

Carroll Manor to take Pulaski Co. residents

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

The Pulaski County Board of Commissioners has decided to close that county's tax-supported county home as of June 30. Carroll County Commissioners voted to offer Carroll Manor as an option to the displaced residents at their Monday morning meeting despite funding concerns raised by two county council members. Some questions went unanswered.

Manor superintendent Martha Lewis submitted three applications for Pulaski County Home residents, but said one of them had not completed the necessary paperwork for admittance. She said the county would receive financial payment from the state program, Aid to Residents in County Homes (ARCH), which pays \$37/day for room, board and services. Lewis reported the Manor currently has 20 residents and 10 of those pay \$56, the full price per day.

Lewis said all three applicants had diagnosis of a mental illness. She said she would contact Wabash Valley to arrange for similar services for them as were provided by the Pulaski County home. She said the Tippecanoe Villa, with several empty beds, has many residents with like-diagnosis and works closely with Wabash Valley. Lewis said the Pulaski County residents can move to that facility in the event Carroll Manor can not provide adequate services. She said Area IV Senior Services agreed to provide transportation for them when needed.

County council member Scott Ayres said that in looking through the history of the county, and the state statute, he discovered Carroll Manor was established to provide housing to indigent county residents at taxpayer expense. He said he remembered from council meetings less than a year ago, it was determined the break-even cost per day per resident was more than \$37.

Lewis said basic expenses to run the Manor - electricity, heating and

cooling costs - remain constant no matter how many residents are housed. She said the state payments will compensate for additional food needed for each resident and there would be no new staff added. Commissioners agreed the scope of the Manor has changed since it was first established.

Council president Ann Brown said she questioned the decision to accept Pulaski County home residents after reading the reasons why county officials are closing the home. She said the local newspaper in Pulaski County reported a nurse would have to be hired and the county could not afford that expense.

Lewis said she was unaware there was a need to hire a nurse.

"A lot of statements made by the Pulaski County Commissioners created questions for me," Brown said. "They also said they didn't want to pay money to another county for their residents to help with expenses."

"Is it fair for our county taxpayers to pay for Pulaski County residents?"

she asked. "Is it legitimate?"

"Is an empty bed better for the county?" asked commissioner Bill Brown.

Commissioner Brown made the motion to accept applications to the Manor from Pulaski County home residents Robert Allen Stuart and Connie Sue Grube. Clawson provided the second and it was unanimously approved. Brown noted Lewis had the authority to admit the third unnamed out-of-county resident prior to commissioner approval.

Manor resident Evelyn Dawson was granted a daily negotiated rate. Lewis said Dawson exhausted a savings account and can no longer pay \$56/day.

A five-year \$120/month contract with Amco, with a 90-day termination clause, to provide elevator maintenance was approved. Lewis said \$14,000 remained in the state grant for the recent rehabilitation project which can be used for the agreement. Lewis also reported drainage issues associated with new construction and

part of the rehabilitation project need to be addressed.

Flu resolution

Commissioners adopted Resolution 2009-01 which dictates the county health department to distribute flu medicines to doctors and pharmacies within the county when those entities confirm they are out of the appropriate medications for flu treatment. Primary care physicians must have patients who have been diagnosed by a medical professional having specific symptoms consistent with H1N1, now known as the "North American Influenza." County health nurse Hope Kinzer said the county received a stockpile of the medication and it is being kept at an undisclosed location.

Kinzer emphasized the current strain of flu cannot be transmitted by eating pork. She said Dr. Jordan Dutter, county health officer, can issue an order to close schools if there is a confirmed case of H1N1 in the area.

See Manor page 5A

Mayor proposes special projects coordinator

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Delphi Mayor Randy Strasser presented a job description for a new city position for approval to the council at Monday night's meeting. He said duties for the new position would be to work with the water and wastewater departments on special projects, manage the GIS mapping system for the city, and provide code enforcement throughout the city.

Strasser responded to questions about the amount to be paid to the new city employee and said that amount was included in the salary ordinance, of which he did not have a copy at the meeting. He said he would not guess at the amount without the information in front of him.

Strasser said the position would be funded from the water, wastewater and general fund budgets. He also said the new employee could be asked to do some building inspections for the county and in that event, the area plan office would fund a portion of the work.

Strasser said it would be desirable to find someone with experience to fill the position. He said the new worker would be expected to problem-solve some long-standing city issues.

Council president Carolyn Pearson expressed concern the job description was presented just prior to the meeting for approval at the same meeting. Dan Sterrett asked what the new person would be responsible for that could not be done by current city employees.

Strasser said there is a lack of manpower to accomplish all that needs to be done.

Kyle Germond said he thought the council should act before another month passed. However, Strasser said the

council would table the matter for that meeting.

Gerber Globe property

Strasser announced he and Carroll County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Daryl Smith discussed the future of the Gerber Globe property, located near the north end of Washington St., with the president of the corporation.

"It went real well," he said.

Strasser said the city is interested in the purchase of a portion of the property. He explained he and Smith were also acting on behalf of other parties interested in the future of the land. Strasser said the corporation seems to be interested in negating their liability associated with the property.

Fireworks

A Monticello fireworks vendor was directed to the Carroll County Area Plan Commission for a special exception to the zoning ordinance for the use of a property at the corner of Main and Market streets, across from the courthouse.

The vendor said he arranged to rent, for 31 days, the building which formerly housed a gas station to sell fireworks.

