

County regains third ambulance

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Emergency Medical Services Director Mike Durr realized his dream when the Carroll County Council adopted the proposed 2010 budget. Durr's request to fund staff needed for a third ambulance to better serve county residents was approved with the county's spending plan for next year.

Four years ago county taxpayers supported four ambulances. After extreme but necessary budget re-

ductions, the department could only afford to staff two of them. It was always a goal of council members to work toward partial reinstatement of the loss for the department and they were able to make that happen for 2010.

"I am happy to have it back," Durr said Monday.

However, merely having the vehicle with staff ready to roll does not describe the total situation facing the department. There is no actual facility for the additional ambulance.

According to Durr, the EMS committee established to advise and guide department decisions determined the best place to put the third ambulance was in the same garage in Delphi where another ambulance is located. The Flora garage site was closed earlier this year because of severe flooding issues. The ambulance located there was moved to Burlington, where a facility existed and was offered free of charge.

"I did not put any money in the 2010 budget for a facility," Durr said. "There just wasn't enough

money there for that expense."

"I couldn't ask any one community to prepare to house the ambulance before I knew that the funding for the personnel was going to be in place or not," he added. "Now that the 2010 budget was approved by the council last week, I'm ready to look for a suitable location for it."

Durr said a grant to plan for a permanent EMS building was approved by the commissioners and will be submitted to the Indiana Office of Rural Affairs by the Kankakee Iroquois Regional Planning

Commission (KIRPC). Durr said it would be advantageous to house the third ambulance in a community more centrally located to the middle of the county between Delphi and Burlington while more permanent plans are developed.

Durr said the EMS committee will reconvene in November to discuss location options as they are developed throughout the county. It is expected the committee will meet more than one time to determine the best course of action.
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Five businesses/organizations are recognized for bettering our communities



Award recipients

Carroll County Parks Board and Friends of Carroll County Parks were honored for their continuing efforts to improve Deer Creek and French Post parks. They were one of five businesses and organizations to receive Community Enhancement Awards, presented annually by the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation and Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Pictured with the award are representatives from both groups, (l-r): Bob Burton, Bonnie Maxwell, Al Auffart and David McCain. Comet photo

Comet staff report

Five Carroll County businesses and organizations were honored Thursday as

2009 Community Enhancement Award winners. The awards were presented at a luncheon hosted by the Carroll County Economic Development

Corp. (CCEDC) and Carroll County Chamber of Commerce (CCCC) at the Wabash & Erie Canal Conference Center in Delphi last

Thursday.

Each of the winners were chosen for their efforts to enhance the visual appeal and business atmosphere of the county.

This year's award recipients are: Burlington - Kristen's Homemade Delights; Camden - Camden Health Center; Delphi - Delphi Preservation Society; Flora - Sycamore Industrial Park; and County - Carroll County Parks Board/Friends of Carroll County Parks.

CCEDC Executive Director Daryl Smith made the presentations.

Information about the winners follows:

Burlington

Kristen's Homemade Delights is a family business, founded by Kristen Arnett and her parents, Scott and Tamie Arnett.

The business has its origins from an idea to sell homemade angel food cakes as a way for Kristen to earn money to pay for a trip to Europe in 2006. They used a special family recipe supplied by her grandmother for the cakes and soon began selling homemade noodles, too. The demand for her cakes and noodles continued long after her trip. A family decision was made to establish Kristen's Homemade Delights and operate the business at 703 S. Michigan

Road in Burlington. They have since added to their line of homemade goods.

Kristen is now a sophomore majoring in business marketing at the University of Indianapolis. Her mother operates the business with some assistance from her dad and Kristen returns home most weekends and vacations to help, too.

Camden

The Camden Health Center, operated by Logansport Memorial Hospital, opened recently in the building where the late Dr. Tom Anderson operated his medical practice in downtown Camden.

The Town of Camden had the initial work done on the building and the hospital finished the interior. The facility is staffed by two nurse practitioners and two medical assistants. A chiropractor is also establishing hours in the facility. Plans are to add an additional one or two health-related services, along with possibly establishing a small fitness center to promote healthy lifestyles.

