

Commissioners hear EDIT requests

Additional tax revenues received

By **Debbie Lowe**
Staff writer

Funding proposals from four entities were heard by Carroll County Commissioners at a special Tuesday morning meeting. The meeting was designed to initiate the process of appropriating economic development income tax (EDIT) funds for 2009.

Carroll County Economic Development Corporation, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, Comprehensive Land Use Plan Steering Committee for the updated zoning plan, and the county ambulance service presented requests for consideration from the estimated \$347,881.08 tax revenues.

EDC director Daryl Smith re-

quested \$151,000 for salaries and operation expenses, projects, consultants and legal representation, advertising, grant matches and site acquisition and development. He further requested \$10,000 be carried over from 2008 for additional site options. Smith's report indicated the total EDC budget for 2009 is \$215,000, which includes contributions from surrounding communities such as Camden, Delphi, etc.

"The percentage (between 2008 and 2009 EDC requests) is the same, but the dollar amount is more because the total (commissioners EDIT) budget is more," he explained.

Smith said the EDC request was based on a 12-point plan developed

in 2004 by Carroll County at the Crossroads.

Representing the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, Dick Bradshaw said there are 60 Delphi-member businesses and individuals in the organization (171 county-wide), however it is not yet to an independent level of funding.

"The county has been generous in its support of the chamber, including funding it," he said.

Bradshaw said a major focus for the group is the establishment of a county portal Web site. Chamber member and Delphi resident Bonnie Maxwell is performing the task.

Maxwell said the chamber is "dangerously close to being able to unveil the beginning" of the site. She said

the goal is for it to be usable by tourist season. It will feature recreation activities and list parks and historic sites. Other components will be a list of county organizations and social service agencies and comprehensive information about county government and services.

Maxwell explained that surrounding counties make land parcel data available online which is beneficial to realtors. She said those needing information about properties in Carroll County must visit the courthouse for the information.

"Carroll County must be at least on par with the counties around us," she said.

Carroll County Emergency Medical Services (ambulance) Director

Mike Durr requested \$280,000 to construct a building in Camden. It would house an ambulance and provide sleeping quarters for medical personnel on 24-hour shifts. The Camden location was chosen because it is in the middle of the county.

Durr noted reports from those who said they would not move to Carroll County because of the perceived lack of the service and longer response times for medical runs. He said housing an ambulance site in Camden could be considered economic development.

Commissioners will hear additional requests at future meetings before finalizing a 2009 EDIT plan in July.

8th annual Relay for Life begins Friday at DCHS

Comet staff report

Carroll County's eighth annual Relay for Life will be Friday and Saturday at a new location, the Delphi Community High School track.

Last year nearly 50 survivors in the area were celebrated.

The overnight celebration begins at 5 p.m. on Friday and ends at noon on Saturday. The relay involves teams camping out, walking laps on the track, socializing, and participating in planned activities. The teams have had fundraisers to support their efforts.

Families and individuals can come to the track and walk, and make a donation to the cause. Anyone can come and cheer on the walkers, eat at the Kiwanis breakfast at 7

a.m. Saturday and support other fundraising activities.