Other business

City technology consultant Jason Rubsam was introduced. He said he was refining and updating computer systems in the city building. Rubsam said all city council members would soon have a city E-mail account which they can monitor from their home computers. He said e-mail addresses will appear on the city's Web site.

Dick VanSickle reported F&K Construction demonstrated a system to level manholes in city streets. He said the \$2,000 to \$3,000 system could prove to be a wise purchase for the city.

Park board president Chris

See Mayor page 5A

Social distancing and vigilance are the prescription Flu threat expected to continue

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

A new buzz-phrase has hit the public across the nation - social distancing - and it has become one strong recommendation by county health officials when instructing how to combat the threat of contracting the H1N1 virus, also now known as the North American Influenza. The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) reported a total of 15 confirmed cases of North America Influenza A (H1N1) in Indiana as of Tuesday afternoon. State officials noted the current flu virus is only spread from human-to-human and is highly contagious.

Carroll County health officials, Dr. Alvan Eller, Dr. Jordan Dutter and Carroll county health nurse Hope Kinzer, have a plan and are ready for a pandemic if it is declared by the World Health Organization, according to Carroll County Board of Health chairperson Eller.

"It's good for the public to remember this is not a panic situation," Dutter said.

He explained the county developed a pandemic (which refers to the number of confirmed cases of flu in the world and not the severity of the illness) plan three years ago. Dutter said the plan is still essentially in place with just two changes recommended by ISDH.

Primary care physicians are to be the point of contact between patients who are ill and the county health department. Additionally, the state will supply medications to local health departments to distribute to healthcare providers when supplies are exhausted in their offices and in pharmacies.

He said ISDH in conjunction with county health officials will determine if it is



In charge of the flu plan

Dr. Alvan Eller and Jordan Dutter are confident the Carroll County health officials will be able to manage a flu outbreak with proper planning and by advising residents to not panic. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

necessary to establish medication distribution "pods" which will only happen in a worst case scenario. Dutter said the county is not close to that situation.

"Anyone who believes they might have the flu and they want relief of symptoms should visit their regular doctor," Dutter said. "All of the area doctors receive information via E-mail and faxes from both the state and the Carroll County Health Department. Everyone knows what is going on and what to do next."

"The plan is to stick to the plan," he added.

Dutter said as the county health officer who is responsible for the health depart-

ment, he has weekly meetings with the health department staff. He said a financial impact on the health department's budget is expected, however because this is a state, national and international issue, it is expected the state or federal government will bear the brunt of the financial impact.

Dr. Eller said the board of health meets quarterly on the first Wednesday of the quarter at 7 p.m. in the courthouse lounge. He said emergency meetings can be called when necessary.

"We feel like we have things under control in Carroll County," Eller said. "We are thankful that we live in a less populated area and have

the good primary care physicians that we do."

"We're really going to treat this in the county like any viral illness until we run out of supplies," Dutter said. "Then the state will become more involved on the local level."

Both doctors recommended standard precaution measures which include:

- Wash hands frequently for 20 seconds;
- Practice 'social distancing' by avoiding contact with infected individuals or those suspected of being infected;
- Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- Cough or sneeze into the

See Flu page 5A



Mailing label goes here

U.S. Census Bureau begins address canvassing

Comet staff report

The U.S. Census Bureau has announced that the first field operation of the 2010 Census - address canvassing - is underway in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Address canvassing in the three-state Chicago region is part of a massive operation to verify and update more than 145 million addresses nationwide.

Workers are spanning out throughout the region, going

door-to-door in communities to verify and update residential addresses. The address canvassing is a critically important first step in assuring that every housing unit receives a census questionnaire in March 2010.

While workers will work in the local communities in which they live, the address canvassing operation will be conducted out of 11 Early Local Census Offices in the Chicago Region - three in Indiana (Evansville, Indi-

anapolis and South Bend); two in Wisconsin and six in Illinois. The public should be aware that workers are instructed to knock on every door to verify addresses or inquire about additional living quarters on the premises. Census workers can be identified by the official Census Bureau badge they carry. During the address canvassing operation, census workers will ask only to verify a housing unit's address and whether there are additional

living quarters on the property.

2010 Census workers will never ask for bank or social security information. All census information collected, including addresses, are confidential and protected by law.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with the FBI, the IRS, CIA, Welfare, Immigration, or any other government agency. No court of law or law enforcement agency can

find out respondents' answers. All Census Bureau employees - including temporary employees - take an oath for life to keep census information confidential. Any violation of that oath is punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and five years in prison.

For more information about the 2010 Census, call the Census Bureau's Partnership and Data Services Division, 312-454-2770.

218 Produce Market

Our Goal - Freshness...Flavor...Variety
Open 6 Days A Week 9a-6p • No Sunday Sales - 1 Mile West of Camden on SR 218

Flowers, Bedding Plants, Hanging Baskets, Vegetables & Herb Plants
Bagged-Mulches, Potting Soil & Top Soil - Furniture, Porch Swings & Misc.

Rhubarb • Asparagus Also Have Bananas • Apples
Pineapples • Grapes • Peaches & Other Fruit

HOMEMADE Variety of Pies, Butterhorn Dinner Rolls,
Sweet Rolls, Caramel Pecan Twist, Variety of Cookies, Variety of Breads,
Jellies - Jams - Honey - Maple Syrup, Sorghum - Noodles - Beets

OPENING MAY 7TH

Due to cool wet weather, we do not have much available produce yet but lots coming on.

The Summer Kitchen