

IN OUR VIEW

KPC public meeting

Kentucky Power Company has scheduled a public meeting to discuss power supply going to the Muskie Data Center proposed for EastPark Industrial Park.

It’s actually an open house discussion scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 15, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. It’ll be at the Boyd County Convention and Arts Center at 15605 State Route 180 in Catlettsburg.

To be clear, this is not a town hall with a formal presentation.

This newspaper has urged this type of meeting in the past. We appreciate Kentucky Power doing this. The amount of electricity used to power the data center is substantial. The company’s press release about the meeting says Kentucky Power officials will be on hand to provide information on transmission lines that may impact area property owners. Proposed power line locations have not yet been established as public input will be evaluated first.

This has been a hot-button issue here and everywhere. The non-partisan Cook Political Report states data centers are what Americans dislike the most this election year — followed by economy, war, energy prices, food prices and gas prices.

While data centers require a great deal of energy, some consume a large amount of water. Water is more plentiful in the east whereas western states often have water shortages and occasional drought conditions.

TeraWulf, the company building the Muskie Data Center, recently announced an amended agreement, accelerating the timeline for an eventual 1-gigawatt facility.

If we had our say, the Big Sandy power plant would still be fully operational. Advocates for data centers contend increased demand for electricity will benefit residential users by data centers bearing much of the cost of electricity. Advocates also point out data centers will bring huge tax revenues into local communities.

We urge interested readers to attend the open house. Listen and learn. Don’t hesitate to ask questions or make suggestions.

CONTACTING ELECTED OFFICIALS

Kentucky House

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U.S. House

- Thomas Massie, R-4th District, 2453 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515. Telephone: (202) 225-3465.
- Hal Rogers, R-5th District, 2406 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515. Telephone: (202) 225-4601.

U.S. Senate

- Mitch McConnell, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Telephone: (202) 224-2541.
- Rand Paul, 167 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Telephone: (202) 224-4343.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievance.



Celebrating sacred rite of voting in America

It was an early November day, cold and snowy. My father, Walter, was 85 and recovering from cataract surgery gone bad. He did the things an 85-year-old did — he read his newspaper daily despite an eighth-grade education, told WWII stories, and doted on his grandchildren. But there was one more thing he did on that cold, snowy November morning.

Moving slowly with a patch securely over his left eye, he sat down at the dining room table as I arrived.

“Daddy, it’s time to go vote,” I said.

“I don’t think I can this time,” he replied.

His answer was not unexpected but shocking nonetheless. I pondered for the longest moment and came up with this: “if you don’t vote, daddy, your guys won’t win”! He looked at me for a moment with a look of deep concern and a sudden sense of urgency. Slowly, he rose from his chair and headed toward the door. As if there was never a moment of hesitation, he walked past me at the door with these words, “What are you waiting for?”

Looking back, it was a teaching moment that voting was something the weather or a bad eye could not stop. It was that important. We are reminded that democracy is sustained not only by historic figures and grand speeches, it is the stuff of ordinary people who put on their coats, learn about the candidates and the issues, and go vote.

In honor of people like my

dad and the most sacred rite of freedom, voting, The League of Women Voters of Lexington, Global Lex, and CivicLex

are launching “Make Democracy Social,” and “Celebrate Democracy,” a two-part, non-partisan voter engagement initiative, designed to help Fayette County residents become informed voters, make a plan to vote, and build community around civic participation.

The initiative, launched this September, will provide a toolkit where information instructs on how to conduct and host Democracy Potlucks. The potlucks will feature community forums where citizens gather to make democracy social with a meal and conversation.

Community groups, churches, neighborhood associations, clubs, workplaces, language communities and friend groups are encouraged to consider hosting a Democracy Potluck before early voting begins.

Sponsoring organizations will provide nonpartisan resources to help people research what is on their ballot, understand the offices being elected, and make a voting plan.

Following these activities, all will be invited to Democracy Celebration opportunities where voters gather after voting to celebrate community participation.

Visit www.lwvlexington.com for more information and look



SYLVIA LOVELY

out for League of Women Voters of Lexington, Global Lex, CivicLex, and partner organizations out in the community throughout the fall.

Let’s remember that our fundamental freedoms were the result of sparks of passion and the act of voting that underpins our most basic freedoms.

They include freedom to worship as you wish and separation of church and state, freedom of speech to voice opposing opinions and enjoy a free press, due process and the right to counsel sparked by one man who spoke up and demanded representation in our courts (Gideon v. Wainright, 1963).

Let us remember that our most fundamental right to speak up and vote lay at the root of all our freedoms. The many battles throughout American history were ones of expanding the right to vote through many means including constitutional amendments that afforded voting status without discrimination regardless of gender, race, and age.

Let’s honor the legacy of those who have gone before us. Voting is not something my dad did when convenient, when weather cooperated, or when he felt particularly inspired.

It was a part of being a citizen and fighting hard every day to be informed and go vote. It is the act that not only preserves democracy but something we should celebrate. Let’s celebrate democracy together!

SYLVIA LOVELY is a member of the League of Women Voters, Lexington chapter.

Letters invited

The Daily Independent invites readers to submit In Your View letters on public issues.

Letters must not exceed 300 words and must include the name, address and telephone number of the author.

Words of Thanks letters are limited to no more than 150 words. The Daily Independent cannot guarantee a day of publication for letters, but makes an effort to publish letters in a timely manner.

The newspaper is not obligated to print every letter it receives.

THE DAILY Independent

Members of the Editorial Board

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Kevin Gunderson, community contributor

“In Your View” letters can be mailed to The Daily Independent, P.O. Box 311, Ashland, KY 41105-0311, sent to us by e-mail at letters@dailyindependent.com, faxed to us at (606) 326-2678, or delivered to our office at 1544 Winchester Avenue, Suite 600 in downtown Ashland.