

Cherokee County solar ordinance taking final shape

BY MADELINE COMBS

The Cherokee County Zoning Commission is likely to move forward with a solar ordinance that would all but eliminate the future of utility scale solar projects in the county.

During their meeting on Monday, the commission once again reviewed the ordinance draft that had been updated to reflect some concerns presented during their April 3 public hearing.

Most notably, the commission agreed to decrease the acre limit for utility-scale projects from 1,000 acres to 500 acres. They also stuck with the 1,320 foot setback from any residences not involved in utility scale systems.

If kept and approved by the board of supervisors, both the acre cap and quarter-mile setback will likely snuff any chance for utility scale solar projects to be built in the county — including the 900-acre Maple River Solar Project proposed by TED Renewables.

The \$150 million project has been waiting for the green light from the county that will only come with a finalized ordinance.

The zoning commission's newest member, Lloyd Mattoon, was confident that the small acre cap and setback could be bypassed by project developers if they reach an agreement with the landowners involved.

"I think it should be stressed at the meeting that, the two points that some people didn't like, the 500 acre cap and the 1,320 feet, those can both be overrun by agreement of the landowners with the company," Mattoon said. "So those aren't deal killers."

Mattoon claimed that the county has very few pieces of land that aren't separated by a road. Theoretically, he says, one 500 acre piece of the project could be connected to another 500 acres to reach the original 1,000 acre-cap.

"That just ensures that you have at least a little bit of neighborhood approval," he said.

But the limited project allotment space may stop project developers dead in their tracks.

Thomas Bean, program director for the Iowa Land and Liberty Coalition, a landowner advocacy group, told the Chronicle Times following the April 3 meeting that the

acreage cap may present project limitations.

"A 500-acre cap is going to limit development and signal to developers that this county is closed for business," Bean said.

Project Developers for the Maple River Solar Project are concerned that these measures are being purposely implemented to block any solar development in the county.

"Blocking solar development with acreage caps and excessive setbacks doesn't provide any benefit to Cherokee County or its residents — it's simply excessive government regulation thwarting the private sector from investing in Cherokee County," they said in a statement to the Chronicle Times.

"These regulations will divert private investment to other counties and states who are not so antagonistic to new opportunities and Cherokee County will miss out on the job creation and economic benefits these projects would have brought."

Zoning commissioner Adam Glienke, who is renting land upon which the solar project is planned, continued his stance against the proposed project and utility scale

solar in the county.

"It's no secret, I expect this is a bad decision for a project on Cherokee County farm ground when there's so many other acres across this entire United States," Glienke said.

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors have expressed concerns about conflict of interest that come with Glienke sitting on the commission. So far, no changes in his involvement have been made.

The commission was originally scheduled to finalize the ordinance draft on Monday for county engineer Kelly Puhmann to present to the board of supervisors on Tuesday.

But following Monday's discussion, the commission requested an extra week to finalize some details and schedule a tour of a nearby solar farm to help guide the members in solidifying some of the logistics of the ordinance.

Commissioners Glienke and Mattoon volunteered to visit a solar farm.

The zoning commission plans to meet once more next Monday to create a final draft for Puhmann to present to the supervisors next Tuesday.



TIMES GONE BY
RESEARCHED BY ERIN RYDGRN
For more historical archives from the area, check out this website: <https://cherokee.advantage-preservation.com>

1950 (75 years ago)

Western Union Office Here to Handle Meriden Services

C.T. Baumgart, district superintendent of Western Union, has announced that effective April 14, the Western Union service at Meriden was discontinued. He said service for the Meriden community would be handled through the Cherokee office.

City Council Buys New Police Car for Cherokee

This city will have a new police car in the not too distant future. At a special meeting last night at city hall he city council accepted the bid of Engel Motor Co., Cherokee, in the amount of \$521.20 to purchase a new Ford model police car. Three other city auto dealers' bids were rejected.

Two-Tailed Worm To Tempt Fish in Little Sioux River

Cherokee, which has been boasting during recent months of singing mice and four-legged chickens, had a third biological freak today but chances are it won't be around long if the fish are biting. It is a twin-tailed fishworm.

Don Guest, a fisherman in the city, uncovered the angle worm with the double rudder while he was digging for bait. Guest lives at 431 South Eighth street.

Said Guest with possibly a hint of humor, "I'm going to use that worm in the Little Sioux river soon. Who knows. Maybe, I'll snag into a channel cat with two tails!"

1975 (50 years ago)

Planting At Standstill

One year ago at this time, farmers were in the field planting corn. The oats had already begun to come up and the Cherokee area was in the midst of a dry, breezy and warm three-week period.

This year, practically no oats have as yet been planted, corn planting has not started either and unless the weather cooperates for at least consecutive days, grain farmers could begin losing money daily.

Career Ed Reviewed

On Sept. 5, 1974; a 14-member Career Education Advisory Committee was formulated in an attempt to promote career education in the Cherokee School System. And, they have dur-

ing the past school year accomplished a great deal. The main purpose of career-education programs throughout the school system was to create student awareness of the many available community careers at an early age.

