the bank, sure, if anyone will listen, if anyone will even take your call. But be proactive too. Protect your neighborhood, and your investment. Mow the parkway, latch the garden gate, pick up the flyers tossed on the front stoop. Like the Martins and the Mullers, take some care until your new neighbors arrive home.

Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie

New filings are from public records available in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi. Other information regarding judgments and marriage dissolutions is gathered from public records found in the clerk's office.

Brandon Lane, 20, was ordered to serve six years in the Department of Correction with three years suspended and 402 days credit for failure to serve one year on electronically monitored home detention.

Complaints on note and foreclosures filed were: Bank of New York Mellon Trust Co. vs. Dorsha A. Cobbs and Ralph B. Cobbs; PHH Mortgage Corp. vs. Timothy Martin aka Timothy M. Martin, Lisa Martin aka Lisa C. Martin aka Lisa C. Brown and First Financial Bank NA Communitywide Federal Credit Union; and Bank of New York vs. Charles E. Gerlach et al, Deborah S. Gerlach and Geraldine Cook aka Doris Geraldine Cook and Associates.

Capital One Bank filed a complaint against Albert J. Demko.

LVNV Funding LLC filed a complaint against Diane Brown.

Friendly Finance Corp. filed a complaint against Jon Scowden.

Brandon L. Dail was charged with three counts of burglary, three counts of attempted burglary and three counts of theft.

Shaun A. Smith was charged with burglary and theft.

Aaron D. Anderson was charged with burglary, theft and driving while suspended.

Brent H. Chittick was charged with dealing in a schedule-two controlled substance.

Christopher D. Mill, 19, and Paige E. Keys, 19 were both granted emancipation.

Default judgments and foreclosures were found for the plaintiff in: HSBC Bank USA NA f/k/a HSBC Bank USA as trustee for PHH2007-1 vs. Luke W. Windler and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. as nominee for PHH Mortgage Corp. for \$75,452.52; LaSalle Bank National Assn. as trustee for GSAMP Trust 2006-HE4, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-HE4 vs. Edmond L. Trussel, Joyce Trussel, Patricia A. Click, Cecil L. Click and unknown occupants for \$89,310.08; Citimortgage Inc as successor in interest by merger to ABN Amro Mortgage Group Inc vs. Casey Watson aka Casey T. Watson et al for \$91,414.69; and U.S. Bank National Assn. as successor to LaSalle Bank National Assn. et al vs. Troy Cook for \$64,188.56;

David Colbert, 40, withdrew a former plea of guilty and will stand trial for four counts of child molesting Sept. 15 at 9 a.m.

The cause of FIA Card Services NA f/k/a MBNA America Bank NA vs. Brian D. Wagoner DDS was reinstated.

Marriage dissolutions were granted for the following:

Juanita E. Tinney and Robert G. Tinney;

Rick A. Carter and Sharon A. Carter;

Rachel Homier and Jason Homier;

Courtney Graves and Michael Graves;

Rodney L. Nies and Velma M. Nies;

Jennifer Engels and Christopher Engels;

John A. Denmark Jr. and Suzanne J. Denmark.

The following causes were dismissed: Regions Bank d/b/a Regions Mortgage f/k/a Union Planters Bank NA vs. Douglas R. Abdon, Felicia K. Abdon et al; U.S. Bank National Association as trustee for the MLMI Surf Trust Series 2007-BC2 vs. William Adams; WM Specialty Mortgage LLC vs. Russell G. Young and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc as nominee for Accredited Home Lenders Inc.; and Alice M. Floyd vs. Gabriel Castillo-Tovar;

Default judgments were entered for the plaintiff in: Arrow Financial Services LLC as assignee of Best Buy vs. Troy Robinette for \$1,113.86; Midland Credit Management Inc. as servicing agent for Midland Funding LLC as assignee of Dell Financing Services vs. Dusty Davis for \$2,086.88; and Capital One Bank USA NA vs. George I. Isley for \$6,474.28.



Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith

Superior Court judgments are gathered from public records on file in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi.

New filings

Heather A. Williamson was charged with public indecency and illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

Charged with illegal consumption were Coltan L. Marcum and Brandon L. Gaylor (two counts).

Teresa L. Fraser was charged with check deception.

Charged with OWI/endangering were Arthur F. Dumas; Tracey L. Moore (2 counts);

Bryan E. Cunningham, was charged with residential entry, public indecency and illegal consumption of alcohol.

Richard M. Galuoppo was charged with invasion of privacy.

Maria E. Gonzalez was charged with identity deception.

The following were

charged with possession of marijuana and reckless possession of paraphernalia: David T. Swain, Raymond C. Fuller, and Bradley C. Ice.

Angela M. Rodgers, was charged with identity deception, OWI/endangering, possession of marijuana, false informing, driving while suspended and habitual substance offender.

Jared E. Filbrun was charged with domestic battery, strangulation and unlawful possession of a firearm by a domestic batterer.

George E. Trapp was charged with OWI/endangering and speeding.

Troy A. Wagoner was charged with illegal consumption of alcohol and illegal possession of alcohol.

Jeffrey A. Manny was charged with criminal mischief.

Lester L. Bagwell Jr., was charged with failure to stop after an accident resulting in non-vehicular damage.

