

Dam

Mowery mayoral years in the 1990s, but none received funding. The discussions were resumed last October when the first public hearing in 20 years was held. It ended with the promise from government that additional public hearings would be held after residents and sport fishermen objected to removal.

While it no longer provides power, it does retain the water to form a pond which extends south and east through downtown Marion before narrowing again to the natural width of the river, about 175 feet. That pond was at the center of opposition to the removal from the 12 people who spoke at the meeting.

The sentiment of the opposition seemed to be summarized in the comment from Dan Edwards, who lives near the river.

“I love that river just as it is,” he said. “I don’t want you messing with my river.”

The comments were directed at a panel that included City Engineer Mike Graft; environmental engineer Jerry Sweeten; surveyor and civil engineer Randall Miller; Department of Natural Resources Enforcement Officer John Neargardner;



Scenes from the dam meeting. Photos by Ed Breen

and Marion city council members Mike Cline and Gary Fordyce, Jr.

All assured the questioners that no decision was going to be made at the meeting and further hearings would be scheduled. None of the panelists, however, spoke on behalf of restoring or preserving the dam.

And they went a step farther in limiting access to the dam. Signs will be placed on both sides of the river warning that boating, swimming and wading within 50 feet of the dam is a violation of the law.

“Fishing is permitted from banks unless otherwise posted,” the signs will inform.

“Any person who enters

these waters on the upstream or downstream side where marked commits a summary offense and is subject to a fine,” the warning will read when posted.

The dam is owned by the city, although the state and DNR have some voice in the decisions. An estimate last year found that a removal cost would be more than \$400,000 and all agreed last week that costs have risen dramatically.

“Whatever you have on paper now on costs won’t even be close now,” John Graft said.

“We will have to pay whichever way we go,” Councilman Cline said. “The City Council and the Administration have got to figure it



continued from Page 1

repair the 1936 construction. Several objectors said they selected their Marion residence because of the view of the river and are concerned that the dam removal would create an unsightly river bank through downtown Marion.

Others were concerned about the fishing in the river. Jerry Sweeten, who once directed the now-abandoned Asherwood outdoor education program for the Marion Community Schools, said his studies of the Mississinewa River and others in Indiana found “lots of data that clearly shows that fishing gets much better” after such dams are removed.

“That dam has problems,” Randall Miller told the audience. He had previously been a supporter of those seeking ways to preserve or

out,” he said, referring to the ongoing tensions between City Council President Deborah Cain and Mayor Jess Alumbaugh.

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Gilead Ministries holds annual car show

By Sean Douglas

For the 23rd consecutive year, Gilead Ministries hosted its annual Crusin’ to Care Car Show at the Indiana Wesleyan Facilities Building, providing both a fun day for car enthusiasts and an event to help raise money to continue their important work in Marion, Grant County, and around the United States.

Gilead Ministries, founded in 1999, is a non-profit ministry that comes

alongside individuals and families who are dealing with cancer and other long-term illnesses, providing services such as monthly calls of encouragement, grief support, transportation, house and yard cleaning, hospital visits, and much more. Across 48 states, Gilead Ministries cares for more than 3,500 patients.

After setting a record last June with 182 cars registering for the event, the 2021 show set another record

with 232 cars registering for the one-day show.

“What we know about fundraisers are that they allow people to come together as a community,” Gilead Ministries founder, Bill Sparks, said. “That’s why we do what we do. It’s a great opportunity to build more relationships and tell more about what we are doing.”

The Crusin’ for Care Car Show has taken place every year since 1999, the year

Continued on Page 11

Teacher continued from Page 1

“I was extremely happy [to be nominated,]” Phillipe said. “I work hard every day for Marion Community Schools, and I worked really hard on the application materials. I was really excited that my hard work throughout my 20 plus years in education, plus my hard work on the application, pay off.”

The nomination and selection process for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. K-12 teachers in all states, along with the District of

Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories, as well as schools operated in the United States and overseas by the Department of Defense Education Activity, are eligible for nomination. From each state, up to six teachers can be selected as finalists, three from each category (math and science).

“I was really honored for [Principal] Burke to acknowledge my hard work in the classroom and leadership by nominating me for this award,” Phillipe said.

The state finalists are then sent to the National Science Foundation for review, and a national committee of similar makeup

as the state committees recommends up to 108 teachers, up to two per state, to receive the Presidential Award.

Teachers who are selected as national honorees receive a trip to Washington, D.C., where they attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities. They also receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation, a Presidential certificate, and join an elite cohort of award-winning teachers who can influence state and national STEM teaching. National honorees will be announced in the coming weeks.

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