Aurelia Golf Team Wins Triangular

Host Aurelia Bulldogs copped first place with a 165 while Holstein shot a 172 and Alta finished with a 179. Mark Anderson, Aurelia, headed the field with medalist honors by shooting a respectable 40. Runner-up medalist honors went to Shawn Witcombe of Aurelia and Mark Sherwood of Alta.

New Deputy Hired

B.C. "Bud" Dilocker, 711 N. Roosevelt St., has been hired as third deputy by the Cherokee County Sheriff's department, Sheriff Bud Stroud announced. Dilocker, 49, will assume the capacity July 1, Stroud said. The new deputy is operator, along with his brother, of Dilocker's Auto Salvage on the East Hill. He also has worked as night radio dispatcher for the city police for several years.

2000 (25 years ago)

Where's "Waldo Bunny"

Because of the great response we decided to give away 6 hams. Ham winners are: Deb Paulsen, Washta; Evelyn Sand, Cherokee; Butch Bergert, Cherokee; Ferne Nicolaisen, Cherokee; Lynette Hyndman, Cherokee; Stephanie Foxhoven, Cherokee. Thanks for playing!

Confirmation at Maryhill Church

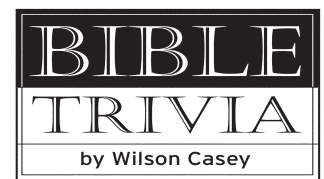
Confirmation was held at Maryhill Visitation Church on April 8. The class was confirmed in the Faith by Bishop Daniel N. DiNardo, Bishop of the Diocese of Sioux City. Father Gene Sitzmann is the Pastor at Maryhill Church. Sixteen youth were confirmed including Lacy Pedersen, Shavon Glassmaker, Christy Hatch, Lindsay Rupp, Matthew Cronin, Aaron Cronin, Cassandra Roethler, Ryan Robinson, Landon Petersen, Melissa Rupp, Jennifer Bechtel, Ryan Wiemold, Travis Glassmaker, Lee Henke, Mary Beth Pigott and Christopher George.

County has no licensed tattoo parlors

The Cherokee County Board of Health was made aware of tattooing occurring locally in an unsafe manner. Iowa Law requires that all tattoo artists and establishments be inspected yearly and if found to be in compliance with standards set by law, a permit will be issued for one year. There are no licensed, inspected tattoo parlors in Cherokee County.

Marcus Lumber Company Celebrates with Open House

The Marcus Lumber Company is celebrating their 80th anniversary this Friday, April 28 with an open house. The company has been in the Leavitt family for three generations to mark those 80 years.



1. Is the book of Bezalel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. At the Last Supper, which disciple protested against having his feet washed by Jesus? Peter, Andrew, Bartholomew, Judas
3. What golden graven image did the Israelites dance in front of? Calf, Ox, Horse, Camel
4. Who primarily made the golden graven image in the above question? Joseph, Michal, Lot, Aaron
5. From Revelations 13:18, what's the number of the beast? 7, 13, 666, 777
6. In John 18:38, who asked, "What is truth"? Pilate, Mar(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Answers
Q I N L O R D T C W
Y V L L E W D A I V
O D T S U R T K Y I
U E Q L X G K E H E
R L I N P A G E E H G
S I A F I N A T O Q
A G D V J R D O D E
F H E O T I D G V B
E T Y D E S I R E S
N E R U T S A P N I

Puzzle is on Page 9 A

K of C Calendar Winners

April 19 Matt Freeman
April 21 Amber Mayers
April 22 Terry Graybill

April 23 Steven Becker
April 24 Mel Kruse
April 25 Kevin Cedar

KIWANIS KORNER

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

ALL HANDS ON DECK, ALL HANDS ON DECK. Ok feet too. Sports fans, never in all my put toothier have I seen a more beautiful group of people assembled in one place as the group at the Aurelia Kiwanis meeting this morning.

We have a very diverse group of intellectuals that consistently amaze even the greatest of scholars.

Or maybe, just a bunch of good old boys and girls that work hard to make life better for kids, and the Aurelia community.

Your choice. He he.

Our day began with biscuits and gravy. Nicole served our morning dining experience with biscuits that were still hot when they arrived. Thanks Nicky, awesome again.

We learned that a young doctor told a 65 year old lady she was pregnant. She left the room screaming. The old doctor asked her what was wrong, and she told him. The old doctor chewed out the young rookie doctor, who said that it sure cured her hiccups. Yikes.

We had three, that's three, speakers today.

First off was Laney Buckendal. She is the president of the newly formed Alta-Aurelia Key Club. This is a group of high school aged students that works basically the same as Kiwanis, but much younger. She updated us on what was going on with them and ideas they have to help our communities.

Next was Kaylee Mason. She was looking for funds to help her attend a national meeting this summer of the FCCLA. FCCLA is what we called FHA back in the day.

