

Rebuilt and painted



Jeff Seramur and Kevin McNally recently volunteered their time to spray and roll paint onto the playground canal boat at Canal Park. The painting job came eight weeks after an arson fire took the back half of this full size replica. Many children and adults donated money for replacing the fire loss. Most of the rebuilding was accomplished in four weeks. During reconstruction, the regular volunteer crew doubled in size - 10-12 workers each day. Hundreds of hours of volunteer carpentry work have gone into the boat. "Volunteer" will be painted in fancy letters on the back name plate to recognize the efforts of so many men and women. Richard Funkhouser is the supporter of this massive exhibit. Photo provided

Townships

From page 1A

ally function as "civil corporations for the administration of poor relief, assessment of taxable property and related functions."

The township trustee, with the consent of the township board, may purchase fire-fighting equipment and employ firefighters. The total township funds across the county for the line item "fire-fighting" to begin 2008 was \$1,018,492.30 and in the line item "cumulative fire" was \$451,297.95 for all townships in the county.

No two townships control the same amount of tax revenue and investments. The total amount at the end of 2007 for all townships combined in township assistance, formerly known as poor relief, equaled \$326,518.31.

All townships contained \$1,113,509.20 combined in their general funds at the end of 2007. Every township, except for Liberty Township, began 2008 with an amount in the tens of thousands of dollars. According to former township trustee and current county council member Ron Slavens, that number represents money available to the township to spend on any item budgeted.

"Townships suffered the same money woes as the council did," Slavens ex-

plained. "Most of them just managed it better."

Slavens explained some 2007 township property tax settlements were not received until after the first of January 2008, which skewed the amount of funds available downward on the annual reports.

Hershman said he was not convinced all of the recommendations in the report are needed. He said he did not anticipate all 27 would be addressed this year.

"But let's talk about it," he added. "Why shouldn't we examine these things?"

Hershman emphasized all changes to local government structure would be legislated according to state statute. He said bills are expected to be authored this year, introduced and then sent to committees. Bills with merit would be accepted into committee and then studied, which would include testimony received from local representatives about the benefits and pitfalls of the proposed bills.

Hershman said constituents can become and remained informed about the Kernan-Shepard report by accessing his Web site at in.gov/s7 and clicking on the "Kernan-Shepard Report" link. Hershman said his office distributes a survey at the first of the

year to solicit input from taxpayers. He said he reads every personal response personally.

"I ask for their opinions because I want to hear them," he said.

He said he can be reached by E-mail via his web site and encouraged taxpayers to attend Third House Sessions, held in Monticello, for Carroll and White counties' residents. The meetings are held the third Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Brandywine Complex, beginning in January.

"I consider the Kernan-Shepard Report a carefully considered effort and a framework for discussion and a very useful document," he concluded.

Planning

From page 1A

Robeson explained that Carroll, Delphi, Rossville, and Twin Lakes school corporations get together and appoint one representative to the APC from the schools. The current representative is Bob McCain. His current term expires at the end of December. Sayers said they are opening up the position to the public. The board has already received the name of one person who is interested, and

James L. Gill

James L. Gill, 73, of Brookston, died Nov. 7, 2008, at his residence.

Born Oct. 26, 1935, in Bowling Green, Ohio, he was the son of the late Dale and Ardenell Gill. His marriage was in 1953, in Haskins, Ohio, to June H. Ballard, who survives.

Mr. Gill was employed at The Andersons Inc. in Delphi from 1975 until his retirement in 1995.

Surviving are four sons, Bob Gill (wife Jan) and Dennis Gill (wife Barb), both of Swanton, Ohio, Doug Gill (wife: Ann) of Munice, and Jamie Gill (companion: Deb) of Monticello; a sister, Patricia Paul (husband: Dick) of McClure, Ohio; 12 grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two stepgreat-grandchildren.

Services were held Nov. 11 in Tontogany, Ohio. Burial followed at Milton Township Cemetery.

Memorials can be sent to the Carroll County Sheriff's Dept., Canine Fund, 310 Main St., Delphi, IN 46923.

