

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Co-Publishers: Susan Scholl & Joe Moss

Editor: Susan Scholl, editor@carrollcountycomet.com
Ad Director: Joe Moss, comet@carrollcountycomet.com
Editorial Writers: Susan Scholl, Comet Staff

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A lesson learned

The Carroll County Council's Finance Committee meets just about every other Tuesday morning. Members Ann Brown, Ron Slavens and Marion Huffer frequently are confronted with funding requests and situations by department heads during the meetings. Everyone needs a solution.

Tuesday the committee heard an urgent request from the sheriff's department about a recovery (federal stimulus) grant opportunity to fund the basic salary for an additional deputy for three years. The committee was told the county would have to commit to funding the position the fourth year.

The sheriff's merit board representative who presented the proposal gave an impassioned plea to the committee for permission to submit a request. He provided them with a well organized and well thought out rationale as to why the sheriff's department should be allowed to apply for the funds.

In years past, permission may well have been given on the basis of that presentation alone. But this isn't then, and from what the county has been through financially, that time will hopefully never come again.

There is no doubt that nearly everyone in the county would like to be able to have more county deputies on the roads. Paying for them is another matter.

Committee members began asking questions about the true funding for the position. They asked who would pay to train a new officer if they had to send that person to the police academy. They asked what the new officer would drive, how much fuel the additional car would use and where the money would come from to purchase it. Some answers were readily given and some were promised for a later time.

Finally the committee asked to see a copy of the grant proposal that, by the way, was due by the end of the day. That could have been the proverbial straw.

But as the last page of the request for funding was read, the committee understood that the auditor was to submit the request after receiving approval from the governing body - which the committee is not. The county council is the governing body. And that was the straw.

It is easy to remember how such a situation might have been handled three or four years ago. It is much harder to face the reality that submitting a grant proposal before the proper procedure is followed is wrong. But the committee did not blink - they did the only thing a group of people with integrity could and should do. They declined to continue to consider the proposal.

Residents should commend their leaders for leading when it would have been easier to do business as it was done in Carroll County's not so distant past.

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.

Default judgments plus interest and costs were entered for the plaintiffs in: Arrow Financial Services LLC vs. John R. Snell, in the sum of \$1,508.73; Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Charles a/k/a Chuck Wamsher, \$5,761.68; Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Gregory E. Williams, \$3,147.90; Arrow Financial Services LLC vs. Jonielynn Radke, \$2,690.08; Capital One Bank (USA) vs. Brandon L. Miller, \$1,334.39; Arrow Financial Services LLC vs. Kimberly K. Reed, \$3,114.84; Capital One Bank vs. Susan H. Skinner, \$1,550.03; HSBC Bank Nevada N.A. vs. Jennifer M. Villarreal, \$2,106.14; Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Marion J. Gibson, \$7,350.38; Capital One Bank vs. Philip W. Schrader, \$1,222.69; HSBC Bank Nevada N.A. vs. Frederick H. Thomason, \$1,226.58; HSBC Bank Nevada N.A. vs. Frederick H. Thomason, \$2,840.38;

American Acceptance Co. LLC vs. Jennifer E. Hahn, \$954.66; Ford Motor Credit Company LLC vs. Julie A. Eurit, \$23,397.00; Capital One Auto Finance Inc. vs. Megan Fague a/k/a Hahn, \$9,378.67;

The following causes were dismissed without prejudice: Lafayette Community Bank vs. Vanessa R. Salgat et al; Green Tree Servicing LLC f/k/a Conesco Finance Servicing Corp. vs. Melissa J. Reese, Kelly Martin and James Caston.

Marriage dissolutions granted include: Mary Beth Fitzgerald and Matthew Scott Strahle; and Sheila J. Busch and David T. Busch.

Wells Fargo Bank N.A. was granted judgment of foreclosure against Shannon N. Johnston a/k/a Shannon N. Francis in the amount of \$63,115.51 plus interest.

