

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Let the sunshine in!

Every year in December the *Comet* sends a letter to all governing bodies requesting they provide written notice of the date, time and place of any meetings, executive sessions or rescheduled or reconvened meetings for the following year. The request is made pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5, also known as Indiana's Sunshine Law.

In general, groups using taxpayer monies are expected to notify the media of their meetings. Those included are commissioners, councils, township advisory boards, school boards, library boards, area plan commission, conservancy districts.

It is also the duty of those governing bodies to notify the media, and you, about meetings of advisory groups and committees they appoint. Those entities include park, and airport boards and groups such as the redevelopment commission. Also included would be committees such as the steering committee for the comprehensive land use plan, which was appointed by the Carroll County Area Plan Commission.

Most of those mentioned are in the habit of compliance with this request. Readers know they comply because meeting notices are printed in the "Government Meetings" section of the paper on page A4 each week.

We urge all those obligated by law to inform the media about their meetings, who have not complied in the past, to do so. We will in turn notify our readers and your constituents. We urge all readers to contact your elected officials if you do not see meeting notices in print and urge them to comply with the open door law. It was adopted for your benefit.

Given the financial mess that brewed and spilled forth over the past 12 months, if ever there was a year to consider a do-over it just might be 2008. Then again, maybe the do-over would be confined to the government's decision to say no when asked to bail out failed investment firm Lehman Brothers. Learned economic fingers point to Lehman's failure as a watershed event in the cascade of problems that have assaulted the economy in '08.

But do-overs don't apply to years, or to governmental decisions, and that's probably a good thing. And single events like Lehman's failure are symptoms, not causes, and that kind of blame doesn't solve the underlying problem. So it looks like the nation must face directly on some of our problems of confidence and both over spending and over consuming.

Bail-outs seem a pretty flimsy excuse for problem solving and problem solving is what we appear to need.

I was in a line of traffic on a narrow street the other day. This particular street is always congested in the morning and a stalled car or a turning bus can gum the works up pretty bad. On this cold December morning nothing was moving and horns were honking.

It turned out that there was a big piece of broken concrete lying in the middle of the street in the north bound lane. In order to get around the concrete, each car in that lane had to veer over into the



Do-over

south lane of oncoming traffic - then veer quickly around the concrete and back.

In theory, local government is in charge of clearing the roads of concrete chunks. And I suppose that at some time during the course of the day, or days following, that some road crew sent by some dispatch team would have tended to the problem in the road.

But that promise of future governmental aide wasn't good enough for the guy in the white Honda Civic a couple of cars ahead of me. When it was the Honda's turn to veer around the concrete, the driver instead put his vehicle in park and got out of the car. He then assumed a stance over the broken concrete, squatted down, picked up the slab and heaved it over onto the nearby sidewalk.

The Honda driver then headed back to his car as two young women at the bus stop applauded and a couple of idiot cabbies pounded their horns. But off the Honda went with a stream of traffic following, me included, and the traffic problem was solved.

This nation was built on risk takers, problem solvers and big dreamers. Big government followed all that risk-taking, problem-solving

and big dreaming, however, big government didn't actually create much of it. I hope we keep that in mind in 2009.

So instead of a do-over for 2008, I propose 2009 be the year of the "charrette." A charrette is a "think big and out of the box" planning session where big visions and ideas and problem solving are entertained, proposed and discussed by a group. I was introduced to the charrette by Dan McCain when he got me on the invite list for such a meeting a decade or so ago. That meeting was facilitated by Purdue folks where they had us participants dreaming up grand ideas, improvements and changes for the City of Delphi. It was an exciting process in which to participate.

I think 2009 will demand big thinking out-of-the-box on all levels: personal, family, local, national.

Charrette is a French term originally used in describing an intense design session where teams competed in a timed session creating architectural design mock-ups. The charrette was the wheelbarrow used to wheel out the design work at the "times up" moment of the session.

Fortunately, from a local point of view, we've got plenty of wheelbarrows to move about new ideas for 2009. And if not new ideas, wheelbarrows are also handy to move misplaced concrete when it finds its way onto a lonely county road.

Happy New Year to all our readers.

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.

Carl R. Robbins, 32, was convicted of illegal possession of anhydrous ammonia or ammonia solution, burglary, forgery, habitual offender, burglary and auto theft, was sentenced to five years for the first offense, five years for the second and third offenses, five years for the fourth, ten years for the fifth and three years for the last offense. Seven years of the 25-year sentence were suspended. He was given seven years supervised probation.

Attorney Jeff Rider was named court appointed commissioner and given authority to sell property and give the proceeds, after paying expenses to Linda K. Bennett.

Christopher L. Klinker was ordered to pay Hudson and Keyse \$24,485 at the rate of \$250 per month until the debt is satisfied.

