

# READER FEEDBACK

## There goes the neighborhood!

The character and beauty of Lapeer County are being forever marred by current, upcoming and proposed projects.

Specifically, the water line project in Oregon Township, solar panel project on the Lashbrook Farm, and current attempt to mine the Boy Scout Ranch. Last year we held our breath over the ET Rover gas line.

The farms and countryside along Marathon Road were beautiful. Recently they've been scarred by unimaginable electric towers totally obtrusive to the rural setting. When completed the water facility will blight the area that was once the Thom Farm. If Genesee County is the beneficiary of this undertaking how did we get an entire complex versus a buried pipeline? Have you heard of any jobs?

The south gate of our community will soon be home to 200,000-plus butt ugly solar panels. Was this really in the best interest of Lapeer residents? With creative marketing, incentives and tax breaks you will never convince me a business/developer wouldn't find that location conducive to their operation — especially with proximity to I-69 and M-24. How many residents will be gainfully employed during, and after this project is complete?

Metamora and Dryden Township residents will soon be squaring-off with American Aggregates to protect 500-plus pristine acres of the Boy Scout Ranch from gravel mining. Like Lapeer and Oregon Township the very character of Metamora and Dryden are at stake. Do the benefits outweigh the costs to our towns, roads and environment? Absolutely not.

If these projects led to hundreds or thousands of high paying jobs, taxes, and improved quality of life for county residents you would hear nothing but support and praise from me — but such is not the case. Let's start asking the utilities and miners what's in it for us. The rolling field and country view you cherish today may be the solar panels, water plant or gravel pit you curse tomorrow.

**Mark Calvert**  
Dryden

### 'Leave our town alone'

I appreciate that *The County Press* is writing about the gravel mine application that is going to ruin my little town. We moved to the Metamora area 14 years ago to get away from the noise and traffic. We used to live near Van Dyke in Sterling Heights that had so many trucks and accidents. We moved to "God's Country" to get away from all that, but now

it looks like the trucks, the noise and the pollution is coming here anyway.

If all those dump trucks are allowed to drive through Metamora nobody will want to visit the village, and who would drive up from the suburbs for a nice lunch at the White Horse Inn on a summer day when trucks are driving by one after the other?

I feel for the new owners of the White Horse. They have to be just sick about this.

I hope the attorneys and village officials can find a way to stop American Aggregates from destroying our town all for the almighty buck. There is gravel all over the place. Leave our town alone, please.

**Amber Woods**  
Metamora Township

### Gravel mine would create numerous problems

I have concerns about the recent application by the Boy Scouts and the American Aggregates of Michigan to rezone 724 acres of their property to enable the Edward C. Levy mining company to extract natural resources from the site.

This poses many problems for the community, namely the path of the gravel trucks that are carrying their load through downtown Metamora. Potentially as many as 100 gravel trucks will travel through the area each day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 6 a.m. to noon on Saturdays for 30 years. The noise of these trucks with a gross weight of up to 150,000 pounds would create numerous issues.

The White Horse Inn restaurant dates back to 1850.

Approximately \$3 million was recently invested in this landmark site. With constant noise all day long interest in dining at this particular area would likely wane. The gravel trucks would also disrupt the residential area too. The value of landowner's property would diminish, and dealing with that amount of noise for 30 years will most likely discourage anyone wishing to stay in the area or considering buying a home there. The damage the trucks would do over 30 years, on the roads and the foundations of neighboring structures like the Pilgrim Presbyterian Church established over 130 years ago could be substantial.

Taking these facts into consideration I think the Boy Scouts should seriously evaluate investing in a personal utility road instead of driving on Dryden Road.

**Evan M. Kelly**  
Watertown Township  
15 years old

### 'This is even worse'

Thanks Mr. Hogan for coming to our meeting the other night in Metamora Township. It was good to meet you.

I'm glad the paper has taken an interest in the gravel mine issue, because I think this is even worse than the ET Rover Pipeline bullet we dodged a year ago. Much worse.

At least after the pipeline was done and buried we wouldn't have to see it, but with the proposal to put 100 gravel trucks on Dryden Road every day we will have to deal with the noise, the

LETTERS on page 3C