

County building trespass ordinance is adopted

Residents prohibited from using 4-H buildings without permission

By **Debbie Lowe**
Staff writer

Concerns that skateboarders and bicyclists pose a liability risk for the county in the 4-H buildings in Flora prompted action by Carroll County Commissioners at their Monday night meeting. The county leaders adopted an all-inclusive ordinance to prohibit anyone, including individuals, walkers, and groups, from using the facility without permission. Violators will be subject to a maximum \$250 fine for the offense.

The ordinance which reads, "It is unlawful to come upon or trespass upon the buildings owned by Carroll County within the Town of Flora Park, unless specifically authorized," will be advertised June 24 in the *Comet* and will be effective July 1.

Participation in census

Commissioners joined forces with the U.S. Bureau of the Census to recognize each Carroll County citizen in the 2010 count. President Loren Hylton will form and head a community committee, called a Complete Count Committee, with sub-committees from government, education, media, religious, community-based organizations, business, recruiting and special housing. Each sub-committee is charged with specific duties to ensure a complete count of all residents in 2010.

Hylton said he will enlist volunteers for committees before resorting to appointing members. Those interested in serving can contact Hylton at (574) 859-2651.

Health department grant

The county has had an agreement with the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program to provide anti-smoking services

for the county health department for the past several years. The county received grant monies to support the program, however according to Hylton, commissioners never approved a grant proposal or an agreement.

For the past several years claims, signed by public health officer Dr. Jordan Dutter and his predecessor, were submitted by the county health department and were approved by the county leaders. The pay for services, and other claims, was processed through the county payroll, according to county auditor Beth Myers. Those who were providing the services were both county health department employees until one left the county June 20, 2008.

Hylton instructed program coordinator Mary Jones, who is now employed at Purdue University, that the new grant must be ap-

proved by the Carroll County Board of Health and presented to commissioners by the county health department for consideration before it can be submitted to the state. The next funding cycle begins July 1.

Commissioner Pat Clawson noted the new proposal, which was developed by Jones, contained a budget with a \$38,000 salary for the coordinator, out of the \$40,000 total budget request.

Commissioners voted to authorize Myers to pay all claims submitted by Jones, including payroll, against the current grant before June 30.

Highway department

Highway engineer Paul Coutts reported the foundation was in place for drainage pipes to be set in the Crooked Road to Flora/Delphi road repair project. He said with cooperation from the weather,

the drainage pipes would be in place by the end of the week.

"It's a good-sized job," Coutts said.

Commissioners approved use of county roads 50E., 150S. and the Flora-Bringhurst Rd. by Hog Jog participants during Saturday's event in Flora.

Other business

Commissioners directed sheriff Tony Burns to solicit bids for the jail roof replacement. Clawson said a capital projects fund budget, from which a roof would be funded, was to be developed for 2010 and it was necessary to gather pertinent information about needed repairs for planning purposes.

"We need to start planning this," Clawson said.

Commissioners attorney Barry

See ordinance page 5A

Vote is 'no'

By **Debbie Lowe**
Staff writer

The \$13.1 million renovation project proposed by the Delphi Community School Corp. for the middle and high schools was soundly defeated in a referendum Tuesday. The merits of the project, as well as the cost over the course of a 20-year bond period, were debated since the board adopted the plans for the project last November.

According to county clerk Nancy Mattox, 1,011 ballots were cast out of a possible 5,832 voters. Unofficial results from voting machine tabulations indicated 403, or 39.98 percent, of all ballots were cast in favor of the project and 605 or 60.02 percent were cast against the project. There were three under-votes.

Mattox explained the preliminary results were considered "unofficial" because a legal notice for a public test of the voting machines was not filed in a timely manner. Ballots were hand-counted.

School board president Robert Resler was present for the results and expressed disappointment in the outcome.

"First of all, I would like to say that this is not a loss for the school board or the superintendent," he said after the unofficial results were revealed. "The only losers are the chil-

dren and the taxpayers. The children are losers because we cannot make the needed repairs that have been put off too long and we will be limited in providing for better educational opportunities in the future."

Resler said the school corporation would be unable to accomplish any building renovation under the current circuit breaker. He said a \$9 million project would be funded not from just corporation patrons but all county taxpayers. He said the matter would not likely be discussed at the special school board meeting June 29 but expected a discussion after the board elected new officers in July.

Patron Kirk Schwarzkopf, who did not support the cost of the project but did support the stated need for renovations, was also present when the voting results were announced.

"I think it's a great nation that we can come and vote without persecution but still have an opinion that does not always agree with everyone else," he said. "I don't feel that this is a loss for the kids. I think this is an opportunity for the school board and administrators to develop a project under the circuit breaker that would benefit the students with respect to the taxpayers' vote."

