

FARM

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The runoff will further erode the Brackett's property, they said.

Caitlyn Johnson, a representative at Rafferty Development which is trying to bring the Dollar General to Hodgenville Road, sent her an email.

"We heard that you and a few others may have questions or concerns about the proposed new store and found your Facebook post highlighting some of your concerns," Johnson said in the email.

Tricia noted that she did not go into detail in her post. It was a call to action to get help from the surrounding community against the zoning change.

Johnson assured them that "if our proposal for a zone change is accepted, we will install an evergreen living fence around the property boundary that abuts residential use."

Johnson went on to say the developers use evergreens known as Green Giant Arborvitae. Tricia did a research on this type of evergreen and discovered "it is toxic to cattle." They also can grow to reach a height of around 60 feet.

The couple is also concerned about their cows because they are a huge part of how the farm runs.

"We lose one of our cows, and it's financially devastating to us," Tricia said.

The Bracketts use the cows to connect people to agriculture. The couple uses the cows' kind nature to educate the community. For example, the Bracketts are taking part in the Fall Farm Festival on Oct. 7 at the Hardin County Public Library.

"We have flyers printed off with fun facts about cows, not just Highlands, but cows ... and that's a great way for us to get people interested in agriculture," Tricia said. "We love this agricultural lifestyle."

The Bracketts are hosting a community forum at their farm at 6 p.m. tonight with all area residents invited to attend to further discuss the proposed retail store.

The couple honestly admit that part of the reason they are opposed to the Dollar General is personal.

"We're not just fighting it for us. Everyone around here likes the rural life, but it's five to 10 minutes from town. It's like a two-sided sword. We're fighting for our personal issues. This is our land we've worked hard for and we've built something," Mark said. "It's not just us against them ... it's our neighbors and this community that don't want it."

The planning commission will hold a hearing regarding the zoning change at 5 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Hardin County Government Building, second floor.

"That zone's residential. Making it commercial for a Dollar General, or a gas station or coffeehouse, it just doesn't fit in the plans of this area," Mark said.

Currently, there is a Dollar General 2.5 miles away from the family's farm along East Dixie Avenue.

"We're all for progress, but this is not the spot for progress when there's ample opportunities three miles down the road," Mark said. "I don't want one of our cows dying because it ate a plastic Dollar General bag."



GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise

A sign sits in the yard of 2305 Hodgenville Road, Elizabethtown, making nearby residents aware of a proposed zoning change to that property and letting them know there will be a public hearing on Oct. 13 at the Hardin County Government Building. If the change is approved, it will make way for a Dollar General to be constructed on the property.



Tricia Brackett points out the erosion that has taken place over the past few years from rain running down another part of their 65-acre farm on KY 210. If a proposed Dollar General is allowed to be constructed on property right beside their farm, she says, "the erosion will be ten times worse."

GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise



Some of the Scottish Highland cows on the Brackett Family Farm graze in the pasture near Hodgenville Road.

GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise



GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise

Juliette is one of the 19 Scottish Highland cows at the Brackett Family Farm, a couple of miles out KY 210.



GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise

Tricia and Mark Brackett never tire of sitting on the front porch of their home that faces Hodgenville Road, watching their Highland Scottish cows graze in the pasture, enjoying the peace and tranquility rural life brings.

HARDIN

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according to Kant, providing information that parents may be interested in.

"We've moved away from the junk

food alley," Kant said.

Kant hinted that a surprise guest will be present at this year's trunk-or-treat.

"We have a surprise guest this year," said Kant, trying not to provide too much information. "We have a military group who is able to join us. That's all I'm going to say about it."

A new tradition was started during last year's trunk-or-treat where children's books were handed out, Kant added the practice will continue that at this year's event.

"We want everybody to have fun, have a good time and spend time together as a community," she said.

ETC

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Workforce Solutions Jim Rachlin added in the release that the CDL program serves a broad range of students including "employees sent by their companies to build new skills, individuals retraining for new careers, self-funded students and participants supported through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act."

"This new training lot gives our students a dedicated, convenient place to develop the skills employers need," Rachlin said in the release. "By working with the City of Elizabethtown, we are expanding access to training that can lead directly to good jobs while helping meet the region's demand for skilled commercial drivers."

According to Rachlin, 81 of the 83 students who completed the program last year secured truck-driving jobs soon afterward.

The new training lot being open also coincides with Manufacturing Month. CDL drivers are essential to the manufacturing sector as they ensure that raw materials reach production facilities and finished products reach customers safely.

Looking to get a CDL? New CDL classes begin twice a month, with no classes in December.

For more information, visit etc.us/cdl or contact CDL Program Coordinator Trish Smallwood at 270-706-8645 or psmallwood0011@kctcs.edu.

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