Cody A. Talbert, 20, was ordered to pay \$920.82 to the Carroll County Clerk and was placed on Tippecanoe County Work Release.

Connie K. Cauble was ordered to pay North Star Capital Acquisitions \$805.97.

The name Jamie Ann Nipple was changed to Jamie Ann Nipple Scott.

The following marriages were dissolved: Marva M. Morgan and Daniel L. Morgan; Donna J. Bailey and Joseph J. Bailey; Beth A. McCracken and Alan L. McCracken Jr.; and Michael Grubb and Amy Grubb.

Patrick J. Gaskill, Jr. will serve one year of a previously suspended sentence in the Department of Correction.

The following causes were dismissed: Hudson and Keyse vs. Christopher L. Klinker - proceedings supplemental; Glenis Lovett vs. Tricia Thompson and Ronald L. Stiver; North Star Capital Acquisition vs. Timothy B. Arnett; Fifth Third Mortgage Co. vs. Dennis R. Bolinger, Joyce D. Bolinger and Citifinancial Services Inc.;

A default judgment was entered for the plaintiff in PHH Mortgage Corp. vs. Jeremy D. Gist, Kirsten S. DeLong, et al for \$159,829.43

Default judgments and decrees of foreclosures were entered for the plaintiff in: HSBC Bank USA vs. Michael D. Perkins and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems for \$147,396.23.

A judgment to foreclose was

Marriage Licenses

Michael D. Kubacki, 39, and Pamela S. French, 36, both of Flora.

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.

- Wednesday, Dec. 31**
 ✓ Burlington Town Council: 10 a.m.
Monday, January 5
 ✓ Carroll County Drainage Board: 8:30 a.m.
 ✓ Carroll County Commissioners: 9 a.m.
 ✓ Flora Town Council: 6 p.m.
 ✓ Delphi Board of Works: 6:30 p.m.
 ✓ Delphi City Council: 7 p.m.
Tuesday, January 6
 ✓ Tippecanoe Township Advisory Board: 7 p.m., trustee's office - 2705N. 925W.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Sheriff Sale-AkersB
- Sheriff Sale-MartinB
- RCSC-WarrantsB
- Not. of Suit-WrightB
- Lytle EstateB
- Sheriff Sale-MortonB
- Sheriff Sale-MinnickB
- Sheriff Sale-HoltB
- Sheriff Sale-HoltB
- Indiana LienB
- Anderson EstateB
- Sheriff Sale-McGinnB

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.

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

Tina D. Bulick was charged with maintaining a common nuisance.

Rebekah L. Foran was charged with public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Kevin E. Cox was charged with criminal trespassing.

Robert Scroggs Jr. was charged with aggressive driving.

Deborah L. Spear, 42, Lafayette, was found guilty of public intoxication and was sentenced to 180 days in jail suspended, one year supervised probation and court costs.

Dakota J. Horn, 23, Lafayette, was found guilty of check deception and was sentenced to one year in jail suspended, one year unsupervised probation and court costs;

Ryan Johnson, 23, Delphi, was found guilty of OWI/endangering. He was sentenced to one year in jail suspended, one year supervised probation and court costs;

James L. Watkins, 41, West Lafayette, wa convicted of OWI/endangering and habitual substance offender enhancement. He was sentenced to one year in jail for the first charge and three years for the second, including two years on work release in Tippecanoe County, driving privileges suspended for two years, and court costs.

Brady Terrell, 36, Monticello, was found guilty of OWI/endangering and was sentenced to 180 days in jail suspended, one year supervised probation, and court costs.

Jared A. Bohall, 18, North Vernon, was found guilty of operating without ever receiving a license and was sentenced to 30 days in jail suspended, one year unsupervised probation and court costs.

Ryan M. Johnson, 23, Delphi, was found guilty of theft and being an habitual substance offender. He was sentenced to five years in jail,

one-half year suspended, enhanced by three years and two years suspended, restitution and court costs.

Kayla B.K. Britton, 20, Camden, was found guilty of theft and was sentenced to 60 days house arrest, one and one-half years supervised probation, restitution and court costs.

Jennifer Wallsmith, 23, Frankfort, was found guilty of domestic battery. She was sentenced to one year in jail suspended, 340 days supervised probation and court costs.

Zakry A. Gutierrez, 20, Flora, was found guilty of battery and was sentenced to 180 days in jail with 178 days suspended, 180 days probation, and court costs.

Lauren M. Snellenbarger, 20, Lafayette, was found guilty of illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail suspended, one year supervised probation, and court costs.

Jessie J. Hibbs, 19, Delphi, was found guilty of pointing a laser at a public safety officer and was sentenced to 180 days in jail suspended, one year supervised probation, and court costs.

