

Letters to the Editor

My wife and I own land in Douglas County where the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm is currently under development. Even though we are not going to have a turbine on our land, I still fully support this wind farm. My home is a mile and a half north of the town of Newman. When I sit on my porch, I will see wind turbines. But to me, I won't be seeing something ugly, I will see opportunity. This is a chance for our community to earn substantial revenue for our schools, our roads, and our township every year.

For the past ten years, the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm has played by the rules that were set by Douglas County. In fact, the wind farm is going above and beyond the rules

I have helped build hundreds of wind turbines in the last 13 years and know firsthand how wind farms can transform communities.

The Harvest Ridge Wind Farm will create hundreds of construction jobs. Local skilled men and women in the building trades will benefit from this project. On projects of this size, there are also highly skilled craftsmen that will temporarily relocate to the area. They will need places to live, food, fuel, clothes, etc. They make money and put a lot of money back into the economy. I personally have been in this situation, and I have seen a lot of benefits to these communities that I have worked in, whether it is the local grill serving 30 late night diners or the local mechanic fixing

by voluntarily increasing the minimum distance wind turbines will be set back from homes by 50% more than what is required. Douglas County's rules are middle of the road and fair. I greatly appreciate that the Douglas County Board is standing by the parameters that they set ten years ago when the development of this project began. The opposition has known about this project for a long time, so why they are trying to block this project now doesn't make sense. What does make sense is to support a project that will revitalize this community through much-needed tax revenues and job creation.

Jim Biddle

contractor work vehicles.

This project will bring other long-term benefits to the communities in Douglas County, such as over \$50 million in tax revenues. The majority of that money will go towards educating our children, helping struggling fire protection districts upgrade lifesaving emergency equipment, and giving our townships a boost in their budgets. That alone sounds like a great direction for the entire county. Difficult decisions are being made and heated conversations are being had, but at the end of the day, the benefit to the entire county is what is important.

Please think of the county as a whole and show your support for wind energy in Douglas County.

Charles Black
Villa Grove

Common sense zoning was adopted, not anti-wind zoning.

In response to Harvest Ridge Windfarm's article concerning lawsuits of two of our townships here in Douglas County. Neither township has adopted anti-wind zoning. Simply looking at all the wind ordinance changes at kirbymtn.blogspot.com will quickly inform anyone who takes the time to look that this is not anti-wind, it's common sense changes. Changes that only one of our Douglas County Board seem to understand. Harvest Ridge can still build their windfarm project, they will just need to do the work and try and get the leases. That is their job, they solicit property owners for land lease or agreement pertaining to their project.

Taking a small township to court? This is a company that without tax subsidies could not even exist. Murdock township adopted zoning to protect residents in their township. A township is a functioning entity because of tax dollars. Sound confusing? It sure does.

No business currently within the new zoning will be affected, at least that is my understanding. I am curious though how zoning in other Counties affects businesses? The business owner who brought their attorney has businesses in other Counties that have zoning in place. Three of our board members in Newman township felt that this is what the residents asked of them to do. Residents who petitioned legally to do it, residents who overwhelmingly voted it in. A commission was formed, they created a zoning document to present to their board. 350 letters, 100 of which were from Newman township residents in support of the windfarm. Interesting just because anyone who signed a lease with Harvest Ridge pretty much has to sign any support the windfarm presents to them. It's language within the agreement those individuals signed. So those numbers are a tad misleading. It was proposed by a board member at one of the Newman township meetings that a lot of people in the township did not know of the vote for zoning. That's a bad assumption because windfarm employees went door to door in the town of Newman and out in the rural township asking everyone to vote no for zoning. And if you didn't answer or were not there they were sure to leave

a card asking you to vote no for zoning. They did this in Murdock township as well. As for the money Murdock township and Newman have both spent. If more than just one member of our County board would take a look around as to changes other Counties are making and DO SOMETHING with our wind ordinance, neither would of had to spend anything. Look at Ford County, 2250' setbacks from property lines for wind turbines for non participating residents.

