

More about big government than tea

Real people object to big spending in Washington

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

It was estimated that hundreds of people attended last Wednesday's two Tea Parties on the John T. Myers Bridge in Lafayette. Party organizers said the event was designed to bring like-minded people together to spur them to action.

"If you leave and do nothing else," organizer Donn Brown told the crowd before the first batch of tea bags were tossed over the bridge rail into the Wabash River, "this is worthless."

Brown called the event "a revolution of knowledge and action." He urged participants to attend governmental meetings, such as a school board, county council, city council and commissioner meeting. He instructed them to make their opinions known.

"It's time to get off our butts and do something," he continued. "We are all responsible for the crap that is going on in this country. They have us right where they want us...dumb and lazy."

"Quit asking your government to do for you and do for yourself," Brown instructed. "I want government, but I only want a little bit."

Brown said the tea party was "only the beginning" and shouted, "We've had it!" which received applause from the crowd.

Putting a stop to government overspending, paying more for less and ceasing the practice of earmarks were familiar themes throughout the event. Brown said that Congress received the more than \$7 trillion stimulus package at midnight one day and voted on it the next morning. He alleged it was not

read by most of those who approved it.

"The stimulus bill was signed without being read. 'Trillion' is the new 'billion' and 'million' is chump change," Brown told the crowd from the speakers' platform. "Delay is preferable to error. Dissent is the purest form of patriotism," he quoted Thomas Jefferson.

Brown invited attendees to join his group, the C.I.A. (an acronym for Citizens In Action) to further the message of the symbolic throwing of the tea into the water as a protest.

Contact information for representatives, both state and national, was distributed. Telephone numbers and E-mail addresses for everyone from President Barack Obama to both Lafayette and West Lafayette City Council members were included.



Birdhouses from 2008 garden fair; Comet file photo

Flower and Garden Fair is Saturday

Comet staff report

The Carroll County Garden Club is hosting its 13th annual Carroll County Flower and Garden Fair on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Merchants' Building at the Community Park in Flora. Admission is free.

Vegetable, herb, and flowering plants, along with ornamental grasses, organic fertilizers and garden art will be featured. Clothing, bird

houses, lawn furniture and other garden-related items will be on sale as well.

Carroll County Master Gardeners will be available to provide information. A children's planting booth will be featured. Free plants and garden items raffles will occur throughout the day.

Benefit breakfast

Flora area merchants are sponsoring a sausage gravy and biscuit breakfast Saturday before the garden fair. Serving will be from 7 to 11

a.m. in the 4-H Building, and free-will donations will be accepted.

Two processed half hogs will be raffled off at the breakfast. The raffle tickets also will be available this Thursday through Saturday morning at The Flower Shoppe and Carroll County Tire in Flora. The drawing will be at the end of the breakfast.

Proceeds from the breakfast and raffle will benefit Mary Hoffman.



Tea Party attendees show their support

Participation, new members sought by Burlington Community Club

Comet staff report

Shelly Wiles reported at last week's meeting of the Burlington Town Council that the Community Club has three to four positions on its board that need to be filled.

She explained that there are five or six people who are trying to do everything and they are being spread too thin.

"We have to have more help - not financial, but physical," she said. "Where we desperately need help is at our events such as the 4th of July and Fall Festival. We need to all pull together."

Anyone interested in becoming involved should contact the Community Club or town office.

In another matter, Wiles asked if the town would be willing to help with funds to purchase reflective Crime Watch signs that will be placed downtown and at the town's five entrances. The signs are \$20 each. The Community Club has donated \$50 toward their purchase.

"People ought to have the opportunity to support this program," said council

member Joe Armstrong. "The program needs to be its own entity, not connected to the town."

Wiles said she would ask for additional donations at the April 16 Crime Watch meeting.

The council agreed that the town will kick in additional funds for the signs if needed.

Council member Teddy Huffer announced that the Burlington Community Park is the recipient of a Carroll County REMC Operation Round-up Grant in the amount of \$2,300. Grant monies will be used to redo the dugouts.

Huffer said that a meeting with State Senator Brandt Hershman on March 20 went well. "He explained what the state legislature is doing and we explained to him that they are putting the hurt on us (the town) by doing some of the things they are doing at the state," added Huffer.

Jim Walker, representing the United Methodist Church, requested that 10th Street from Jackson St. to SR 29 be closed for a maximum of four hours on June 7 for a children's party that the church is hosting, along

with a three-day revival. The request was approved.

