

Letter to the Editor

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



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."

Letter to the Editor

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

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

Letter 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 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

The Sidney Scoop

by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812



The Sidney American Legion Post 433 regular monthly meeting scheduled to have taken place on Monday, January 21 was cancelled due to weather and road conditions. The Sidney American Legion Post 433 will hold their next monthly meeting at the Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney on Monday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sidney Community Building located in downtown Sidney. The public is always welcome and encouraged to attend and all monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held in the Sidney Community Building meeting room.

The Village of Sidney Board of Trustees are holding two

special public meetings concerning the pros and cons of selling or keeping the Village of Sidney water system. The public meetings will take place on Saturday, February 9 at 10:00 a.m. and on Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. Both public meetings will be held at the Village of Sidney Fire Station located at 302 South David Street.

Have a great week!

If you or your organization have news items you want published drop a line to Ann Rhoton at P. O. Box 491, Sidney, IL 61877 or call (217) 688-2812; don't hesitate to leave a message if there's no answer.

News items must be turned in by 10:00 a.m. each Friday to be published in the following week's paper. Items submitted after the deadline will be published in the following week's column.

PEACE MEAL MENU

Sidney/Homer Peace Meal menu for Thursday, January 31 through Wednesday, February 6.

Thursday, 1/31/19 - Beefy vegetable and lentil soup, crackers, sliced pears, peanut butter cup, oatmeal raisin cookie, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 2/1/19 - Mushroom crusted chicken breast, potato casserole, dinner roll served with butter or margarine, venetian blend vegetables, fresh fruit, and a half pint of milk.

Monday, 2/4/19 - Savory sausage stew with beans, biscuits served with butter or margarine, pineapple tidbits, warm fruit strudel bites, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 2/5/19 - Fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, dinner roll served with butter or margarine, breaded tomatoes, seasonal dessert, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 2/6/19 - Ravioli with meat sauce, one slice of whole grain wheat bread served with butter or margarine, broccoli, corn, banana, and a half pint of milk.

The Sidney Peace Meal home delivered meals program continues Monday through Friday for seniors who qualify. Individuals who wish to attend a Peace Meal Congregate Meal Site are invited to attend the Peace Meal Congregate Meal Site in Homer.

Homer Peace Meal is served around 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday in the Homer Village Hall located at 500 East Second Street in Homer. Home delivered meals are available Monday through Friday for seniors who qualify.

To reserve your spot call Peace Meal at 1-800-543-1770 by 12:00 p.m. the day before the meal you wish to attend. Skim milk and desserts with no sugar added are available in many locations. Ask the site supervisor for more information. Peace Meal sometimes needs to substitute on menus, but still guarantees a nutritious meal.

The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program suggests a donation of \$3.50 for each congregare and home delivered meal, however, no older person will be denied a meal because of their inability to contribute to the cost of the meal. The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program does accept the Illinois Link Card for payment.

The Sidney/Homer Peace Meal menu is submitted for the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program by Ann Rhoton.

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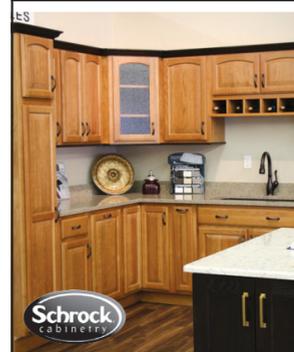
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