Marriage Licenses

Wesley R. Bixler, 25, and Sheena Marlene Brady, 23, both of Delphi.
Daniel Unger, 26, and Christina Gayle Cates, 29, both of Flora.

The white Lexus four-door with California license plates pulled round the aisle intersecting the parking lot lane I was in. Even though I had the right-of-way, the driver of the Lexus gave it the gas, gliding round the bend and squeezing in right in front of me.

They say timing is everything and I had timed my free 30 minutes in the parking lot down to a minute or so to spare.

The clock was ticking and the stakes were high. At this particular parking lot the first 30 minutes are free - but one minute over and we're talking a bill of \$13 for the first full hour.

It was raining, I was annoyed, and the Lexus driver appeared to not understand how the system worked.

In an effort to maximize profit, this particular parking lot has done away with all attendants and replaced friendly, reliable people with low tech mechanical machines that jam and quit and give up on us humans quickly.

I should have known better. From where I sat, it looked like the driver of the Lexus was inserting the parking card the wrong way into the machine. He turned it every which way, pushing the card in each time, only to have the card spit out by the machine. The guy was wearing an attractive shirt with French cuffs and his arm



Timing

stretched in and out through the open car window in an odd dance with the card reader.

There is a call button on the card reader for cases just as this and I saw the hand and the French cuffs tapping, pressing and then pounding on the call button. My experience is that whoever mans the machine takes their time and when they do answer you can't hear a thing.

Ah, hope. I heard shouting between the Lexus guy and whoever it was on the end of the call button. Even though the rain was blowing about, I lowered my window to see if I could hear whether or not there was hope of me getting past the gate in time.

I got no information, but I did get very wet.

Then suddenly the gate went up and the Lexus lunged forward.

I pulled forward as the gate went down. It was my turn.

Now, I really did not have much of an excuse. And I had convinced myself that the 30 minutes had expired about 3 or 4 minutes ago. The fact that the Lexus driver used up my exit

time, and then some, somehow in the rain and the glaring neon light from above, somehow it seemed phony that his problem excused my problem.

I inserted the card, the little mechanical machine hummed and groaned and there was a clear moment of suspense. And then, the gate went up - I smiled to myself, nodded to the security camera watching, watching and off into the rain I drove.

Timing. I've been thinking about timing as I finish up the income taxes.

April 15, I wonder who dreamed up making that the day that sends chills, dread and trembling down the spine of so many. Did said nameless person have any idea what imprint he or she was inserting for eternity onto an otherwise promising spring day? Would not a dreary day in February have done better? Or perhaps Halloween would have been more appropriate - a little fright and a big tax bite - all on the same day.

This year I may find myself on the 15th making my way through lines at the post office. That will be me trying to hand off those taxes to someone willing to time stamp me before midnight, before the deadline. And if I get in line behind someone with fancy French cuffs - well, I've been duly warned.

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@carrollcountycomet.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.

A student's perspective

As a student at Delphi Community High School, I am frustrated at the community's inability to understand how badly we need renovations at the high school. I am especially frustrated with a letter published in the Comet last month by a parent claiming that the school was using students during an 8th grade orientation meeting to force the issue of a need for renovation. Our principal Barry Stone didn't put the students up to doing the presentation. We were frustrated and looking for a way our voice could be heard. Our school is falling apart. When was the last time you had to go sit in the classrooms?

I'm tired of going from class to class not knowing if it's going to be cold or hot. I'm tired of never getting to do anything fun in science because there is no gas, few working sinks, little storage space for lab materials, and no safety showers. I'm tired of using a bathroom stall without a door. I'm tired of needing a drink of water and struggling to find a working water fountain. I'm tired of putting my gym clothes in a rusty locker and walking on disgusting carpet in the locker room.

Many schools have upgraded their computer and science labs, but we haven't. Yeah, we do have computers but what's the point? They are really slow and it takes forever to download information for school projects. It's really hard to get excited about learning when our school is in such bad shape and our resources are so outdated.

