

## Council and commissioners reach cum cap budget agreement

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

2010 will be a year of firsts for Carroll County government. It will signal the first year the county will plan how to utilize the cumulative capital improvement fund. Also it will be the first year the county council will have a line item in the commissioner's budget for independent legal counsel. It may even be the first year that Carroll Manor will survive on facility-generated income and no taxpayer money, except what is needed to pay for indigent county residents and some non-recurring building maintenance.

Commissioners and council members met in joint session Monday morning, led by council presi-

dent Ann Brown, to discuss the development of a cum cap budget, Carroll Manor, hiring a county manager and a separate budget for the county council apart from the commissioners.

"We're doing this the old fashioned way," Brown said. "We are using poster board and a black marker."

She explained the meeting was designed to come to an agreement about adding various line items to the county budget beginning in 2010. Brown said that, although some suggested new budget line items might be added, the inclusions would not necessarily be funded in 2010. The budget plan did not come without compromise, however.

### Separate council budget

Council members expressed a de-

sire to spend from a budget separate from the commissioners for needed council expenses. Commissioners expressed concern that there would be no oversight for a separate budget. A compromise was reached to include line items in the commissioner's budget that will accommodate the needs of the council, including independent legal counsel.

### County manager

The council proposed that a part-time county manager be hired. Members maintained the county would see a return on the salary investment in the first year. Commissioners were not in agreement until more details, such as where the person would work and what would be included in a job description could be provided.

Bill Brown said he had trouble with creating another position to fund.

"At this time, I can't vote for a (county) manager," he said. "But I'm willing to consider it."

"This starts all of us thinking about it," Ann Brown replied. "It's going to take some planning."

The matter was tabled for 2010.

### Carroll Manor

Council members suggested the 2009 dedicated appropriation of \$289,342 for Carroll Manor be removed from the general fund and put in the commissioner's budget. Brown explained the move would "free up" \$189,342 for other services, such as ambulance services. It was further recommended the appropriation amount be changed to \$50,000, which would act as seed

money to begin the year while income to pay bills was received and another \$50,000 be included to pay for indigent county residents.

She suggested the Manor could rent unused space given the facility is approved to house more residents than the population number has ever achieved. She said the commissioners could charge other counties when their residents are housed at the facility.

Scott Ayres noted to fellow council members that the council receives information about Manor income without being provided expense income. He said it was difficult to understand the complete financial picture with partial information.

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## July 4th happenings around the county

Comet staff report

Activities abound around the county for Independence Day revelers this Saturday. Delphi, Burlington and Flora will all have special events and fireworks displays.

### Delphi

Activities in Delphi will begin with a breakfast hosted by the Delphi Rotary Club at Honan Hall. Serving will be from 6:30 to 10 a.m.

The annual Delphi Lions Independence Day Parade begins at 10 a.m. with a memorial service on the county courthouse lawn. Grand Marshal Ed Gruber will lead the pageantry through the streets. Prize winning floats will be recognized in a winner's ceremony at canal park at 11:45 a.m.

Delphi Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a fish fry from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hillcrest football field. Chamber-sponsored fireworks will begin there at dusk.

The Educational Foundation of Delphi Community School Corporation will have a concession stand on site.

Canal Days will be celebrated at the canal park Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

### Burlington

Burlington Community Club is sponsoring a 4th of July celebration at the park.

A hog roast will be served from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Community Building. There will be entertainment during that time.

The American Legion will present a flag ceremony just prior to the start of the fireworks display set to begin at dusk. The fireworks will include more aerial displays.

### Flora

The Flora First Christian Church is presenting a Gospel Fest from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday evening before the fireworks. Featured performers will be Resurrection and Dustin and Kaila Vargo. Bring a lawn chair to enjoy the music.

Flora Lions Club will be selling ice cream.

The fireworks display will begin at dusk.

### Fireworks laws and safety tips

In 2007, the Indiana General Assembly passed a new fireworks law. Even though local governments were given the authority to adopt their own ordinances regarding the discharging of fireworks, Carroll County's communities abide by the state ordinance.

Fireworks may be discharged from 9 a.m. to midnight on the Fourth of July, Labor Day, New Year's Eve and Memorial Day. On all other days of the year, fireworks may be discharged from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Persons discharging fireworks must do so on their own property or property where they have obtained permission.

Those under the age of 18 may possess or use fireworks only in the presence of an adult.

