

Clark Twp. Tones Down Cedarville Streetlights, Adds Them in Hessel

By Amy Polk

Cedarville's downtown lights will gradually get a little dimmer, while Hessel will get a bit brighter. During its regular meeting Thursday, October 20, Clark Township Board moved to lower wattage in streetlights on two streets comprising the Cedarville retail district. In subsequent action, trustees elected to add streetlights along Cedar and Nye roads, answering a citizen petition to brighten those sections of Hessel.

Clark Township has received complaints about the brightness of the lights in downtown Cedarville for several years since they were installed about five years ago as part of the streetscape project. The 20 lights have 150-watt bulbs and were affixed to new lamp posts installed along the north portion of Meridian Street and Hodeck Street along the waterfront.

"Many people have expressed anger with the brightness of the lights," Supervisor Linda Hudson said before proposing Clark Township replace bulbs as they burn out, or as the budget allows.

She further explained that the lights could be toned down by installing lower wattage bulbs in the

lamps, but 70-watt bulbs can only be installed by first changing the ballast in the lamps. The cost of a 70-watt replacement ballast is \$32.90, and the cost of a 70-watt bulb is \$10.77, she said. Clark Township already has two 70-watt bulbs and will replace one across from the Nathan and Pam Harrison residence on Meridian Street, since they requested lowered wattage there.

Mr. Harrison and Mike Autore, another resident in the area, represented residents of the neighborhood, confirming local complaints that the lights were too bright.

"The problem with the streetlights is that there is no low ambient," Mr. Harrison said. "When those lights were turned on, everyone down there went, wow!"

The other 70-watt bulb will be reserved for later use, or for immediate replacement if a citizen complains. If all the lightbulbs and ballasts were replaced now, it would cost the township \$754 for the parts. Mrs. Hudson's proposal, however, did not include a complete replacement.

In Hessel, residents made the opposite request, producing a petition signed by 27 residents of Nye

Road, Cedar Road, and highway M-134 in Hessel. The residents sought four street lights on Cedar Street and one at the intersection of M-134 and Nye Road "to make this a safer walkway for township residents." The current street lighting stops at the Otstot residence on Cedar Road, and residents of the neighborhood want to see brighter streets for the many people who walk the road, particularly in the summer.

"Right now, with the amount of traffic from the casino and other drivers, it's a real hazard," said Jim Mertaugh of Hessel, representing the petition signers.

Mrs. Hudson reported that Edison Sault Electric's engineer Don Sawruk said he "is 80 percent sure that the poles and the lights would be installed at no charge to the township."

Clark Township will, however, pay the additional energy cost in its monthly electric bill. If the Board finds there is an additional charge for installation, the issue will return to the Board for discussion.

Assessor To Process 220 Building Permits

"I am very happy to be here," said Clark Township's new assessor, Sherry Burd. Mrs. Burd was loudly applauded by the large audience at the October 20 meeting before making her first report to Clark Township. She said she has found Clark Township "a very warm community" so far. She has started looking at building permits, she said, and there are 220 permits that need to be processed. Twenty five of the new construction permits are on islands, she said, and she made her first visit to island property last month.

Recreation Site Plan Approved; Township Seeking Fill Bids

Trustees approved the latest version of the recreation plan, which was presented by the Clark Township Recreation Committee

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Spooky Fun at Cedarville Fall Carnival

Above photograph: First grade student Kylie Hill (left), daughter of Kris and Kevin Hill, gets a pumpkin painted on her face by retired Cedarville teacher Sue Drenth. Mrs. Drenth painted several young faces during the Cedarville High School Fall Carnival Thursday night, October 20. The High School hosts the annual event, which features children's games, a cake walk, and haunted house. The carnival raises money for high school activities.

Right photograph: Hannah Malkowski isn't too spooked by the giant spiders she inspects at the carnival. She is the daughter of LeeAnn and Mark Malkowski of Cedarville.

Lower photograph: Rhianna Milligan and Katie Eberts (behind the mask) vamp for the camera at the entrance to the haunted house.



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Don Wallis Speaks for Rudyard Historical Society

Don Wallis will be the speaker for the Rudyard Historical Society meeting this month. The meeting will be at the Rudyard Community Center at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 10.

A 1949 graduate of Rudyard High School, Mr. Wallis will tell stories about the Strongville area east of Rudyard, where his ancestors homesteaded.

The event is open to anyone interested in Rudyard history. Refreshments will be served. A bake sale will take place, and there will be a raffle for craft items.

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