

## Burnett's Creek Arch project a go

### Third county park to be established

By **Debbie Lowe**  
 Staff writer

The progress of the Burnett's Creek Arch project on Towpath Rd. was explained to Carroll County Commissioners at a meeting Monday morning. According to American Structure Point Department Manager Michael Wenning, there are two components to the project – rehabilitation of the bridge and construction of another county-owned park.

Wenning said the rehabilitation of the 160-year-old bridge would be the least costly of the two. He said building the county park, which would include the canal lock, would be the "major cost" of the roughly \$2 million project.

Rehabilitation plans included the replacement of stones for the stone arch. A flood relief structure is not planned for the project. The bridge will be graded and a 'collar' will be

removed.

Land purchase for the right-of-ways was not included in the total cost of the project. Wenning said those purchases would begin this summer and construction is expected for the early part of 2011.

Wenning said no right-of-ways are established for that portion of Towpath Rd., therefore the county must purchase all of the land from the middle of the road out 10 feet to the north and between 15 to 20 feet to the south. He suggested the county locate the park on the south side of Towpath Road and purchase land for it accordingly.

Commissioner Pat Clawson questioned the cost of the project as compared to the projected use of the bridge. He said, according to the report about the \$2 million project supplied by Structure Point, the life expectancy of the bridge was approximately 50 years.

"It'll be there a long time yet," highway engineer Paul Coutts said. "It has great historical significance. It's worthwhile keeping."

He advised the structure was a part of the Wabash and Erie Canal system that runs through the county.

Wenning said the next step was to approach commissioners with the additional project cost of right-of-way acquisition for approval.

**Ambulance service**  
 Commissioners approved a three-

year agreement with the Monticello Fire Department to provide Emergency Advanced Life Support Ambulance service to Jefferson and Adams townships beginning in 2009. The agreement is contingent upon council approval and the ability of the townships to pay the 2009 fee of \$15,839 for the service.

Monticello Fire Chief Shane Swaim said Carroll County EMS Director Mike Durr was in favor of the agreement, however Durr was not present for the meeting. He also said the Jefferson Township trustee supported the plan. No Adams Township representative was present for the meeting.

According to the agreement, Monticello Fire Department will receive, in addition to the 2009 amount, \$31,678 for 2010 and \$47,516 for 2011. Monticello would bill and collect service fees from residents.

"I think it's a terrific idea," Bill

Brown said. "It will make our scant two ambulances better able to cover the rest of the county."

"We have to be concerned about getting service up there," Loren Hylton added.

County council president Ann Brown said the 2009 fee would most likely require additional appropriations from either the council or the townships. She advised that the committee established to examine funding mechanisms for the service was not aware of the proposed agreement because it had not met since last year.

**Redevelopment Commission**  
 Local attorney Kurtis Fouts, who serves as the attorney for Delphi's executive branch, was appointed to the Carroll County Redevelopment Commission which oversees all current tax incremental financing (TIF) districts in the county.

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## Flora wants to start educating public on '10 census

Comet staff report

The Flora Town Council is seeking interested people to serve on a three to five person committee to help raise awareness of the importance of a complete count for the 2010 U.S. Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a constitutionally mandated census to determine the number of people living within the United States and its territories every decade.

All entities that receive tax dollars reply on a full and accurate census count, said Clerk-Treasurer Joretta Tinsman at Monday night's town council meeting.

She said that the town's last census count was 2,227.

"We need to educate everyone in town of the importance of being counted," she said. "We don't want to go below that figure because it will affect the revenue that the town receives. That revenue is based on a per capita formula. Services could be affected if our revenue is significantly reduced. It's extremely important that everyone be counted."

Anyone interested in being on the Census-Complete Count committee should contact the town office.

Christmas decorations will be refurbished and approximately 1,300 LED lights will be purchased for the Christmas trees.

The council accepted a bid from Winterland to refurbish the four-foot bell sprays at a cost not to exceed \$2,487. The LED lights will cost \$1,365.

"We should be good for another 15 years," said council-

member David Albaugh.

A quote from O.W. Krohn & Associates for an electric rate study was reviewed.

"We have not done this in ten years," said council president Josh Ayres. "We need to find out where we're at – keeping the electric utility where it needs to be."