Tips for using fireworks safely follow:

- Never let children handle, play with, or light any fireworks.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from the reach of children.
- Always purchase your fireworks from reliable, licensed fireworks dealers.
- Use in a clear, open area. Keep audience a safe distance away from the shooting site.
- Safety glasses are recommended for those individuals lighting the fireworks or those in close proximity to the fireworks.
- Do not alter any fireworks device or make your own fireworks.
- Light only one firework item at a time.
- Never attempt to re-light, alter or fix any "dud" firework item.
- Have a fire extinguisher, water supply, hose or bucket of water nearby.
- Be cautious of lighting any fireworks during strong wind conditions and light fireworks with prevailing wind blowing away from the spectators.
- Never smoke when handling fireworks.
- Do not use alcohol with fireworks.
- Never aim, point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Use fireworks outdoors, never indoors.

## Celebrate Canal Days July 4, 5

Comet staff report

A patriotic theme will permeate Canal Park during Canal Days, July 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and July 5, from noon until 5 p.m.

A special feature (Saturday only) will be a stirring patriotic multi-media presentation "Let Freedom Ring," presented by Brian Migliore of Fort Wayne. This distinctive program combines images matched to words and music. Gather at 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m. or 4 p.m. at the Canal Center to hear the program. There will be no admission charge, but donations are welcome.

The new replica canal boat *The Delphi* will be running cruises continuously beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. Tickets can be purchased at the Canal Center front desk. Dan McCain, canal association president, said the boat is running smoothly now after a few early problems have been worked out.

Narrated walking tours will take visitors to two new venues - a walk at 2 p.m. to Canal Park Annex to learn about the new warehouse patterned after a local 1800s warehouse, and a trek at 4 p.m. to the Mule Barn, a replica of a relay station where fresh horses

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### Latest canal project

This nearly completed project, a canal guard lock, is located at the southwest end of Canal Park. Narrated walks during Canal Days will tell about this lock, which is similar to one that was located north of Delphi and protected the canal from a flooding Wabash River. Building this lock took many volunteer hours. Two-to-three-ton cut stones had been removed from the old county jail in the 1970s and were donated by contractor Jack Cohee. The structure has a thick wooden gate and when completed, will have an adjacent change bridge, which would have allowed towing animals to cross from one side of the canal to the other. Top photo by Jennifer Archibald. Photo at right provided



## Ed Gruber to lead Delphi's Independence Day Parade

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Carroll County native Ed Gruber, father of three, grandfather to eight and great-grandfather to almost that many, was selected by the Delphi Lion Club to lead the 2009 Independence Day Parade. And although he considers the nod for the top slot an honor, he modestly insists others in the community are more deserving of the position.



Gruber

"This is a special thing," he said. "I am honored to have been picked, but there are several other people who should have been chosen for this."

However, friend and canal association co-worker Dan McCain did not altogether agree

with Gruber's assessment.

"Ed is a role model for all of our canal volunteers," he said when he learned Gruber was to be grand marshal. "He has so many skills. He is so involved. And he really deserves this honor."

Gruber said the parade tradition was started by the canal association in the 1990s and he was one of the first organizers. He said he used one of his wagons from the family farm west of Delphi as a float for a group that wanted to participate. Gruber said this year, as grand marshal, he will ride in the traditional convertible - but will wear canal-appropriate attire.

"I'll probably say something like 'more power to the canal with their new boat,'" he said. "As soon as the parade is over, I'm going back out on that boat!"

Gruber graduated from Pittsburg Grade School, Delphi High School and finally Purdue University in 1941

where he earned a Bachelor's degree in agriculture. However, he had the desire to learn to fly airplanes and entered a special course offered by the federal government called Civil Pilot Training. He learned how to train flight instructors in the program before World War II began.

Gruber was readied to fly for the military and joined the U.S. Air Force in the Southeast Training Command. He was made inactive immediately until the beginning of the war and was then sent to DAR Aerotech in Georgia in 1942. Gruber explained that Aerotech was a military

school operated by civilians. Gruber joined the Air Transport Command, a division of TWA Airlines, a military operation in 1945 and then began flying TWA domestic flights in 1946. He retired in 1979 after 40 years in aviation.

Gruber's son, Larry, of rural Delphi describes his father as a wise man who uses few words.

"You might have noticed that Dad isn't extremely talkative," he said. "However, I've learned over the years that when he does say something, it's worthwhile to listen."

**Due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday  
Flora & Delphi Comet offices  
will be closed Friday, July 3**

## 218 Produce Market

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**New Potatoes**  
**Green Beans**