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Solar farm proposed in Magnolia

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

An out-of-state company has acquired easements to hundreds of acres of land in Magnolia, with intentions to construct a solar farm. A public meeting and open house to discuss the project is scheduled for Sept. 17.

Known as the Magnolia Solar and Grazing Farm, the project is being developed by Doral Renewables LLC, a Philadelphia-based developer, owner and operator of renewable energy assets throughout the nation. The business currently has more than 45 projects in 16 states and five electric markets.

According to documents filed with the LaRue County Clerk's Office, Doral has been acquiring easements – which gives a person or entity besides the land owner a

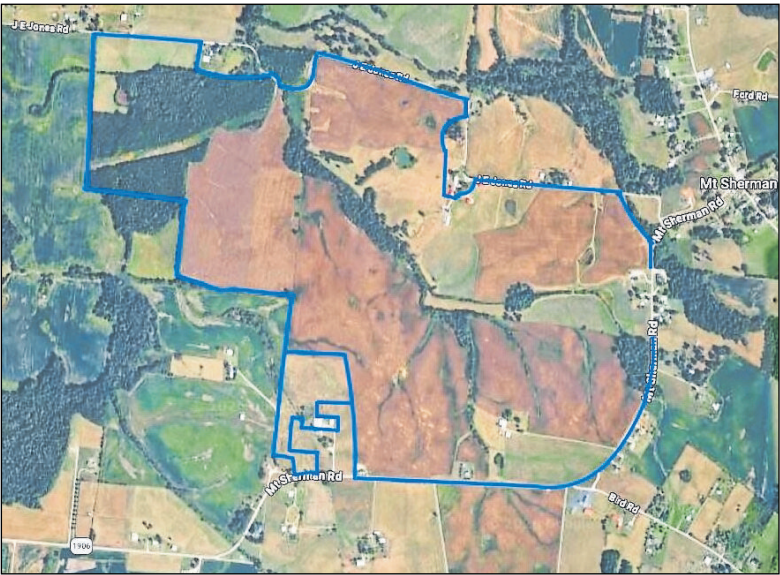
legal right to use the land for a specific purpose – to property in Magnolia since 2023. To date, eight property owners have formally filed easements to approximately 500 acres of land between Mount Sherman Road and J.E. Jones Road to the Magnolia Solar and Grazing Farm project. Among other things, the solar easements give the business the exclusive right to construct and maintain solar facilities on the properties until at least 2060 to 2062, though they all have the ability to be extended for one additional term of 30 years.

Magnolia Solar is expected to generate 63.25 MW (megawatt) of power; this is enough energy to power approximately 6,000 households per year. The project will also have a battery storage component of approximately 60 MW/hour, which will allow the solar farm to

save extra electricity made by panels during peak sunlight hours. The electric power generated by the project will be connected to the electric transmission grid via the existing East Kentucky Power Co-op transmission line crossing the site by an onsite substation.

According to the business' public notice, which published in the Sept. 2, 2026, edition of *The LaRue County Herald News*, the project will encompass a total of approximately 840 leased acres; note that this amount is more than the approximate 500 acres that have filed easements with the county clerk as of press time. Approximately 515 of these acres will be within a fenced area that will house solar photovoltaic panels and associated racking structures,

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Google Maps

This Google Maps photograph outlines the properties in Magnolia that have given solar easements to Magnolia Solar and Grazing Farm project in blue. It equates to approximately 500 acres.



City of Hodgenville
Tourism Commission
visithodgenville.com

Tourism grants now available

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

Businesses, organizations and individuals interested in promoting tourism in Hodgenville and LaRue County may be eligible for grant funding to bring their project to life.

Established in 2023, the City of Hodgenville Tourism Commission advocates for the local tourism industry to develop, market and promote programs, attractions and infrastructure to provide economic benefit, enhance quality of life and further civic pride. The commission is funded through a 3% transient room tax, which was implemented at the same time as its creation, and a 3% restaurant tax, which went into effect in July 2025.