Marshal Jill Hammond reported on her department's activity for March that included: 44 calls for service, 2 gun permits issued, 1 accident investigated, 6 title checks, 6 case reports, and 1 criminal arrest.

The new police car is being equipped and should be ready by Friday, said Hammond.

Huffer reported that jake break, speed limit and curve signs have been taken and need to be replaced at the north edge of town.

The Council has been meeting to discuss ways to fund work on the town's waste water system. Carroll County Economic Development Director Daryl Smith is working with the town. A meeting was scheduled for 7 p.m. May 7 in Burlington for further discussions.

The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns is sponsoring Municipal Government Week May 11-15. As part of that observation, council members will have the town hall open to residents from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on May 16 to hear concerns and comments. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. May 12.

Friends Day is April 30

Friends Day will be held on Thursday, April 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the 4-H Building in Flora. The event is planned as a day of sharing and learning with friends.

This year's theme is "Be A Shining Star." The three programs are listed below.

"Dress to Be a Star" - by Susie Dyke from The Grapevine Boutique. She will show the latest fashions and tell women how to highlight their best features.

"Delicious Desserts" by Cindy Reinke from Porcupine Truffles.

"Dancing Under the Stars," a demonstration by Wayne Applegate and his ballroom students. Applegate taught ballroom dancing at the YMCA this past winter.

A chicken salad, cottage cheese, fruit plate luncheon will be served by the Stone House.

Contact the Extension Office, 765-564-3169 by April 23 to register.

The 13th Carroll County Flower and Garden Fair will be Saturday, April 25, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Merchants Building at the Flora Community Park. The Carroll County Garden Club is sponsoring a children's gardening booth.

Vendors are as follows:

- Barbed-wire Blossoms
- Benedict's Nursery
- Steve and Maxine Brewer
- Carroll County Crops
- Carroll County Master Gardeners
- Chuck's Towers and Flowers
- Gordon Dotson Landscaping
- Richard and Wilma Fischer
- Garden Glitter
- Don Golden's birdhouses and planters
- Cinda Gustafson
- Gloria Johnson
- Jonna's Gems
- Judy's Flowers and Herbs
- Alex and Elizabeth Martin
- Mitchell Made Wood Products
- MR Notes
- Ornamental Grasses
- Pottery Art
- Rolling Hills Extension
- Duane and Sue Royer
- Sleepy Hollow Designs, LLC
- Cheryl Shaffer
- Tacos in a Bag
- T's Flowers and Things
- Wildweed Garden
- Eugene and Jackie Young

Public hearing is set

Comet staff report

The Carroll County Area Plan Commission will hold a public hearing for the proposed Hoosier Heartland Highway Overlay District on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in

the Commissioner's Room of the county courthouse, Delphi.

Copies of the document are available online at www.carroll-countyzoning.wordpress.com or in the Area Plan Commission office.

ISTEP+ testing resumes April 27

Beginning next week (April 27 to May 6), students across Indiana will take the second portion of state ISTEP+ exams that measure academic progress over the past school year.

The spring 2009 ISTEP+ is administered during two testing windows in an effort to return student results faster. The first part, which included essay and short answer questions, was given in March. Part two, which consists of multiple-choice questions, will be given from April 27 to May 6. Check with schools in your area for local testing dates within the statewide administration window.

ISTEP+ test format

The spring test includes multiple-choice and open-ended questions addressing English/language arts and math at grades 3 through 8, science at grades 4 and 6, and social studies at grades 5 and 7.

The multiple-choice section is the larger portion of the overall ISTEP+ test, accounting for 70 to 75 percent of a student's test score, depending on the grade level and subject area. Results from both portions of the test will be combined for an overall score.

Results

Results for the spring test will be released in August 2009 after passing scores are adopted by the State Board of Education, based upon recommendations made by Indiana educators and testing experts. Results

for each year thereafter will be available to students, parents and educators before the end of the school year.

Goal of ISTEP+

The goal of the Indiana Statewide Testing for Education Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) is to measure what students know and are able to do at each grade level in core academic subjects. Based on Indiana's Academic Standards, ISTEP+ provides a learning check-up designed to make sure students are on track and to signal whether they need extra help.

More information

For more information, visit www.doe.in.gov/istep, or call 1-888-54-ISTEP.



TODAY IS EARTH DAY!

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