

Carroll cracks down on student use of cell phones

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Carroll School Board has stiffened the penalties for student use of cell phones during school hours.

At its Aug. 18 meeting, the board changed the penalties for improper use of cell phones to the following:

First offense – cell phone taken away for five days.

Second offense – cell phone taken away for 10 days.

Third offense – cell phone taken away for the remainder of the semester.

The previous practice to deal with violation of the cell phone policy was to call a student's parents and ask them to come to the school and pick up the phone.

The new penalty is corporation-wide and applies to students. Likewise, staff members are not to use cell phones during instruction time or other on-duty time. Board president Sam Zook said adult violations would be reflected on their evaluations.

The board approved a request by Carroll Elementary assistant principal Roy Hufford to start fifth and sixth grade volleyball programs at the school, beginning this year. The two grade levels will each have its own team, and the school will provide the uniforms. Volunteer coach will be Julie Eurit. The season will be no more than six weeks, beginning around Aug. 31 and ending around Oct. 2. Home games will be

played at the elementary school.

In his written request, Hufford gave the following reasons for starting volleyball at the elementary level: beneficial in developing students' volleyball skills, supplement the physical education volleyball curriculum, promote good sportsmanship of elementary athletes, and improve the junior and senior high volleyball programs by providing them with more experienced volleyball players.

Superintendent John Sayers announced that student enrollment is down 27 from last year, although official count day is still a couple weeks away.

Two more students have been accepted as cash tuition students from

outside the school district – Alexa and Carson Stout.

Also accepted was an early graduation request from Cogan Draper, who will graduate at the end of the first semester.

Michelle Strawcutter has resigned as an elementary aide.

Virginia Rusch-Mills will be an assistant Junior Class sponsor this year, and Lance Spesard will be eighth grade girls basketball coach. A position is still open for junior-senior high school nurse.

The annual Senior Trip will be Oct. 5 and 6 at a cost of \$355 per student.

The board renewed its property insurance with Indiana Insurance, through RME, at a cost of \$88,519.

Sayers said the cost is six percent higher than last year, due mainly to an increase in value of corporation buildings.

The board declared various monitors, keyboards, and computer units as surplus equipment.

Junior-senior high school principal Charles Huckstep announced that non-perishable food items will be collected for the Carroll County Food Pantry at the Bacon Bowl Aug. 28 and that the school's Meet the Teacher Night will be Sept. 3 at 7 p.m.

The next board meeting will be Sept. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Administration Building. A work session will precede the meeting, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Rossville Summer's End float



Rossville Presbyterian Church participated in the Rossville Summer's End Festival parade in honor of the church's 175th anniversary. Pictured in the front pew are Rev. John and Kay Everett. Behind them, l-r, are Kennedy Houser and Diane Oglesby. Also riding on the float, but hidden from view, were Olivia Kyc and Katie Hutsell. Bill Ruch was the driver. See more Summer's End photos on page 8A. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

County council reviews others' budgets

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

For the second year all county councils in the state are required to review other taxing entities' budgets in their respective counties. The directive came from the state legislature and was not specific in scope. Counties were directed to offer non-binding recommendations to the others, such as township government officials, libraries, towns such as Flora and Yeoman, the city of Delphi and other groups which levy taxes for income.

Carroll County Council members were unsure what to do with their new duty in 2008 and after a cursory review of the budgets, no comments were formally made. They decided to take a slightly more active role in the process in 2009. Last week each budget was reviewed in groups by each council member and recommendations, although non-binding, were noted in writing and returned to the taxing entity. Only four out

of the 22 budgets reviewed sparked concerns determined to be serious enough to note.

Most concerns noted were township spending and had to do with fire departments. It was noted that Jackson Township increased the fire fund from \$33,500 in 2009 to \$72,500 in 2010, a 116.42 percent increase. Democrat Township increased the cumulative fire fund from \$5,000 to \$30,000 or 499.20 percent.

Jefferson Township increased the fire fund from \$65,000 to \$105,000 and a concern was noted by council members. According to township trustee Harold Erdmann, the measure was needed to be able to purchase a \$50,000 piece of equipment for the Monticello Fire Department as part of a three-year contract for fire fighting services, plus a \$47,000 annual contract obligation to the same organization. In addition, the township general fund will experience an increase from \$24,100 to \$55,750 to pay up to \$35,000 for ambulance

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Two public events should draw interest

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Town Hall Meeting

Carroll County residents will be able to attend the first Town Hall Meeting in the area Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Delphi Public Library, U.S. Cong. Joe Donnelly will host the event to provide citizens the opportunity to give him feedback about national and local issues. The event is intended to be peaceful and Donnelly requests all participants treat those around them with respect.