How are we supposed to make a difference in the world when our learning environment is so far behind other schools? I don't think it's really all that fair that when I go to college I will be competing against kids who were exposed to much more than I was in high school.

Maybe if we had a better school we would have more school pride. Maybe our academics would be better. I'm not telling you in May to vote for the school renovation project, but please think about it a little more before dismissing it.

What is so wrong with helping us in our future? I thought that parents and members of this community would be more concerned about its youth. I know you're scared about your taxes going up but apparently they won't. One last thing... why not do the renovations now while everything is cheap? In a few years when it has to be done, things might not be so cheap. Renovating DCHS will give people work. It will improve the learning environment, aid in academic success, and improve the morale of students and staff. It is a needed project.

Mr. Stone did not tell me to write this. I wanted to because this is what I think the community should know before they vote.

Cory G. Hammond
DCHS sophomore

Let's focus on needs of young children

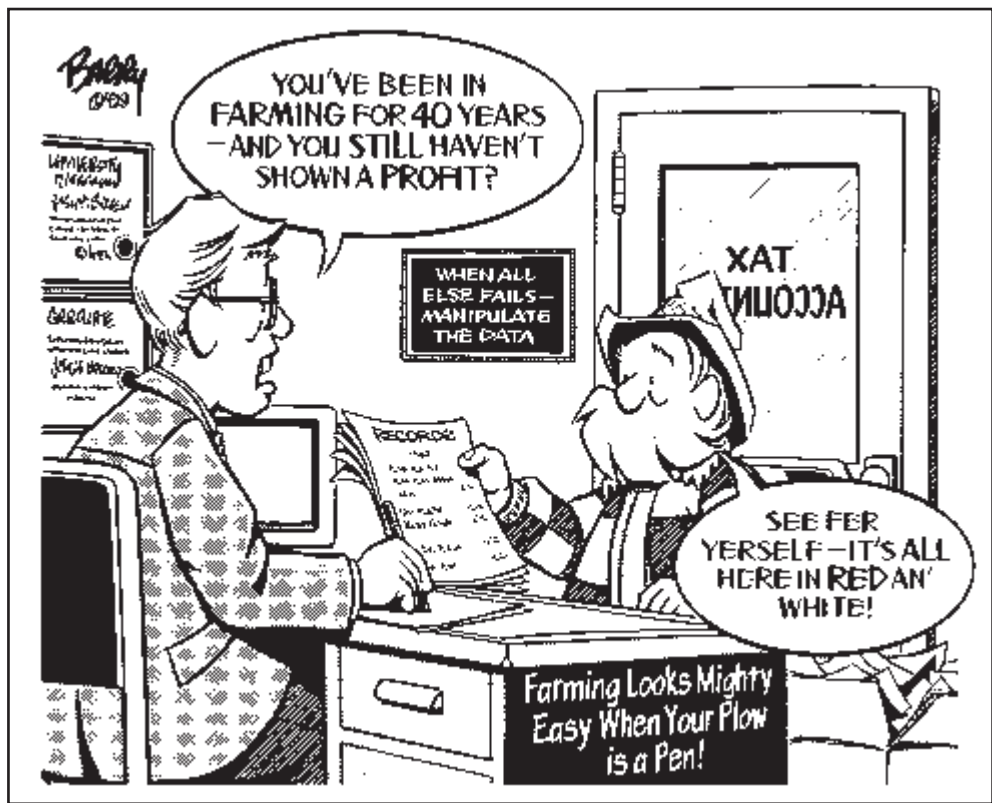
Young children in Flora, Delphi and all of Carroll County as a whole deserve the best that we can give them.

"Week of the Young Child," to be held May 19-25, is a time to recognize the needs of young children and thank the adults involved in their education and care. Parents, teachers, caregivers and other adults play important roles in the lives of young children and "Week of the Young Child" celebrates their efforts.

We can show our support for early learning in our community by promoting early literacy programs, linking teachers who care for our children and working to ensure that our public policies support early learning for all young children.

