

Yeoman community center a go

No ambulance garage funding requested

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Yeoman town leaders received word last Thursday that the long-sought state funding for a town community center was granted. The town heard identical news last year, however at that time the request was for not only a community center but also for an ambulance garage. By the time the good news was received last year, the county government could no longer afford to participate in the project. This year no ambulance garage was included in the plans submitted to the state.

"This grant has nothing to do with

an ambulance garage," explained town engineer Ken Smith. "We only submitted a request to build a community center and that's what was funded."

Smith of Municipal Civil Corporation describes the project as a structure that will be somewhat less than 2,000 square feet with a kitchen, large meeting space, storage area and restrooms. It will be located on the corner of Railroad and Main streets, north of the basketball court in a vacant lot.

Smith said the next step is for him to finish the design, obtain building and other permits, and bid the job out, which is expected to happen in February. Construction is planned for

spring.

The \$250,000 Yeoman Community Center grant, awarded by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, will be administered by Amy Miller of Cornerstone Grants Management.

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs also announced Midland Meals was awarded a \$250,000 for a dock and storage addition for their facility located in Tippecanoe County. Carroll County is the official grant recipient listed for the "special needs" project. Midland Meals is considered the "sub-recipient" and provides services to Carroll County residents.



Future site of good times in Yeoman

Although the site is bare right now, by this time next year there will be a 2,000 square foot structure that will host parties, gatherings and meetings for Yeoman residents. Construction on the Yeoman Community Center is expected to begin next spring and be completed by fall. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

Information center provides community presence in Delphi

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Several members of the Delphi community have discussed the need for an information or welcome center for more than two years. No plans ever really jelled for the project until recently. It was announced at the Nov. 16 board of works meeting that Delphi Main Street has secured a location for the center.

Two Main Street members signed a lease effective Nov.

1 for part of a building located at 106 W. Main St. It is expected the center will be functional by Feb. 1 of next year.

Building owner and Main Street secretary Kathy Bell told the Comet Monday that she currently operates a tax service in the space where the information center will be located. She said that in exchange for a small office area in the space she will man the center when her schedule per-

See Main Street page 5A

Hunting accident injures one

Comet staff report

Indiana Conservation Officer Tom Skinner investigated a hunting accident in Carroll County on Sunday that sent one man to the hospital.

According to Skinner, Todd M. Combs of Delphi and Joe T. Irwin of Lafayette were hunting deer in the Rockfield area when Combs may have mistaken Irwin for a whitetail deer and shot him in the abdomen.

Irwin was transported to South Bend Memorial Hospital by a medical helicopter. At the time of the press release, he was reported to be in stable condition.

According to Skinner, it is unknown as to whether any criminal charges will be filed against Combs. Skinner suggested that Irwin was wearing a hat with hunter orange but it may not have met requirements to hunt in Indiana.

According to Indiana Conservation Officer Matt Tholen, to meet fluorescent orange or "hunter orange" clothing requirements, hunters must wear as an outer garment, exposed at all times, one or more of the following articles that are solid fluorescent orange in color - a vest, coat, jacket, coveralls, hat or cap. Camouflage-pattern fluorescent orange garments do not satisfy the requirement.

Sunshine on parade day



Flora had a relatively warm and sunny day (Saturday) for its Christmas Parade, and there was a record number of participants - 60 units. Flora Cub Scouts, pictured, won the award for Best Float. While most entries had a Christmas theme, one had a Thanksgiving message, presumably coming from the turkey, "Eat more chicken." Other participants in this entry were Brooke and Joella Beale of Beale Farms. Comet photos by Jennifer Archibald. See more parade photos on page 8A.



Carroll's accreditation report serves as 'call to action'

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Carroll School Board recently received a detailed report, spelling out why Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School's accreditation is on a probationary status.

Carroll has long been an accredited school, meeting accepted standards. Board president Sam Zook said the review process is now based on stricter standards, since the North Central Association (which does the reviewing) now is affiliated with a parent

organization called AdvancEd. The evaluation process now sets standards that are not only national, but global. A review team visits a school once every five years for the purpose of accreditation, but as part of the process, in-house evaluation and improvement are supposed to be ongoing.

According to the AdvancEd website, <http://www.advanc-ed.org/>, students who attend a school accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement have easier transferability of credits from school to school and greater access to federal loans, scholarships, post secondary education, and military programs that require accreditation.

A Quality Assurance Review team handed down a report that gives Carroll commendations, recommendations, and "next steps" for becoming fully accredited.

The seven standards that must be met for accreditation are in the following areas:

- Vision and Purpose
- Governance and Leadership
- Teaching and Learning

- Documenting and Using Results
- Resource and Support Systems
- Stakeholder Communications and Relationships
- Commitment to Continuous Improvement

Commendations

According to the report, Carroll met the standards for Teaching and Learning and Resource and Support Systems. Commendations were given to the school for its "excellent teaching staff," high level of student engagement in learning, achievement level of students (higher than the state average and several area schools), use of technology, and for its tutoring program. Compliments also were given for the school's support system, fiscal responsibility in supporting learning, good class size, professional development opportunities, and well-maintained building.

In three other standards, Vision and Purpose, Governance and Leadership, and Stakeholder Communications and Relationships, the report indicated that the school did not meet these standards, but

gave it an assessment level (rating) of "emerging." In other words, the school shows emerging efforts in the right direction.

Reason for probation

The probationary status was given for failing to meet the last two standards, Documenting and Using Results, and Commitment to Continuous Improvement.

In order to meet these standards, a school demonstrates that it "enacts a comprehensive assessment system that monitors and documents performance and uses these results to improve student performance and school effectiveness" and that the school "establishes, implements, and monitors a continuous process of improvement that focuses on student performance."

The review team concluded that Carroll's commitment to these two standards was "not evident."

Quoting from the report, in reference to Carroll: "Data has been gathered, but not analyzed, and the use of data has not impacted instruction or learning. Many teachers indicated an eager willingness

to study the data to make changes, but few teachers felt they had the knowledge, skills, or expertise to lead this process. Interviews, written documents, and assessment data failed to provide evidence that Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School is engaged in a continuous school improvement process. There was much evidence that the stakeholders are very committed to providing a sound education for students, but they do not yet understand the impact that a systematic, systemic, and consistent school improvement process has on student achievement and learning."

Recommendations

One of the recommendations from the review team was that the school "create a systematic process for training and monitoring all staff in the school's chosen interventions and instructional strategies."

Another recommendation was to "develop a systematic approach to maintain continuous school improvement efforts and to monitor effectiveness."

The report did recognize two examples of efforts to improve student academic performance. They were steps taken to improve scores on the Graduation Qualifying Exam and the total school effort to improve "writing across the curriculum."

According to the report, the commendations and recommendations given were designed to focus the school on areas that will have the greatest impact on student performance and school effectiveness. The following concluding statements were made in the report:

"The strength of this report lies in the school's commitment to using the findings to continuously improve... The school is encouraged to use the report as a call to action..."

NCA and AdvancEd has offered many resources to help Carroll in the accreditation process. By May 1, 2010, Carroll is to submit an Accreditation Progress Report.

Carroll takes action
At the last Carroll School Board meeting, school representatives told about some of the steps that have been taken so far.

Teams have been formed
See Accreditation page 8A



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