Obituaries

Nadine Eller



Nadine Eller, 74, of Burlington, died at 3:20 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008, at St. Joseph Hospital, Kokomo. Born Feb.

11, 1934, in Burlington, she was the daughter of Frank and Imogene Zartman Austin. She graduated from Burlington High School in 1951. On Dec. 23, 1951, she married Robert Eller, who survives.

Mrs. Eller had worked as a secretary at the Burlington Block Co.

She had received her EMT certification.

Surviving with her husband are two sons, Greg Eller (wife: Karen) of Amboy and Dean Eller of Burlington; two sisters, Joan Coil of Kokomo and Kathleen Hignite of Florida; one brother, Carl Austin of Burlington; 10 grandchildren, one great-grandchild; and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Marsha Austin.

Services were held Saturday at Stout & Son Funeral Home, Neptune Chapel, Burlington. Pastor Steve Cole officiated. Burial followed at Burlington Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Burlington Fire Department. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be sent to www.stoutandson.com.

Naomi V. Butcher



Naomi V. Butcher, 89, of Flora, died at 5 p.m. Nov. 9, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Hospital Medical Center, Lafayette. Born Jan.

3, 1919, near Bringham, she was the daughter of Harry and Cora Anspaugh Quinn. She was married April 13, 1941, to Meredith Butcher, who preceded her in death on July 13, 1997.

She was a 1936 graduate of Flora High School and was a homemaker.

Mrs. Butcher was a member of Flora First Christian Church, was past president of Beta Alpha Chapter of Psi Iota Xi, Flora, and a 50-year member and past worthy matron of Flora Chapter 490, Order of the Eastern Star. She was a former member of the Flora-Monroe Township Library Board and was an avid reader.

Surviving are one daughter, Kathy Shank (husband: Bill) of Delphi, one granddaughter, Jami Riley (husband: Dan) of Durham, N.C., one great-granddaughter, Inara Riley of Durham; three nieces, Jennifer Archibald of Flora, Connie Holmeen of Connecticut, and Kristie Martinovich of Michigan, four great-nieces and nephews, Stephanie Good, Lindsay Calhoun, Kipp Podlewski, and Randy Holmeen, and seven great-great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by two sisters, one granddaughter, and one stepgrandson.

Services are today at 11 a.m. at Baker Funeral Home, Flora, with Pastor Sam Davenport officiating. Visitation will be from 9 to 11 a.m. prior to the service. Burial will be in Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora.

Memorials may be made to Flora-Monroe Township Public Library, 109 North Center Street, Flora, or to Flora First Christian Church, 8 East South Street, Flora.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.bakerfh.com.

Rosalie Felthoff



Rosalie Felthoff, 81, of Delphi, died at 3:30 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lafayette.

Born June 4, 1927, in Fresno, Calif., she was the daughter of Nelson and Eva Martin Bowerman. Her marriage was on June 24, 1945, in Fresno to Charles L. Felthoff, who preceded her in death July 7, 2003.

Mrs. Felthoff graduated from Fresno Technical High School.

She was a longtime member of the Radnor United Methodist Church and a member of the Ockley Ladies Community Club.

Mrs. Felthoff loved gardening and sewing. She was a loving homemaker. Surviving are a daughter, Kathryn Wiles (husband: Thomas) of Fuquay Varina, N.C.; a son Bennie Felthoff (wife: Judy) of Lafayette; four grandchildren, Angie Elder of Moyock, N.C., Jamie Oberholtzer of Carmel, Mandy Felthoff and Jeremy Felthoff, both of Lafayette; and eight great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were three sisters, Dorothy Eagles, Evelyn Harding and Betty Kirkman, a brother, Trellis Bowerman, and a grandson, Chad Felthoff.

Visitation is today, Wednesday, from 11 a.m. until time of service at 1 p.m. at Davidson Funeral Home in Delphi. Pastor Ed Selvidge will officiate. Burial will follow at Pymont Cemetery in Pymont.

Memorials may be made in care of Robert Kraft Fund.