Commission members recently established a grant opportunity for local businesses, non-profit organizations, community groups and individuals to request funding for undertakings that will drive tourism and economic growth. Eligible tourism-related expenses can range from marketing and promotion to visitor experience improvements.

"From cultural and historic attractions to outdoor adventure sites to local shops and farm venues to music and more, this grant program invests with partners whose projects encourage an increase in visitors and promote the overall

growth and economic impact of tourism," the grant application states.

Iris LaRue, Commission Chairperson, said the project possibilities are endless – from funding to promote tourism-driven businesses to special events such as shuttles for Lincoln Days or financing the fireworks for the city's Independence Day Celebration, the commission can potentially fund anything that brings people to the area and/or broadcasts the community's message.

"The tourism commission itself is here to provide access for these sorts of developments in the community, and one way to do that is to make it where your public can apply [for grant funding]," she said. "Our mission is to help, where we can, if it brings in people or if it puts our brand and our message outside the community lines – that's what we want to do."

The first step in the grant process is completion of an application, which are available online at visithodgenville.com or can be picked up at Hodgenville City Hall, located at 794 Old Elizabethtown Rd., Hodgenville. The request must include:

- A detailed outline of the project, including start and end dates
- An explanation of how the project will increase tourism in the

local area

- A proposed budget, including an estimated project income and expense and how the grant funding will be utilized

- An explanation of how the tourism commission will be recognized as a sponsor

The is no minimum or maximum funding amount a singular project can request, and matching funds are not required. If additional funding will be needed outside of the grant, applicants must state the source of said funding and whether the funds are in hand.

Once completed, applications may be emailed to visithodgenville@gmail.com or mailed or hand delivered to Hodgenville City Hall.

Once submitted, the next step of the process is attending a commission meeting to present the grant proposal. Applications must be submitted at least 30 days in advance of the commission's regularly scheduled meeting, which is held at 8:30 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month in the Community Room. Future meetings include Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17.

There is currently no deadline to file an application. For questions or more information, contact the tourism commission by email at visithodgenville@gmail.com.



Photo by Allison Shepherd

Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman visited The LaRue County Herald News on Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Coleman previews past, present, future

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman visited Hodgenville on Wednesday, Sept. 2. During her visit, she sat down with The LaRue County Herald News to give an overview of her role and responsibilities, what she's accomplished while in office over the

past seven years and what's coming next.

For those who may not fully understand what the Lt. Governor does, how would you describe your role and responsibilities?

In Kentucky, the job of the Lieutenant Governor is not really defined clearly in statute. It is, essentially, whatever the

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

Candidate questionnaires begin this week

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

In an effort to educate the public on the upcoming election, The LaRue County Herald News will be publishing a series of candidate questionnaires over the next five weeks.

This week, you'll find the candidates running for LaRue County Judge Executive on page A4, LaRue County District 1 Magistrate on A5 and LaRue County District 2

Magistrate on A6. All individuals were given the same questions and deadlines.

The next set of questionnaires will publish in our Sept. 16 edition with the candidates for LaRue County District Court Judge and Coroner. The Sept. 23 edition will feature the candidates for LaRue County Board of Education District 3 and District 5. Sept. 30 will include the Hodgenville

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Lincoln Days Railsplitter Run

STAFF REPORT

The Lincoln Days Railsplitter 5K, 10K, and Kid's Run will take place on Saturday, October 3 at 8:15 am during the 55th Annual Lincoln Days Celebration in downtown Hodgenville, Kentucky. You are sure to find this run-through of historic Hodgenville challenging and fun.

This is an open road race with a heavy volunteer presence. All races are cupless. There will be a water

refill station for 10K runners. 5K runners are expected to carry water if they feel it is needed. No Pets are allowed on the course or in the festival area.

The 5K is an out-and-back run from downtown Hodgenville and will start at 8:15 am.

The 10K will be a special treat as it will leave downtown Hodgenville and make a loop through the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace

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OBITUARIES

Anita DeMoss Friess, 82

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