"Unfortunately we have to pay someone to tell us if we need to raise rates or leave them as is," Ayres added.

The council decided to secure another quote before making a decision.

The second quarter tracking factor from the Indiana Municipal Electric Utility will increase due to an Energy Cost Adjustment factor.

The increase is approximately 2.586 mills per kilowatt hour. This amounts to a \$2.59 increase for every 1,000 kilowatt hours consumed.

The Utilities Department has been trimming and cutting trees as needed around power lines and between sidewalks and curbs, as well as patching potholes around town.

The council is looking into purchasing a new bucket truck for the electric department. One quote has been submitted and another is being sought.

The marshal's report for February included: 9 arrests/misdemeanors, 4

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## Camden ECC celebrates Read Across America

By **Jennifer Archibald**  
 Staff writer

Kindergartners at Camden Early Childhood Center each got to pick out a free book on Monday as part of their celebration of Read Across America.

The take-home books were provided by the Beta Psi (Delphi) Chapter of Psi Iota Xi. The chapter also gave each teacher \$100 for purchasing books for their classroom libraries. The school library also benefited because the chapter won a grant from the national Psi Ote chapter and passed along part of this money to CECC for library books.

Teacher Sherri Cripe, who coordinated Read Across America at Camden, said another benefit would come from the purchase of the books. She said the school receives points for books purchased, and those points translate into more free books for the library and classrooms.

Marcia Pitty, who represented Psi Otes at the school on Monday, said \$1,050 of her sorority's gift came from the local chapter, largely earned through the sale of cheeseballs. She said \$333 came from the grant from the national chapter. The remainder of the \$1,000 grant went to other local community programs.

Mrs. Pitty came to the school on Monday to watch the children pick out their books. She also sat in a big

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**Free books from Psi Otes**  
 Mackenzie Sandusky has her hands on two books until she decides which to keep. She and the other kindergartners at Camden Early Childhood Center each got to choose a free take-home book, compliments of the Beta Psi (Delphi) Chapter of Psi Iota Xi. Marcia Pitty, representing the sorority, visited Sherri Cripe's classroom and listened to some of the children read their new books. She is pictured with Trevor Titus, who is reading "Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!" by Mo Willems. Comet photos by Jennifer Archibald



## 4-3 vote changes public comments at DCSC board meetings

By **Debbie Lowe**  
 Staff writer

Delphi Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees President Robert Resler cast the deciding vote to prohibit public comments during board discussions of individual topics following ardent discussion at a special meeting last Tuesday. Resler introduced the second of the only two agenda items by explaining he was approached by two board members about moving the time the public is allowed to speak and not allowing anyone to comment during discussions about specific issues.

Board member Jerry Sparks

opened the discussion with a question.

"Why do this?" he asked each board member to respond. "Why now?"

Nick Cronk explained he supported the restriction. He said the public could comment at the beginning or the end of the meeting, but not when members were deliberating specific issues. He said the board should not have to give way to public comments during the business portion of the meeting because that practice lengthens discussions.

"The agenda gets really drug out," he said. "I feel strongly about that."

Cronk emphasized he was

not against the public speaking at the meetings altogether, just during discussions.

"The goal is to clean up the business portion of the meeting," he added.

Jim Garrison said he agreed with Cronk. He said board meetings are "private meetings held in public" and suggested the public be allowed to speak at the beginning of the meetings. He said he wanted to hear what the public has to say, but not during the business meeting. Garrison said he surveyed surrounding corporations and DCSC has a very liberal public comments policy in comparison.

Sparks questioned if all

comments, including those from teachers, administrators and students would also be censored from the meeting.

When Resler began to answer, Sparks said, for the president to enter into the discussion, he would have to surrender the gavel by virtue of Roberts Rules of Order.

"I'll make it simple," Resler replied. "I won't make any comments and you'll probably regret you didn't get to hear my comments."

Sparks said an open meeting should be "open to all."

"I don't care what other corporations do," he said. "People have a right to speak. The public has a right to ask ques-

tions."

"We have to let the sun shine in," he added.

Board member Bill Trueblood expressed agreement with Sparks.

"The board recognized the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on corporation matters," he read from a prepared statement. "I am not in favor of any action that would diminish allowing members of the public to express themselves during our meetings."

School corporation patron Shawn Ashby, who attends

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