Online condolences can be sent to davidsonfh.com.

Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor responding to articles and events in the news. They must include the author's name, address and telephone number. The letter writer's name and city/town will appear in the paper - no exceptions. Letters must be 400 words or less in length. Please send your letters to: editor@carrollcountymet.com; Letters to the Editor, Comet, P.O. Box 26, Flora, IN 46929 or P.O. Box 179, Delphi, IN 46923; or fax 574-967-3384 or 765-564-2010. By submitting a letter or opinion article, the author grants the Comet the right to publish, distribute, archive or use the work in print, electronic, on-line or other format.

The Great American Auction of 2008

The great American Auction of 2008 is over, and the presidency has been awarded to the highest bidder. The campaign was an obscene exercise of pandering, distortion, and outright lies and I am glad to be done with it. I suppose I should not have been surprised at the nature of the campaign. It was not that much different from other presidential contests of recent years. But I was gullible enough to believe that these two guys were different, that they were men of more character and principle than the typical politician. I took them at their word that they were going to run substantive, positive campaigns. Silly me! Never again will I be so naïve.

I was especially disappointed in John McCain, who spent years building a reputation as a straight talker, willing and able to take a principled stand, even when it was unpopular to do so. He has now squandered this hard earned distinction that, in my book, put him head and shoulders above his peers, even in the frequent circumstances where his position was different from mine.

But the grand prize for the most outrageous bidder goes

to Barack Obama. He promises to confiscate enough money from 5% of the taxpayers to write a check to the 40% who pay no federal income tax, and reduce the taxes on the remaining 55%. And he will also pay our doctor bills, send our kids to college, and bail out the home mortgages of those who borrowed money and didn't repay it. Along the way he is going to rebuild the nation's infrastructure and of course, "balance the budget". Does anyone really believe this nonsense? Or have so many partaken of the Obama potion of eloquence, charisma, and patronization, that the impossibility of what he says he will do is of no consequence.

To be fair, I'm sure Obama will actually do some of what he promises. The five percent can count on getting gouged. The forty percent will get their checks - these checks will be top priority because they will be his foundation for the great American Auction of 2012. But as one of the fifty-five percent, I'm not counting on any tax relief. I suspect the usual Democratic methodology of taxing the middle class and gutting the military will be the actual *modus operandi*. But increased taxes from the five percent and the fifty-five percent, still won't provide the

trillions he wants to spend. So, he will further escalate the borrowing from The Bank of China, assuming they are willing to lend it to the bankrupt U.S. Treasury. China knows, even if the American voter doesn't, that there is a limit to the percentage of annual tax revenues that can go for interest on the national debt. And they understand the consequences of the "inflate the currency" or "national default" policies that are the inevitable result when interest owed exceeds income available.

But the heck with all this annoying realism. Who wants to suffer through the obvious, but painful, solutions to the serious problems currently confronting our great social experiment of "government of the people, by the people, and for the people". The success of this experiment is what's at stake, but few recognize it and fewer are ready to make the needed sacrifices. So, let's party with Barack and spend, spend, spend, borrow, borrow, borrow. Maybe we can continue to charge the party to the national credit card long enough so we won't have to worry about it. There is always another generation coming along.

Jim Cook
Delphi

Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie

from page 4A

Marriage dissolutions granted included: Deborah L. Farrell vs. Gary K. Farrell; Amanda J. Miller vs. Blake M. Miller; James E. Lucas vs. Connie L. Lucas; Eugenio Ibarra vs. Sonya Marie Ibarra; and Beth A. McCracken vs. Alan L. McCracken.

Default judgments were entered for the plaintiff in: REO

Properties Co. vs. Ginger Short a/k/a Ginger S. Short and Gary Short Jr a/k/a Gary A. Short Jr et al for \$159,158.24; and Regions Bank vs. Leslie R. Leap for \$57,615.20.

Lizabeth L. Marks Shepard and Dennis M. Shepard filed complaint for damages against Blain M. McLeland Kinsler and Patricia McLeland.

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