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Coal City pays full price for Broadway property

BY ANN GILL
CORRESPONDENT

The village of Coal City will pay the full listing price for two residential parcels located on South Broadway, however not everyone agrees it's the right thing to do.

Village Administrator Matt Fritz said town officials have been negotiating the purchase of two non-conforming properties located on the east side of the roadway at 425 and 435 S. Broadway. The properties sit between a former church and the town post office.

The price the town is paying for the land is \$230,000 —\$155,000 for the residence at 425 S. Broadway and \$75,000 for the neighboring site.

"Recently, the land owner decid-

ed upon a realtor for the sale of the properties, which necessitated a formal bid in order to continue towards the acquisition," Fritz said.

According to Trustee Tim Bradley, the two residential lots and the former church at the corner of South Broadway and Willow Street have been offered to the village numerous times over his 10-year tenure on the Board.

"Originally they were offered to us for over \$1 million, if I recall correctly, and incrementally lower since, to as low as \$375,000 for the whole corner," Bradley said.

"Our supposed negotiation, instead of getting all parcels for \$375,000 it got us the two small properties. That would mean we have valued the church at only \$145,000.

Unfortunately, all this deal does is make that church more expensive for us in the future," said Bradley, who opposed the purchase.

Fritz indicated should the properties have been sold to anyone else, the non-conforming use of the sites would likely continue.

"This would not further the comprehensive plan for the east side of South Broadway, which is currently zoned C4 in hopes of accommodating anything within the property from retail to office space on the commercial side of the road," Fritz said.

Conforming or non-conforming, Bradley is of the opinion it's not a smart move for the village to acquire the two properties.

"We have chosen to buy two crumbly houses, for more than we

should pay, and turn them into yet more empty property on Broadway," Bradley said.

He pointed out that the corner of 113 and Broadway remains undeveloped, Coal City Pharmacy is closed, and CVS and Berkots will soon be in fierce competition with Jewel in Diamond.

"But at least we will be rid of two crumbly houses and maybe some day we can pay even more for the neighboring parcel to build a village hall," Bradley in a sarcastic manner.

Currently there is no plan for the land.

According to what Bradley has heard from his fellow trustees, some say the town is assembling property for a new village hall.

"A village hall that we cannot

build for at least six to seven years," Bradley said.

Yet other members of the board just don't want to see run down houses on Broadway.

"We have empty lots and closed buildings that could be commercially developed utilizing village finances and incentives," Bradley said. "This is an under-utilization of taxpayer dollars and confusing movement with progress."

Bradley was the only member of the board opposed to the purchase. Trustee Pam Noffsinger was absent.

A closing date or both business properties set for Nov. 1.

Homecoming Royalty



Coal City School District photos

THE 2023 COAL City High School Homecoming king and queen were announced Monday during half-time of the annual seniors vs. staff flag football game. Stephen Byers, Jr. and Gianna Ferrara were selected by their peers as this year's king and queen. The homecoming court is composed of [from left]: Cade Baldauf, Austin Davy, Jim Feeney, Byers, Ferrara, Jadyn Shaw, Cassidy Jenke and Makayla Henline. Homecoming activities will continue through the week with dress up days, spirit games, pep assembly, parade and dance.



Coal City School District photos

COALER HOMECOMING WEEK got underway on Monday, Oct. 2 with the traditional senior v staff flag football game in the stadium. The staff took an early lead, but the senior class pulled out the win.

Early Dismissal for Homecoming Parade

To foster school and community spirit and participation in the annual Coaler Homecoming parade, the Unit 1 School District will dismiss students early on Friday, Oct. 6.

The early release provides an opportunity for all students and families to take part in the parade experience. The district will operate on a first/last day schedule. Start times remain the same with dismissal for the Early Childhood Center at 1:15 p.m.; Elementary School at 1:35 p.m.; Intermediate School at 1:25 p.m.; Middle School at 1:45 p.m., and high school students will be released at 1:40 p.m.

The parade will step off from the intersection of South Broadway and Elm Street at 2:30 p.m. and make its way north to Carbon Street concluding at the Berst Center on Kankakee

Street.

Participating in the parade are high school clubs, organizations and athletic teams. The Marching Coaler Bands from the high school and middle school will be a part of the event, as will members of the homecoming court. Several local businesses are also set to participate.

Sara Anderson has been selected by the student council to serve as this year's parade grand marshal. Anderson teaches business courses at the high school and has served as a student council sponsor for 16 years. She will retire at the close of the school year.

Following the parade, Coaler fans are encouraged to head out to Dzuris Stadium to cheer on the Coaler football team as they take on the Wilmington Wildcats.

A man of the town

Former Carbon Hill mayor passes away

STAFF REPORT

The village of Carbon Hill lost one of its best over the weekend.

Ed Pacchetti was a dedicated public servant who gave his time and talents to the town he called home.

Pacchetti served four years as a commissioner on the Carbon Hill Village Board and then served an additional eight years as the town's mayor.

Throughout his time on the Village Board, Pacchetti worked to provide the citizens the services they needed. He never shied away from a challenge and was always willing to go bat for the community and its citizens.

He spent countless hours working for the advancement



of the town be it from the village hall or his garage where he would take the time to talk to anyone who would stop by to talk about the town.

Pacchetti was a hard worker, passionate about causes close to him and dedicated to family and friends.

Pacchetti passed away Friday, Sept. 29 at the age of 74.

He is survived by his wife, Donna. Three sons Ed, Jimmy and Tony Pacchetti, two stepsons, eight grandchildren and a sister.

Funeral services are scheduled for Friday, Oct. 6 at Reeves Funeral Home with visitation from 3 p.m. to the time of memorial service at 6 p.m.

5K celebrates 14 years of hope

TaTa Trot steps off Sunday morning in Carbon Hill

STAFF REPORT

The 14th annual TaTa Trot steps off from Carbon Hill Park Sunday morning with dozens of runners and walkers coming together to support a great cause—breast cancer awareness, support and prevention.

The Oct. 8 event will serve to raise funds for the Riverside Cancer Institute through support of the Riverside Medical Foundation.

Each year, TaTa Trot organizers work to generate funds through the 5K run/walk and other fundraising events to support the work taking place at the medical center.

This year's run/walk will get underway at 10 a.m., from Carbon Hill Park, 800 W. Lacy

St. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and continues until 9:30 a.m.

The TaTa Trot organization was established by a group of local women who know all too well that the fight against breast cancer is waged everyday. Since then the organization has remained true to its mission and in the process raised thousands of dollars to support the fight.

Members of Coal City High School's Marching Band will participate in pre-race activities that will also serve to honor those who have won the fight and encourage those who are in the midst of battle.

There will also be a disc jockey and raffles to further support the fundraising effort.

Participants can sign up for the run/walk on Eventbrite or on race day.



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