Alesha A. Reamer was

charged with operating a vehicle as an habitual traffic violator.

Alisa Thompkins, 36, Marion, was convicted of check deception and sentenced to pay \$164.50 court costs.

Kyle D. Brower, 20, Rossville, was convicted of illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage and sentenced to 60 days, 54 suspended and the remainder to be served in the Carroll County Jail, and six months supervised probation.

Bert A. Gates III, 33, Delphi, was convicted of criminal trespass and was sentenced to 60 days suspended and one year unsupervised probation.

James L. Griffith, 53, Lafayette was convicted of public intoxication and sentenced to 180 days suspended and one year supervised probation.

Jessica L. Huffner, 21, Cutler, was convicted of OWI/endangering and was sentenced to one year suspended and one year supervised probation.

Jesus R. Miera, 27, Mishawaka, was convicted of possession of marijuana and driving while suspended and was sentenced to one year suspended and one year supervised probation.

The following causes brought by the State of Indiana have been dismissed: vs: Andrew Deloria, without prejudice; Jeffrey A. Wagner, without prejudice; Fe E. Hitch; Angel Flores, without prejudice; Rachel L. Lucas, with prejudice; Laura L. Powell, with prejudice; Robert F. May, with prejudice; Misty Mulkey, without prejudice; and Sherry L. Miller, without prejudice.

Samantha J. Russell, 19, Monticello, was found guilty of driving while suspended and sentenced to 60 days in jail suspended, six months supervised probation and \$164.50 court costs.

Adam B. Smith, 22, Delphi was convicted of driving while suspended. He was sentenced to one year in jail suspended, one year supervised probation and \$164.50 court costs.

Christopher W. Bradford, 25, Reynolds, was convicted of OWI/endangering and disregarding a stop sign. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail and ordered to pay \$364.50 court costs.

Eleuterio B. Castillo, 25, Monticello, was convicted of OWI/endangering and was sentenced to 180 days in jail with 170 days suspended, one year supervised probation and \$364.50 court costs.

David Wills, 19, Flora, was convicted of possession of marijuana and sentenced to one year in jail with 345 days suspended, 345 days supervised probation and \$364 court costs.

Deborah R. McCarty, 36, Brighthurst, was convicted of battery and sentenced to 180 days in jail suspended, one year supervised probation and \$164 court costs.

Samuel R. Scharer, 20, Cutler, was convicted of resisting law enforcement and was sentenced to 60 days in jail suspended.

Restaurant Inspections

Blimpies
Type of Inspection: Routine
6/25/08
Critical Violations: None
Non-Critical Violations: None

Carroll County Jail
Type of Inspection: Routine
6/26/08
Critical Violations: None
Non-Critical Violations: 1
No thermometer in up right freezer in dry storage area. Correct by: 24 hours

Burlington Pizza King
Type of Inspection: Routine
8/18/08
Critical Violations: 1
No certified food handler. Correct by: 11/08/08
Non-Critical Violations: None

probation, one year supervised probation and \$164 court costs.

Lela F. Labeau, 27, Flora, was convicted of battery resulting in bodily injury and was sentenced to 180 days in jail suspended, one year supervised probation and \$164.50 court costs.

LeShawn D. Justice, 31, Delphi, was convicted of operating a vehicle with a schedule one or two controlled substance or its metabolite in the body and was sentenced to 60 days in jail suspended, one year supervised probation and \$364.50 court costs.

Because the public has a right to know...

In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are happening when and where, the Comet will now print upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

Thursday, Sept. 25

✓ Commissioners Special Meeting: 8 a.m.
✓ County Council: 8:30 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 26

✓ County Council: 8:30 a.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Sheriff Sale-Brown5B
- Sheriff Sale-Daily5B
- Sheriff Sale-Jones5B
- Eller Estate6B
- Scott Name Change ...5B
- Sheriff Sale-R. Martinez .6B
- Sheriff Sae-J. Martinez .4B
- Deer Creek TWP-Budget .5B
- Not of Suit-Shockley ...5B
- Sheriff Sale-Snyder5B
- Hartman Estate5B
- DCSC-Spec. Mtg5B
- RCS-Not. of Adopt5B
- Duke Energy-Notice ...5B
- Comm.-Adv. for Bids5B
- Sheriff Sale-James5B
- Sheriff Sale-Carlson7B
- Small Estate5B
- Elec. Brd.-Voting Places .5B
- Draper Estate5B
- CCSC-Tax Levies4B
- CCSC-Bus Replace4B

Questions concerning Indiana's Open Door and Public Access Laws may be directed to the state's public access office, at 1-800-228-6013.

Web poll

Tell us starting Wednesday at our web site, carrollcountycomet.com

Each week the Comet polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at carrollcountycomet.com starting each Thursday, and then click the Comments link to send us an email voicing your opinion. The best responses will be printed the following week.

Do you agree with the federal government's bailout of mortgage and insurance companies with our tax dollars?

Yes, it was necessary to stave off an economic depression.

No, we are going to have to suffer an economic depression to fix what is wrong in this country.

I don't know

Last Weeks results

Would you attend a real debate of contenders for the three county council seats if one was offered?

56% Absolutely! I want them all to explain their differences
7% I would rather see a nice orderly forum
38% No

Total responses: 106

Reader's comments: