

Solar farm permit request set Sept. 28

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

The company hoping to construct a solar farm on 840 acres of land in Magnolia will officially request a conditional use permit to do so on Monday, Sept. 28.

Known as Magnolia Solar and Grazing Farm, the business hosted its first public meeting on Thursday, Sept. 17 at Old School Market in Magnolia. Representatives from Doral Renewables LLC, the project developer, and Stantec, the project engineer, were on site to discuss the endeavor and answer questions raised by the community.

According to documentation made available at the meeting – which is identical to the company’s conditional use permit application submitted to the Land of Lincoln Board of Adjustments – the Magnolia Solar Project encompasses approximately

840 acres of “undeveloped, agricultural and forested land with rural low-density single-family residential development.” Approximately 515 acres will be fitted with arrays of photovoltaic modules mounted on a rotating tracking rack system arranged in rows following natural topography, surrounded by a 6- to 8-foot fence with potentially a 1-foot of barbed wire around the perimeter. If all permits at the local, state and federal level are granted, construction of the project is set to begin in mid-2028 and will last, at most, 24 months.

SITE STUDIES AND ASSESSMENTS

Several site studies and assessments have already been conducted, with additional currently in process or planned. The following ...:

- Traffic and roadways: The project will have access points

from S. L&N Turnpike, Greensburg Road, J.E. Jones Road and Mount Sherman Road for construction vehicle deliveries. It is estimated that construction will generate from 140 up to 210 two-way trips per day, including 60 two-way trips for delivery vehicles and 80 to 150 two-way trips for workers in light vehicles. All roadways within the project area are anticipated to continue to operate at an acceptable level of service during peak construction traffic.

- Glare: A Glare Hazard Analysis included one airport (Lincoln Farm Airport), 102 structures, primarily houses, and eight roadway segments within the project’s vicinity; the analysis found that none of the potential receptors would experience glare due to the project development.
- Noise: Based on World Health Organization guidelines, sound level design goals are 50

dBA during the day and 45 dBA at night; for reference, 50 dBA is a dishwasher in the next room or a refrigerator. Sound levels with all construction equipment operating simultaneously could reach a maximum of 86 dBA; this is the sound of a diesel truck at about 150 feet about.

- Vegetative Screening Plan: The screening plan proposes to use native evergreen species including trees and shrubs in two offset rows with an approximate width of 20 feet and five to six feet in height at planting for trees ; the vegetation will protect the viewshed and decrease sound coming from the project.
- Vegetation Strategies: for the project’s Best Management Soil Practices, strategies include preconstruction vegetation for soil stabilization, perennial native pollinator habitat, pasture vegetation for sheep grazing and for-

age crops and hay or haylage production.

Several community members – including those in favor of the development, against the development and indifferent – attended the public hearing. The company will host a second hearing from 4:15 to 5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28 at the LaRue County Public Library, 215 Lincoln Dr., Hodgenville. The project’s conditional use permit hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on Sept. 28 at the LaRue County Courthouse; public comment will be available prior to the vote.

Anyone with questions about the project can request information by emailing MagnoliaSolarOutreach@gmail.com or by calling 270-218-9258. A website with frequently asked questions and more information is available at MagnoliaSolar.com.



A large crowd watched as Wyatt Peterson prevailed in the 2025 Pioneer Games’ pole ride competition after knocking off Ryan Hughes.

Pioneer Games return to Creekfront Park

The 55th annual celebration of Lincoln Days will take place on October 3-4 in downtown Hodgenville, and the tradition of Pioneer Games will return to Creekfront Park.

The Pioneer Games events begin

at 10:30 a.m. on October 3. A full list of events this year include the team rail splitting competition, egg toss, piggy back race, hand corn shelling, hay bale toss, crosscut saw, spoon relay, water boiling competition, tug-of-war, men’s and women’s

pole-riding competition and the bucket brigade. The first seven events will be held prior to the 2 p.m. parade.

Many of these events challenge

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Informing voters with candidate questionnaires

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

In an effort to educate the public on the upcoming election, *The LaRue County Herald News* is continuing its series of candidate questionnaires.

This week, you’ll find the candi-

dates running for LaRue Count District Court Judge on A4, LaRue County Coroner on A5, LaRue County Board of Education Division 3 on A6 and LaRue County Board of Education Division 5 on A7. All individuals were given the same questions and deadlines.

The next set of questionnaires will

publish in our Sept. 30 edition with the candidates for Hodgenville Mayor and Hodgenville City Council. The series will conclude on Oct. 7 with candidates for State Representatives and State Senator.

The 2026 general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3. The

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Board of Education passes 2026-27 tax rate

ALLISON SHEPHERD
PUBLISHER

The LaRue County Board of Education has approved its new tax rate that will appear on the 2026 property tax bills.

Board members Farrah Pruitt, Joanna Hinton, Ashley Reding, Janet Cruse and Teresa Gilbert were all present during the special-called meeting held on Monday, Sept. 14. Although discussion ranged from updates to policies and procedures to yearly contracts for head start, the only action taken at the meeting was to adopt the 2026-27 tax rates, which is required yearly.

The Board proposed a general fund tax levy of 54.0 (which includes exonerations of 0.2 cents - 53.8 plus 0.2 cents) cents on real property and 54.0 (which includes exonerations of 0.2 cents - 53.8 plus 0.2 cents) cents on personal property.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026

was 53.4 cents on real property and 53.4 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$5,958,020.80. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 54.0 cents on real property and 54.0 cents on personal property is expected to produce \$6,052,060. Of this amount, \$989,831 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2027 is 51.8 cents on real property and 51.8 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$5,805,494.89.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of \$94,040 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: Cost of collections, \$3,762, building fund reduction of \$42,226, instructional \$97,497, transportation \$13,322, and maintenance \$21,685.

If the recall effort

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Voter registration deadline Oct. 5

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

The last day to register to vote in the 2026 General Election is Monday, Oct. 5. Registrations must be returned to The LaRue County Clerk’s Office, located at 209 W. High St., Hodgenville, by 4 p.m., postmarked as Oct. 5 or received online at govoteky.com by 4 p.m.

The online portal to

request an absentee ballot can be found at vrsws.sos.ky.gov/abrweb/. It opened on Sept. 19 and will close on Oct. 20. If you are unable to mark a paper ballot due to disability, contact the county clerk’s office to request an accessible absentee ballot. All mail-in absentee ballots must be received at the county

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