New TIF district for Carroll County

By **Debbie Lowe**
Staff writer

Sixty acres of land south of Delphi city limits on US421, formerly known as Gray's Turkey Farm, is slated to become Carroll County's second tax incremental finance (TIF) district by late July.

Carroll County Redevelopment Commission members Monty Edging, Raymond Zink and Larry Trapp, present at Friday's meeting and Kurtis Fouts by proxy, adopted a "declaratory resolution" to establish an economic development area as a TIF allocation area.

As a TIF allocation area, all property tax dollars from im-

provements to the land will be captured by the redevelopment commission and redevelopment finance board to fund infrastructure improvements to and in the area. The measure is designed to enhance the attractiveness of the site to potential developers.

It was noted by TIF board attorney Barry Emerson that neither the board nor the county currently had funding for improvements until there is site development and additional tax revenue can be captured. Denoting the site as a TIF district will not automatically lead to financing a project for water, sewage or road work.

According to Delphi Mayor Randy Strasser, it will also not necessarily lead to annexation of the area into the Delphi City limits.

The next step in the process for the area to become a TIF district is for approval by the Carroll County Area Plan Commission June 23 at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Commissioners will be asked to adopt the resolution to establish the district at their July 6 morning meeting. The redevelopment commission will host a public hearing July 27. Adoption of the resolution is expected following the hearing.



Clowning around for a cure

Yvonne Davis of the Howard County Relay for Life team 29, "The Animals," is embraced by Nurse Humdinger (Pat Mills) of Doowaditty City (Flora). Davis's has collected more than \$351,000 for the American Cancer Society in her eight years volunteering with Relay. "We're here to fight cancer," Humdinger said. "It has been around too long." Davis added, "It is about time we eradicate this thing." Comet photo by Jenna Buehler

Relay for Life a \$25K success

Jenna Buehler
Contributing writer

The eighth annual Carroll County Relay for Life raised \$25,000 for the American Cancer Society (ACS) last Friday at the Delphi Community School Corporation (DCSC) athletic track.

Carroll County ACS representative Sandy Chapin said donations from the Luminaria Ceremony, 18 Relay teams, 300 participants and numerous sponsors contributed to the event's success.

This was Cutler resident Shawna Dreadfulwater's second year as Carroll County Relay for Life chairperson and first year at

the DCSC track location. She said participants from surrounding counties attended the event to appreciate and celebrate life.

"We've all come out here in the celebration of life, but also in the fight against cancer," Dreadfulwater said. "It's a night of fun and fellowship as we raise money for the cause."

Dreadfulwater said DCSC, Delphi Chamber of Commerce and Delphi Mayor Randy Strasser were helpful in making the event possible.

"This event represents what we can do to battle cancer," Strasser said at the opening ceremony. "I think we're all survivors and I'm so happy to see everyone out here together."

Heritage Transportation Festival blasts off this weekend

Comet staff report

Residents have ample opportunity to show fathers a good time this weekend in Delphi at the Heritage Transportation Festival. Various fun events, all about transportation which will be hit with most fathers, are scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The festival will begin Friday with the grand opening of the Opera House Gallery of Contemporary Art from 7:30 to 10 p.m. The gallery is located at 109 S. Washington St. in Delphi. Community residents will have the distinct opportunity to meet resident artists and observe works in

progress. Delphi Preservation Society members will be on hand to lead tours of the newly renovated gallery space and discuss upcoming events at the Delphi Opera House.

DPS members will give Opera House tours on Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.

A historic vehicle parade will begin 9 a.m. Saturday at the Carroll County Courthouse and will travel to Canal Park.

The new replica canal boat, "The Delphi," will be dedi-

cated at 10 a.m. Saturday at the dock at Canal Park. The Vintage Brass will take part in the program. After dignitaries take the first ride, free short rides will be open to the public the rest of the day.

Commemorative buttons will be available, along with ice cream and other food.

Regular operation of the narrated boat rides will continue on Sunday, with tickets available at the Canal Center. Carriage rides also will be offered Sunday afternoon.

Helicopter and airplane rides will be offered all day Sunday at the Delphi Municipal Airport. The Experimental Aviation Association (EAA) will offer a pancake and sausage breakfast at 8 a.m. and hamburgers or cheeseburgers with grilled onions, chips and baked beans for lunch at 11 a.m. The Airport Helper Award Ceremony will be held at 11.

The trolley will transport visitors from the airport to a rededication ceremony at Wilson Bridge at 2:30 p.m. The trolley will also travel from the airport to Canal Park for carriage and new canal boat rides from 1 to 4 p.m.



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