Ok, ok, ok, think back when you were in high school and were asked to speak in front of a room full of mostly grumpy old men. I do believe you would have had to make multiple trips to the rest room before hand, and hope things held together when you were speaking.

These girls were awesome speakers, and answered a bunch of questions after their presentations. Know what? Moms, dads, grandmas, and grandpas you are doing a great job raising the next generation. Pat yourself on the back. Congratulations. Our final speaker was Ashley Galvin.

She told us about her new business she has opened downtown Aurelia. She said it was exciting and challenging. Her business involves nutritional drinks at this time, but hopes to expand into a coffee shop as well. Better stop there. She told us much more, but you know the rules, if you were not there the information is for Kiwanians only. Sorry. Stop in to see her new shop sometime. Sounds most interesting and fun.

Now down to business.

I think we made about \$17,000 on our spaghetti dinner. Please don't quote me on that, but I happened to hear something like that. Thanks for your support.

We along with Alta, we are helping to develop what is called a Builders Club. This is the middle school version of Kiwanis. They will work on leadership skills, and take a lead in community projects. This should be an interesting and fun endeavor.

The rest of our business is none of your business because Kiwanis business is not your business but Kiwanis business. Guess I gave you the business.

Ok, we cemented in 21 new bases for more flags along the walking path and planted 3 new trees. Told ya we do good stuff. Hope you and yours are all well, and have a great week.

See you Thursday morning. Hugs, hugs, hugs.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 1 - 7:00 AM
AURELIA COMMUNITY CENTER

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- **AA:** M 7 pm, W 8 pm, St. Paul's Methodist Church, 531 W. Main, Cherokee; Sat, 9 a.m., Crossroads Christian Church, 515 W. Main, Cherokee. Use the back door.
- **Aurelia Community Coffee:** Wednesdays at 9 am at the Aurelia Community Center.
- **Aurelia Kiwanis:** Thursdays at 7 am at the Aurelia Community Center.
- **Aurelia American Legion:** 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Aurelia Community Center.
- **CAP Food Bank:** Tu & Th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., IC Church, 709 W Cedar. Anyone in need of food is welcome to stop.
- **Cherokee Community Blood Drive:** the last Thursday of the month from 12 to 5:30 p.m. at the lower level of the Cherokee Community Center. Schedule a blood donation appointment online at lifeservebloodcenter.org or call 800-287-4903.
- **Cherokee Community School Board of Education:** The regular board of education meetings are held in the Cherokee Washington High School library. Agendas are posted on the school's website typically on the Friday prior to the meeting although they may be changed up to 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of each meeting. Visitors wishing to speak during the meeting should sign up prior to the meeting being called to order. Comments should be submitted to the superintendent, Tom Ryherd, at tryherd@ccsd.k12.ia.us by 2 pm the day of the meeting.
May 19, 2025 @ 5:30 pm June 16, 2025 @ 5:30 pm
July 21, 2025 @ 5:30 pm
- **Cherokee County Conservation Board:** 2nd Monday of each month at the 5 pm at the CCB Headquarters on River Road.
- **Cherokee Memorial Presbyterian Church** will hold a movie on Sunday, May 4, starting at 6 pm. The movie is On Wings of Eagles. This is a free community event. Popcorn and drinks provided
- **Cherokee Public Library:** READit Book Discussion, Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 am. Come as you are, bring what you're reading, and be part of our growing community of book lovers!
- **Cherokee VFW LA Wescott Post:** 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in the basement of the Kee Stirs building.
- **MMC Food Pantry:** Marcus Senior Center, 405 N. Main St., Marcus. Hours of operation are Wednesdays 6 to 7:30 pm and Saturdays 9 am to 10:30 am.
- **NA Recovery in Action:** Tu & Th, 7 p.m., First Church of Christ, 772 N. 2nd St., Cherokee. Park in the south lot.
- **Quimby Public Library:** Quimby Public Library has "Story Time" every Wednesday at 3:00. Join us for fun books, games, and crafts!
- **Siouxland Food Bank:** the third Friday of the month at Trinity Lutheran Church, 230 N. Roosevelt, 5:30 pm. Please bring your own bags. If you are unable to come to the Food Pantry, but need assistance with food security, please call 712-229-4443 or 712-221-0350.
- **Welcome Plate and Food Pantry:** The Welcome Plate is a free meal served at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 300 E. Bow Drive on Saturday, April 26 from noon until 1 pm. Devotions start at 11:45. Every one is welcome. Food pantry and clothes closet will be open at this time.

Stay up to date with the online calendar on our website: www.chronicletimes.com

On the MOVE?
Please call at least 2 weeks in advance so your paper isn't delayed!
712-225-5111



Announcing the
Cherokee Chronicle Times

Cute Cow Contest



Submit a photo of the most beautiful bovine, cutest calf or heavenly heifer you know to news@ctimes.biz by Monday, May 5th at 5 pm

Winning entry will be given a 3-month online subscription to the Cherokee Chronicle Times! Winner will be announced in the Farm Times on Friday, May 9th.

Last year's winner was Skoots submitted by Kacy Wolf.