"Week of the Young Child" is a time to focus our attention on bringing Flora, Delphi and Carroll County together for children.

Anita Bowen,
for Area IV Head Start
management and staff,
Lafayette



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

Jaime L. Ramirez was charged with operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license.

Patrick P. Boyles, Jr. was charged with strangulation, criminal confinement and battery.

Sheena M. Baker was charged with illegal possession of an alcoholic beverage, operating a vehicle with at least .02 BAC but no more than .08, and throwing burning material from a moving vehicle.

Jason Wines was charged with failure to stop after accident resulting in non-vehicle damage and operating motor vehicle without financial responsibility.

Cynthia P. Barrett was charged with failure to stop after accident resulting in non-vehicle damage.

Libby Myers was charged with check deception.

Willard G. Merkel, 39, of Delphi was convicted of criminal mischief. He was sentenced to one year in jail, one year suspended and one year of supervised probation. He was

further ordered to complete 20 hours of community service.

The following were meted a combination of jail time, suspensions, probation and other penalties for convictions related to alcohol or illegal substances: Troy L. Spear, Jr., 20, of Indianapolis; Ross Malott, 21, of Delphi; Austin D. Terrell, 20, of Lafayette and Melissa L. Downey, 42, of Monticello;

John Pickett, 20, of Monticello was convicted of hunting furbearers without continuous burning light and failure to possess hunting license. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail and 60 days suspended. He is further ordered to pay fines in the sum of \$75 plus court costs.

Charles Walker, 22, of Monticello was convicted of hunting furbearers without continuous burning light. He was sentenced to 14 days in jail, 14 days suspended and 180 days unsupervised probation plus court costs.

The cause against Royce A. Richardson, 45, of Delphi has been dismissed due to the fact the defendant is deceased.

Sabrina K. Duvall, 23, was convicted of taking a minor to a nuisance and possession of a

paraphernalia. She was sentenced to 180 days in jail on both counts.

Bryan E. Cunningham, Jr., 20, of Monticello was convicted of trespass. He was sentenced to one year in jail, one year suspended, and one year of supervised probation. He was further ordered to participate in a drug and alcohol program at Wabash Valley Hospital, no alcohol consumption plus court costs.

Because the public has a right to know...

In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are taking place, when and where, the Comet prints upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

Thursday, April 16

✓ Jefferson Township Advisory Board Meeting: 7 p.m., 9868N. 1175W., Monticello.

Saturday, April 18

✓ Third House: 9:30 a.m., Brandywine Complex, Monticello.

Monday, April 20

✓ Carroll County Commissioners: 6 p.m.

✓ Delphi Board of Works: 4:30 p.m.

✓ Delphi City Council Work Session: 5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21

✓ Carroll County Council: 8:30 a.m.

✓ Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Sheriff Sale-Cook8B
- Sheriff Sale-Akers8B
- Sheriff Sale-Ogle8B
- Summons-Sparks8B
- Sheriff Sale-Stigers8B
- Sheriff Sale-Perkins ...8B
- Sheriff Sale-Grable8B
- Sheriff Sale-Holt8B
- Sheriff Sale-Mulkey8B
- Henderson Estate8B
- Julius Estate8B
- Comm. Ord. 2009-04 ...8B
- Summons-Green8B
- Livestock Eng-Trapp ...8B
- Austin Estate8B
- Sheriff Sale-Hall8B
- CCSC-Not. to Bidders ...8B
- DCSC-Not. to Bidders ...9B

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.

How will you celebrate Earth Day on April 22?

- Save energy
- Use less water
- Volunteer in community Earth Day project
- All of the above
- Won't celebrate

Last Week's results

Do you wear your seat belt?

- 83% Yes, always
- 01% Yes, but under my arm
- 13% Sometimes
- 02% Never

Total responses: 211
Reader's comments:

After ricocheting off of Wilson Bridge in 1972 and crashing into the embankment on the other side, I learned the hard way that seatbelts are a very good idea. I put my rear view mirror through the top of my skull.