

# PORTAGE DAILY REGISTER

Columbia County's Daily Newspaper Monday, October 30, 2006

### weather



High: 67°F  
Low: 35°F  
Breezy

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## LOCAL

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### No work stoppage on Didion ethanol plant

By Ann Marie Ames, Daily Register

CAMBRIA — Earth moving continued over the weekend at the site of the future Didion Milling ethanol plant, although the village of Cambria expects Columbia County to order construction work to halt sometime this week.

During portions of the work Saturday, heavy equipment crossed Cabbage Road, although Friday night the village voted in a special meeting not to permit that to happen. Cabbage Road divides Cambria from the town of Courtland, and Didion's ethanol plant site from the site of its current grain storage facility located within the village.

"We crossed the road on Saturday, and the police chief asked us to stop, so we did," said Dale Drachenberg, Didion's vice president of operations Sunday. Drachenberg said Didion received no citations.

The potential stay on construction would be the result of an appeal of the conditional use permit granted to Didion in early October for operation of the plant by the Columbia County Board of Supervisors Planning and Zoning Committee.

A citizens' group, Cambrians for Thoughtful Development, appealed the permit, stating that it does not follow county guidelines.

The group's attorney sent a letter to the Columbia County Planning and Zoning Office last week, claiming that county ordinances require a stay on construction until an appeal is resolved. As of yet, the county has not contacted Didion in regards to the stay.

"I hope it gets enforced," Village President Gary Nehring said Sunday.

Nehring added that Didion has filled in a right-of-way and a culvert without village permission, but that the village is waiting to hear back from its attorney before taking action against Didion.

The Columbia County Board of Appeals could uphold the planning committee's decision, overturn it or modify it.

On Nov. 6, the Village Board plans to determine for certain whether it — or the town of Courtland — has regulatory rights to Cabbage Road. On Nov. 7, the Planning and Zoning Committee will hold a public hearing for a conditional use permit Didion has applied for in order to move earth within shoreland.

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In the Nov 7 race for

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