Delphi

The Delphi Preservation Society, a non-profit organization formed for the purpose of preserving the historic architectural integrity of the City of Delphi, is active in a variety of projects. They have restored the façade of the As-

sion-Ruffing City Hall building, located on the east side of the courthouse square. They are renovating the Lathrop-Ruffing Opera House on the third floor of the building and have renovated the ground floor space of the old City Hall building where they have opened the new Gallery of Contemporary Art. The Gallery showcases resident artists and celebrates the cultural and architectural heritage of the community.

Flora

Dennis Kuns and his son, Darin, have put a former manufacturing facility in Flora back into productive use. The new facility, Sycamore Industrial Park, is housed in the former Briggs Plumbing/SAYCO building on SR 75.

Acquiring the building took Dennis Kuns of D-K Construction considerable time and patience. After purchasing the building, his company removed load after load of scrap machinery. They completely cleaned the building, made extensive roof repairs, did electrical work, gave the exterior a facelift, and renovated the interior to make it ready for multiple tenant use.

Flexible space arrangements are available in the industrial park that can be customized to suit interested tenants.
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Carroll has first case of H1N1

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

The Carroll School Corporation had its first confirmed case of H1N1 last week.

Superintendent John Sayers made the announcement at the Oct. 20 school board meeting. He said the news came earlier that day.

Sayers said Carroll's absenteeism had been running five to six percent, but he doesn't expect that to last.

Maintenance supervisor Tom Allbaugh said every effort has been made to keep the schools as sanitary as possible.

"We have hand sanitizing stations in every classroom, and we disinfect door knobs and desk tops every night," he said.

Board member Michelle Simmons commented that fall break (which was last Thursday and Friday) came at a good time to help keep down the spread of the flu.

Sayers pointed out that a second informative letter about the H1N1 virus went home to parents, and the advisory is also on the corporation's web site. The basic guideline for children returning to school after an illness is 24 hours after symptoms have stopped.

Budget

The board adopted the advertised 2010 budget of \$10,922,969. The state is responsible for the general fund and the special education preschool fund. The final budget, after all information is in from the county and state, is typically lower than the advertised budget. Also adopted were the three-year Capital Projects Plan and the 12-year Bus Replacement Plan.

As part of the bus replacement...
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Increase in state H1N1 activity

Health department inoculates 300 children

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Indiana State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Judy Monroe said during a media teleconference Thursday "lines are forming at county health departments across the state" for H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccinations. Monroe reported that H1N1 activity has increased significantly in the northern third of the state. The situation was described as "an upward trend" and the peak could not be predicted.

Monroe said it was the local health leaders who would decide how to handle the outbreak in their communities. Although the state would help guide decisions, the local officials are in control of what happens in the county.

"Each county is under the jurisdiction of the county health officer," Monroe said. "Vaccine is distributed to every health department based on population per capita."

Carroll County is no exception to the situation as was witnessed last week when the county health department immunized between 200 and 300

children for H1N1 plus another 100 children and adults for seasonal flu on Thursday and Friday.

County health nurse Hope Kinzer said another children's flu clinic will be this Thursday and Friday, Oct. 29 and 30, at the health department. She said there are roughly 200 to 250 doses of H1N1 available at the clinic this week and between 30 and 40 doses of seasonal flu vaccine available for inoculations.

Kinzer said all nasal mist vaccination received from the state were distributed to area doctors' offices and clinics. She also said that some patients from Lafayette are being referred by their physicians to the Carroll County Health Department for H1N1 shots. Kinzer reported that according to the ISHD the local health department is not allowed to limit service to the residents of the county they serve.

Monroe said residents must be responsible and take action to do as much to prevent the spread of the disease as possible. She said it was the duty of the local media to help communicate this information.

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Vaccine rules are explained

Carroll County Health Department workers were inundated with patients seeking H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccinations last Thursday and Friday. More than 300 people were seen during the two-day clinic. Patients clogged the north entry into the courthouse while waiting their turn for service. Rules for the clinic were posted on a sign outside the health department door.
Comet photo by Debbie Lowe



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