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PORTAGE DAILY REGISTER



Columbia County's Daily Newspaper

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MAILBAG: Don't turn Cambria into 'Whooville'

As I sit on my lawn swing and watch my mares peacefully grazing in the pasture, their foals banded up in bunches, frolicking and playing and enjoying the evening's cooler temperature, I think to myself, "I am so blessed." As I notice one mare going to the spring-fed creek for a cool sip, reality sets in. All this could be gone, the peacefulness, the birds singing, the spring-fed creeks. It makes me sad to think about it.

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Then I also think about Cambria, or "Whooville" as I would now call it. As in the wonderful Dr. Seuss book, "Horton Hears a Who." I think about all the wonderful people in Cambria, hard-working, friendly, the type of people you could go and borrow a cup of sugar from. Now these good people, as like us, are facing the possibility of having their lives changed forever, and may be helpless to stop it. Grand River Distribution LLC wants to rezone a 10-acre parcel, just 22 feet south from the Cambria village limits, for a proposed ethanol plant — even though Cambria has a zoning law prohibiting an ethanol plant within the city limits.

Yes, this is just outside the city limits, in the town of Courtland. The good citizens of Cambria/Whooville tried to get the Courtland board to help them at least have the ethanol plant be located a mile from the village, but the Courtland town board does not choose to hear the cries of Whooville. How sad.

Determined citizens of Whooville muster up with all their might and try to be heard at the Columbia County Planning and Zoning Committee, but again, no one can hear their plight. No one hears their cries about wells going dry, more truck traffic than their little roads can bear and fear for the safety and well-being of the school children and our dear elderly retired here. How sad.

But, because the people of Whooville are of very strong will, they try one more time to be heard, this time by the Columbia County Board of Supervisors. It did not look good for the citizens of Whooville, no one was listening ... but wait ... someone heard something. Rejoice! A wonderful grandfatherly type man heard them. He decided to give the good citizens of Whooville a voice.

His name is Don Nelson. He is a Columbia County supervisor. He explained to fellow board members that even little Whooville is in Columbia County and must be considered and protected. Rejoice! He was joined in by other board members, Barry Pufahl and Dr. Tim O'Neil to mention a few. In the end, there were 12 wonderful, caring, considerate supervisors who decided there should be more time to look at this. No decision or vote was taken at this meeting. Whooville is safe for another month. The great citizens of Whooville/-Cambria leave with hope — hoping more supervisors will hear them and their plight and protect them.

To be continued ...

Mary Jansma, Cambria



Poll
If the election for governor were held today, for whom would you vote?

- Jim Doyle
- Mark Green
- Not sure

vote!

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