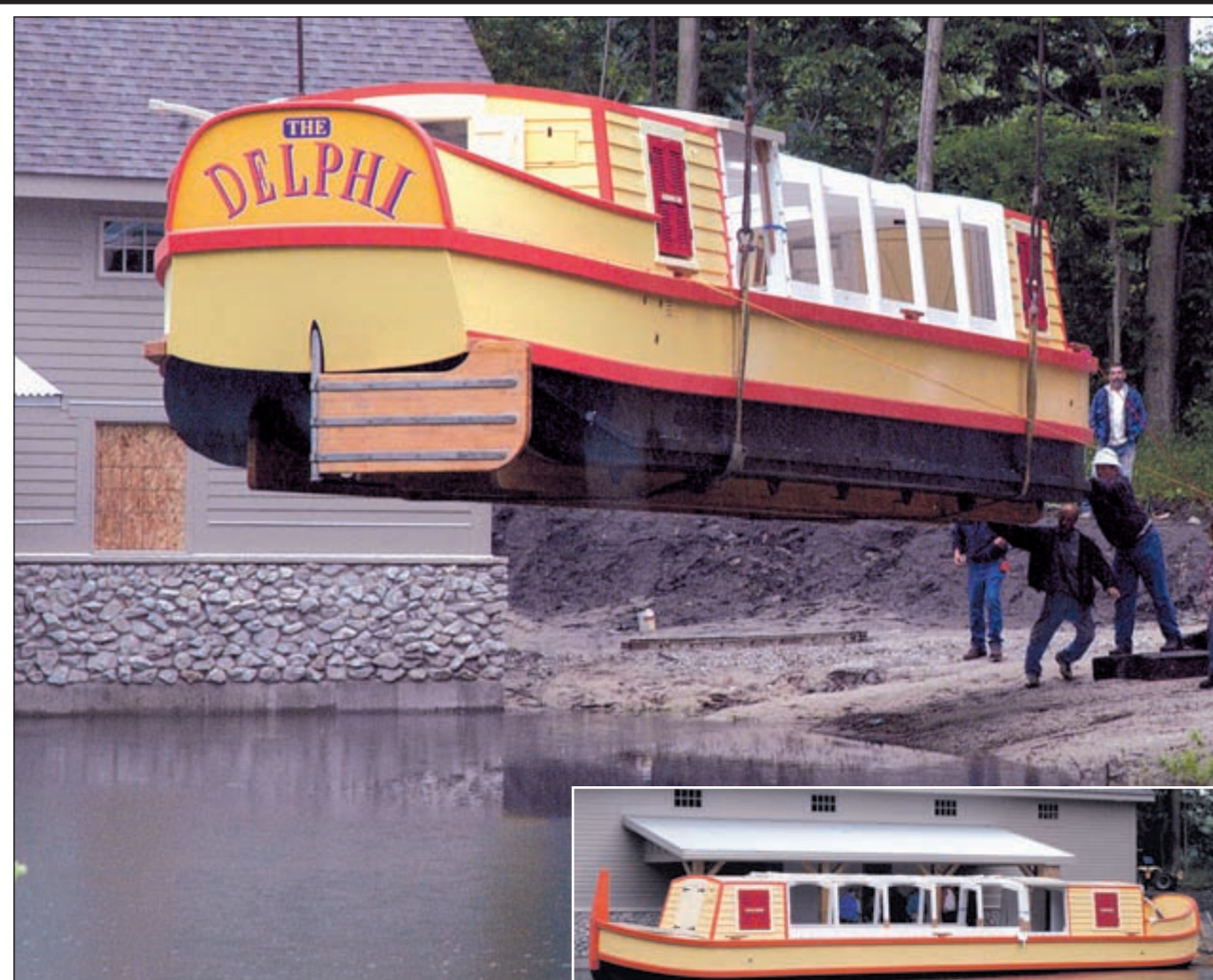
A full schedule of ceremonies, themed laps, contests, and activities is planned.

The opening ceremony begins at 6 p.m. on Friday with an invocation, singing of the National Anthem, balloon release by cancer survivors, ribbon cutting, and the traditional Survivor Lap. Following the Survivor Lap a group photo will be taken with a reception following in the big tent.

The first lap for Relay Team Walkers begins at 6:30 p.m. The Rookie Lap for first-time walkers is at 7 p.m.

Also at 7 is the "Miss"ter Relay Contest. Mistresses dress up as Misses, all for a good cause. A winner is

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'The Delphi' comes home

A large crane from Indianapolis lowers the new replica canal boat into the Wabash & Erie Canal in Delphi. It was built in Albany, N.Y., and is expected to be an extra draw for tourists. The boat and "warehouse" that will house it in winter will be dedicated June 20 at 10 a.m. at the dock at Canal Park. That will be the first day for the public to ride on the boat. Rides will be free on that day only. Comet photos by Jennifer Archibald

Canal boat has arrived!

From New York to Delphi

By **Jennifer Archibald**
Staff writer

A 30-year dream of the Canal Association was realized last Wednesday when a new replica canal boat was lowered into the Wabash and Erie Canal in Delphi.