Although no protests are expected at the Delphi Town Hall Meeting Wednesday, one is planned for Sept. 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the courthouse in Valparaiso, located at 16 Lincolnway. It is called a "peaceful counter protest" by organizers, the Northwest Indiana Patriots and the Citizens In Action group from Lafayette.

Move On.Org, Acorn and others are holding a rally in support of national health care. For details, the Patriots can be reached via E-mail at nwi.patriots@nwpatriots.com

Hoosier Heartland Highway

The second event, sponsored by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), will be Thursday, Aug. 27, at 7 p.m. at Delphi Community High School Little Theatre and Commons.

The public is invited to a "public information meeting" about segment two of the SR25 Hoosier Heartland Project in Carroll County.

Updated design, right-of-way information, and an updated construction schedule will be presented.

According to the INDOT consultant, Bernardin Louchmueller and Associates, Inc., will be present to provide the formal update presentation in the Little Theatre, followed by specific questions regarding segment two in the commons. INDOT representatives "will be available to answer any questions not specific to segment two."

According to INDOT, segment one on the Tippecanoe-Carroll County line to

Carroll County Road 400W. is already under construction. Segment three is well into the right-of-way phase and will be beginning construction soon as well.

Segment four is still in the early stages of design, and a public information meeting for that segment is being planned for the near future.

The other three consulting firms for the SR25 Hoosier Heartland project will not be attending this public information meeting.

For additional information, visit the project Web site at www.in.gov/dot/projects/sr25study.

Delphi police warn residents about more burglaries

Comet staff report

The Delphi Police Department has received reports of and investigated an increasing number of burglaries in the area in the past several days. Residents are reminded to keep buildings such as garages and other out buildings locked. Tools and other

valuables should be secured as well. Vehicles should be locked and all valuables (wallets, cell phones, GPS units, etc.) removed or hidden from view.

Anyone noticing suspicious activity should report it to the Delphi Police Department by calling (765) 564-2345.

Wagoner points out reasons to extend SR75

Comet staff report



Wagoner

In a letter to local and state officials, Camden Town Council President Pete Wagoner outlines why he and the town believe that extending SR 75 to the Hoosier Heartland Highway is important to Carroll County's economic future.

The letter was sent to: Carroll County Council members; Paul Coutts, County Highway engineer; James Earl, project manager, INDOT; Daryl Smith, EDC director; Josh Ayres, Council president, Town of Flora;

Randy Strasser, mayor, City of Delphi; Mark Justice, trustee, Liberty Township; Bill Dittman, trustee, Jackson Township; and Maryo Pasarel, The Troyer Group.

Wagoner's letter follows: "The Town Council of

Camden supports this vitally important highway project since this highway is the backbone/centerline of Carroll County that directly links the population centers of Cutler, Bringham, Flora and Camden. The SR75 extension has broad support that includes the Camden Town Council, Flora Town Council, Carroll County Economic De-

velopment Corporation, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Delphi. This highway project also has support from Clinton County and Frankfort.

In 2006, the county had an economic impact study performed by an outside consultant that detailed the benefits the SR75 corridor will contribute to employment growth. The improved corridor will lead to an industrial expansion that will improve the county's economy. In looking at the benefit of building the project, the county's return on investment

is a factor 5.01 to 1 and would break even within an eight-year period after construction is completed.

In 2008, the county published an Economic Development Plan that resulted from input received from many sources, and has been reviewed favorably by all municipalities, the Commissioners, and the Focus on Future Forum. There is broad-based support for this E.D. Plan, which assigns a high-priority to a SR75 Extension Project. This would be a county/state project, not a "Camden project," which will benefit all local governmental entities and every taxpayer living in Carroll County since it has the potential for creating a significant number of new, decent-

paying jobs!

A few other factors associated with an extended SR75 to consider are:

- **Heavy-truck traffic needs to be funneled onto SR75** to preserve our unimproved county roads and reduce some very unsafe driving conditions.
- **Enhanced public safety (EMS and fire protection)** by having an overpass for SR75 across NW Railroad.
- **Enhanced potential for meaningful economic development in areas along SR75** from Cutler to Flora to Camden to connection with the HHH.
- **Vast potential for large-scale industrial development in area near to**

See Wagoner page 6A



Mailing label goes here

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