Kevin J. Johnson, 35, Delphi, was found guilty of public intoxication. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail suspended, one year supervised probation and court costs.

Teresa Fraser, 38, Delphi, was found guilty of two counts check deception, and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended, one year unsupervised probation for each count, and court costs.

Heather A. Williamson, 19, Logansport, was found guilty of illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail with 57 days suspended, 350 days supervised probation, and court costs.

Michael W. Pratt, 39, Carmel, was found guilty of possession of marijuana, and was sentenced to one year in jail suspended, one year supervised probation, and

court costs.

Sarah D. Matthews, 20, Flora, was found guilty of two counts of check deception, and was sentenced to 120 days in jail suspended and 180 days supervised probation for each count.

Dustin S. Gutierrez, 22, Flora, was found guilty of battery resulting in bodily injury. He was sentenced to one year in jail suspended, one year supervised probation and court costs.

Derrick A. German, 31, Delphi, was found guilty of theft and illegal possession of anhydrous ammonia or ammonia solution. He was sentenced to three years in jail (90 days on in-home detention), 1 1/2 years suspended, 1 1/2 years supervised probation and court costs.

Phillip M. White, 31, Lafayette, was found guilty of probation violation and ordered to pay the remaining financial responsibility to satisfy the matter.

The jail sentence for Nakia R. Carmicle, 33, Lafayette, for driving while suspended was stayed.

Default judgments were entered for the plaintiff in Auto Club South Insurance Co. vs. Nicholas K. Kellogg for \$12,883.96 plus court costs; Horizon Veterinary Service vs. Esteban Olivo for \$341.62 plus court costs; and Capital One Bank vs. Nina Emmett.

The following causes were dismissed: Jackson-Lee-Pearson vs. Brian Fogarasi, John C. Workinger; and Capital One Bank vs. Michael L. Turner.

The court ordered the Carroll County Sheriff's Dept. to remove Michael R. Poe and Sherri L. Wine from 507 Center St., Flora, in a writ of assistance, \$1,503.13 plus court costs.

Ricky Wolma and Lisa Wolma were ordered to pay Ronald D. Matthews \$401.94 plus court costs.

Chris Tanner and Pat Tanner were ordered to pay Van Kauffman \$817.04 plus court costs.

William D. Williams, 47,

Burrows was convicted of OWI/endangering and was sentenced to 180 days in jail suspended, one year supervised probation, two days in the Carroll County Jail, and participation in a drug and alcohol program.

Daniel A. Myers, 46, Lafayette, was convicted of OWI/endangering and open alcoholic beverage container during operation of a motor vehicle. He was sentenced to one year in jail suspended, one year supervised probation, two days in the county jail, and participation in a drug and alcohol program.

First Horizon Home Loans was granted a writ of assistance to remove Jerome W. West from 424 N. Union St., Delphi.

Amelia Hatfield, Cody Hufford, Rachel Hatfield Moore and Ashley Walker were ordered to vacate property at 101 Clyde St., Apt. 5, Delphi.

Harmon "Andy" Johnson was ordered to return keys to Donna D. Walker and vacate property.

The following causes were dismissed: Carroll County EMS vs. Judith Kendall; Carroll County EMS vs. Brenda

Herring; Jackson-Lee-Pearson Inc. vs. Hunt's Drainage; Jackson-Lee-Pearson vs. Jeffery Ladow; Pearson's Gas vs. Gary Leyhty; Pearson's Gas vs. Becky Enoch; Captial One Bank vs. Donnelly R. Bennett; LVNV Funding vs. Jeremy K. Smith; Mann Chevrolet-Buick Inc. vs. Tim Meyer; and Mann Chevrolet-Buick Inc. vs. Shawn Miller.

A default judgment and foreclosure was entered against Shirley Stiles and ("Mers") as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Co. for \$57,761.53.

Default judgments were entered for the plaintiff in: Rolland Breece vs. Eric Isley for \$1,285; Beneficial Indiana Inc. vs. Brenda K. Bonnell a/k/a Brenda Bonnell and Steven L. Bonnell Sr. a/k/a Steven L. Bonnell for \$3,702.04; Accept Acceptance LLC vs. Ricky A. Smith for \$1,559.65; Palisades Collection LLC vs. Chuck Wamscher for \$5,086.79; Barbara Young vs. James Anderson for \$2,783.14; Mann Chevrolet vs. Rick Hernandez for \$670.21; and Reborn Auto Sales vs. Joseph A. Wolfe for \$1,600.

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 think the economy will be better in 2009?

Yes, because Obama will be leading the country
 Yes, if the bailouts are successful
 No, it will take more than a year to see recovery
 No, I'm not that optimistic
 Don't have a clue!

Last Week's results

Should text messaging be banned for drivers of all ages?
 90% Yes
 10% No
 Total responses: 139