Built in Albany, N.Y., over a seven-month period, it is 54 feet long and weighs 20 tons. It is a two-thirds scale replica and holds 40 passengers plus

two crew members.

Dan McCain, canal association president, said the boat was funded by a \$1.1 million INDOT grant that also included the building of the "warehouse" that will house the boat in winter. It required a 20 percent match by the association.

McCain said back in the mid 1800s, the boat could have traveled by canal all the way from New York to Delphi

via the Erie Canal and then the Wabash & Erie Canal.

A dedication ceremony for the boat and warehouse will be held at 10 a.m. June 20 at the dock at Canal Park, near the Case House. McCain said free rides will be given on the boat on that day only. Other activities are also planned at the canal in connection with the Heritage Transportation Festival that weekend.

School referendum vote is Tuesday

Comet staff report

Voters in the Delphi Community School Corporation (DCSC) will be deciding Tuesday whether to proceed with a renovation/remodeling project for the high school and middle school.

According to the county clerk's office, anyone registered to vote in the DCSC district can vote on the referendum. Voters do not have to own property, however, owning property does not mean the right to vote. Absentee voting continues Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1-5 p.m. in the clerk's office in the county courthouse.

The last opportunity to vote will be Tuesday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

on SR 39 across from Delphi Community High School.

A photo ID is required at either polling location.

Voters will be presented with one yes or no question on the ballot that reads: "Shall Delphi Community School Corporation issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance the renovation and upgrading of the existing facility in which the Delphi Community High School and Delphi Community Middle School is located?"

DCSC considers school grounds advertising

By **Debbie Lowe**
Staff writer

Business advertising in sporting arenas and on school grounds can be a potential source of revenue for a school corporation. The Delphi Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees began the process to develop a policy to guide advertising requests at its Monday evening meeting.

Superintendent Ralph Walker distributed a proposed policy. He said he did not expect immediate action on the matter. However, board member Nick Cronk made a motion to approve the policy as presented and Chris Nipple gave a second.

The motion stalled when Jerry Sparks expressed concern about the wording of the

proposal.

"We need a little better policy than this," he said. "I think this is too vague."

Board president Robert Resler suggested the board building and grounds committee review the proposed policy and provide recommendations for change at a later date. The motion was tabled. Walker said the board committee will meet in the next two weeks to discuss the matter.

Audit results questioned

School patron Kirk Swartzkopf asked about four points cited in the recently released State Board of Accounts (SBOA) audit results during public comments. He noted the SBOA concluded the school corporation did not pay mileage stipends to school administrators cor-

rectly, an interim superintendent was over-paid, the athletic fund was used inappropriately as were corporation credit cards. He requested a work session for board members to explain the issues.

Resler said findings made by the SBOA auditors in the audit results are particular to the individual auditor. He said items noted in the Delphi school corporation audit might not be noted in other school corporation audits by different auditors.

Walker said the corporation will have corrected all findings by July 1. He said other school corporations across the state pay a set amount for mileage, no matter whether the miles are driven, with a stipend. Delphi will discontinue the practice by July 1.

He reported the SBOA "understood the payment was part of the interim superintendent's contract."

Resler said more answers will be made available at the special June 29 school board meeting.

Renovation changes

Walker reported that approximately \$150,000 could be left from the renovation project at the Camden Early Education Center renovation project. He recommended the money be spent to address heating and cooling system issues in six additional classrooms.

Sparks questioned the figures. He said the same work is being done in six classrooms and the total cost for that is roughly \$350,000. He asked how an additional six classrooms work could cost

less.

No answers were provided. Walker said he would look at the numbers and explain the costs at the June 29 meeting.

Other business

Walker announced the Web site is going to be updated with a new look in the fall. Resler noted job vacancies are not posted in an easily accessible area. Corporation secretary Shelly Wills said she will address the issue.

It was verified to board member Bill Trueblood that summer school teachers are required to possess a license in the area taught.

Nipple requested a total cost for the new press box at the next meeting.

Sparks clarified that the \$2.3 million cash balance re-

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