Written by Ed Luth



With Jim Balmer

Luke 6:1-5 The Question about the Sabbath Jesus was walking through some wheat fields on a Sabbath. His disciples began to pick the heads of wheat, rub them in their hands, and eat the grain. Some Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what our Law says you cannot do on the Sabbath?" Jesus answered them, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his men were hungry? He went into the house of God, took the bread offered to God, ate it, and gave it also to his men. Yet it is against our Law for anyone except the priests to eat that bread." And Jesus concluded, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Incident Report

The following is Villa Grove Police Activity for January 13-19

Preserve the Peace-1
Parking Complaints-5
Assist Champaign County Sheriff's Office-1
Assist Douglas County Sheriff's Office-1

Ordinance Violation-1
Motorist Assist-1
Citation-1
Written Warnings-2
Threatening a Public Official-1



Lions Club Report

Villa Grove Lions Club met January 15, 2019 at Monical's Pizza. Visitors at the meeting included Butch Guennewig, Trustee 1-M and his wife Connie. Also Karen Taylor, President and Janice G. of the Arcola Food Pantry.

A Centennial Membership Award patch and pin was awarded to Lions Micheal Leon and Libby Spannagel for recent membership additions. President Tim Spannagel presented the awards to Mike and Libby.

Villa Grove Lions Club



Mike Leon and Libby Spannagel.



Mike Leon and Tim Spannagel.

meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at Monical's Pizza. Any interested persons can call 217-714-8726 or drop by any meeting.

HELP WANTED

**Lincoln Street Lounge
Broadlands
Bartender and Waitress**
Call 834-3010
Leave Name and Number

Menus

**Villa Grove Peace Meal
February 4 - February 8**
Monday: Savory Sausage Stew w/Beans, Pineapple Tidbits, Biscuits, Warm Fruit Strudel Bites
Tuesday: Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Breaded Tomatoes, Roll, Seasonal Dessert
Wednesday: Ravioli w/Meat Sauce, Broccoli, Corn, Wheat Bread, Banana
Thursday: Meatloaf, Delmonico Potatoes, Spinach, Dinner Roll, Cranberry Apple Salad
Friday: Tuna Noodle Casserole, Peas & Carrots, Bean Medley, Wheat Bread, Gelatin w/ Fruit
For Reservations Call at 832-9445
Skim milk and desserts with no sugar added are available in many locations. Ask the Site Supervisor for information. Sometimes we need to substitute our menus. We still guarantee a nutritious meal. The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program suggests a donation of \$3.50 for each congregate and home delivered meal. No older person shall be denied a meal because of their inability to contribute towards the cost of the meal. We accept Illinois Link Card.

Villa Grove School Breakfast and Lunch Menu January 28-31

28	29	30	31	1
Breakfast: Pancake And Sausage On Stick	Breakfast: Cinn. Coffee Cake	Breakfast: WG Biscuit And Sausage Gravy Or WG Donuts	Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza	
Lunch: BBQ Chicken On WG Bun Cooked Carrots Dragon Punch RF Cheese Doritos Peaches	Lunch: Chicken Fajitas WG Shell Refried Beans Shredded Lettuce Shredded Cheese Mild Salsa Mixed Fruit	Lunch: Mac. And Cheese Yogurt Peas Applesauce	Lunch: Ham And Cheese On WG Bun Baked French Fries WG Cookie 100% Fruit Slushy	

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www.bankprospect.com
Some restrictions may apply. Subject to approval.
If card is ordered at a location that doesn't print cards, the card will be received in the mail within 2-3 business days.

Valentines Day Giveaway!

Win a Family Pleaser From Monicals Pizza of Villa Grove

**Valentines Message Cost \$10
Published February 13
Deadline: February 8
Message:**

Two ways to enter:
Purchase a Valentines Message for your Valentine for \$10 published February 13 Or Submit a Valentines Poem to be published in the Newspaper Call us with any questions at 832-4201

Bring your Valentines message to the News Office; Call the News Office with your Message (832-4201) or Cut out and Mail the form with payment to Villa Grove News PO Box 20, Villa Grove, IL 61956 Please include name & phone number to be entered into the drawing.