

Senator seeks to overturn veto



Coalers ready for new season



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Solar project proposed for Carbon Hill

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

A community solar project has been proposed for the village of Carbon Hill and Mayor Adam Johnson said town officials have agreed to move forward in negotiating the terms.

Community solar has become increasingly popular across the state and nation as the move toward clean energy takes hold.

Pontiac, Chenoa and Limestone are among 10 municipalities in Illinois where Cenergy Power has developed solar. The question of whether Carbon Hill is next will be determined

in the coming months.

The California based company is looking to construct a 5MWac solar field with storage on the north side of Cameron Street.

Johnson said the company is proposing to develop a portion of a 55-acre site that sits to the north of the village and is owned by Scott and Keith Giordano.

In its presentation to the village, Cenergy has presented a site plan that includes 135 racks of panels located within a fenced area totaling around 25 acres. The site plan also outlines the placement of inverters and converters, control systems and battery cabinets.

The company said its battery storage com-

ponents meet National Fire Protection Association and local fire requirements for thermal testing, alarms and extinguishers. Additionally, safety measures are in place to disconnect the entire system with a switch should the need arise.

In addressing some common concerns, Cenergy says if allowed to move forward it would remain within the setback outlined. Landscaping would be installed along Cameron Street to block residents' view of the site, on-site lighting would be limited to motion activated security lights and it would truck water to the site as needed for cleaning—roughly two to four times a year.

Once on-line the site would have the ability to generate up to 5 million watts of alternating current and according to information provided to the village each MWac is sufficient to power about 150 households.

Cenergy is offering the village a one-time contribution of at least \$300,000, based on final size and cost of the project. This amount would be paid out in two equal installments, the first coming at the start of construction and the final paid upon completion.

Projected property tax is around \$35,000 annually and residents would have the oppor-

SEE SOLAR, PAGE 2

Who has made this town a better place to live?

Nominations sought for Community Service Award

STAFF REPORT

For 31 years the village of Coal City honored one of its citizens with the Community Service Award, a salute to the recipient's dedication to the community and the pride they have shown in making the town a better place.

The tradition of honoring the recipient during the annual Octoberfest celebration ceased after 2018, as the fall festival was canceled in 2019 due to the village's reconstruction of South Broadway.

When the festival ended, so did the village's recognition program. That is going to change as the village has announced its plans to honor a citizen this fall. The communi-

ty is being asked to provide the Village Board the names of Coal City residents deserving of the recognition.

"The mayor and trustees are excited about the past success of Fall Fest and with that returning to the tradition of honoring a citizen with the Community Service Award," said Village Administrator Matt Ftitz.

Nominees should be residents of Coal City who have expressed community pride by being actively involved in community projects and committees. In the words of the village administrator, "someone who goes above and beyond."

Nominations are currently being accepted. A form is available on the village website at www.coalcity-il.gov. In submitting someone for consideration one must provide a list of organizations the individual is involved with and community

SEE AWARD, PAGE 2

Final build for playground

STAFF REPORT

A community build for the final phase of Hope Helps All Inclusive Playground will get underway early Friday morning.

The playground will be closed Aug. 24 and 25 for the build that will be completed by volunteers with assistance from the village of Coal City's public works department.

The expansion will be based on a 3,068 square foot poured rubber base located on the northeast corner of the original playground and feature five pieces of equipment.

There will be a Boogie Board, Hemisphere Climber, Bobble Rider, ReviSpin and Double Oodle Swing.

Upon completion the playground will also include a musical instrument center with drums, chimes and metallophones. This equipment will be installed in an area that was once a sensory garden.

In addition to the new play equipment, the site will be improved with landscap-



THE THIRD AND final phase of Hope Helps All Inclusive Playground will be constructed this with all volunteer help. The non-profit autism awareness and advocacy organization has invested around \$638,000 in the park since 2016.

ing and signage. The rubber ground cover will be poured once the equipment has been installed.

Located within Coal

City's Lions Park, the initial phase was constructed in 2016 and two years later the playground was expanded.

Phase 3 comes at a cost of \$167,600 bringing Hope

Helps' investment in the playground to around \$638,000.

The funds were raised

SEE PLAYGROUND, PAGE 2

Area's electric grid gets a boost from new Three Rivers power plant

Electricity to power your home became more reliable last week with the start-up of the CPV Three Rivers Energy Center in Grundy County.

The new \$1.3 billion power plant is now providing clean, safe and reliable power to the electric grid.

Managed by Competitive Power Ventures and co-owned by Osaka Gas USA, Concord Infrastructure Investments, Harrison Street and Axium Infrastructure, it is one of the most efficient and lowest emitting facilities of its kind.

The natural gas burning plant, located at 7809 E. Collins Road in Goose Lake Township, is capable of powering over 1 million homes and businesses by utilizing state-of-the-art General Electric turbine technology.

"CPV Three Rivers is the next of a series of very ambi-

tions projects we have constructed over the last decade," said Gary Lambert, CPV's president and CEO.

Construction on the plant started in August 2020, in the middle of the pandemic, with individuals from CPV working closely with Kiewit and GE, as well as the many local contractors, unions, state leadership, numerous stakeholders and community leaders.

CPV says it will lower emissions for the region and country by displacing older facilities and providing the flexible, on-demand power as more electrification is needed.

"It is truly impressive to see this project reach completion after years of development and construction," said State Senator Sue Rezin. "As a long-time supporter of this project, I am excited to see CPV Three Rivers deliver cost-effective

"I AM BEYOND THRILLED BY THE COMPLETION OF THIS MONUMENTAL INVESTMENT IN GRUNDY COUNTY AND OUR COMMUNITY."

NANCY NORTON

CEO AND PRESIDENT OF THE GRUNDY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

and reliable power to the grid, and I look forward to the CPV team continuing to be a part of our community."

Project construction was completed over 34 months by Kiewit Power Constructors Co. and included as many as 900 workers during peak construction. Total manhours worked during construction exceeded 2.7 million and the project achieved an impress zero-time-lost safety record.

"The construction of CPV Three Rivers was an enormous

undertaking and we are proud to have partnered with industry leaders CPV and Kiewit to build this project for our community. Over 500 of our members worked safely and diligently to construct one of the most advanced power generation facilities in Illinois and the country," said Tim Drea, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO.

CPV Three Rivers will be staffed by 23 full-time operators with 75 additional ancillary jobs providing services to the plant.

"CPV Three Rivers is a win for Grundy County and Illinois. The construction of the project provided hundreds of good paying jobs for local workers and continue to provide economic benefits to the region, in addition to highly efficient power generation," said James M. Sweeney, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 president and business manager.

The project will also contribute significant tax revenue which will support vital public services and school funding.

"I am beyond thrilled by the completion of this monumental investment in Grundy County and our community," said Nancy Norton, CEO and president of the Grundy Economic Development Council [GEDC].

Grundy County Board Chairman Chris Balkema

added, "We are happy that CPV Three Rivers is now in operation. CPV brought a tremendous boost to the local economy through the construction period. With the completion of the facility, they will now be one of the largest taxpayers in the county and will benefit our economy with funds for our schools, first responders and families for years to come."

CPV Three Rivers will sell its energy, capacity and ancillary services into the ComEd zone of the PJM market.

"This highly efficient facility will provide reliable and affordable power to our com-

SEE CPV, PAGE 2



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