



Photo by Jacob DeRochie/ contributing photographer  
 department's new headquarters on campus.

# olicing chief

icers will also involve how to l health calls, ple with dis- cing with the ation on cam- ill also be on In 2011, the ed its initial last year it DePaull said. er re-accredi- ears." ime DePaull olicies to cov- ital health and ilities, as well ills, he said. id President d DePaull is a first-rate person, "a solid citizen." Having worked with the depart- ment for many years, DePaull has gained the knowledge for the position, Bitterbaum said. Along with working well with officers, Bitterbaum said DePa- aull has also worked well with students, faculty, staff and the community over the years. "It became obvious to the commu- nity he was a good choice." DePaull started with the de- partment in 1990 and was pro- moted to lieutenant in 2001, then assistant chief in 2006. It wasn't his goal to become chief, he said, however as the promotions came along DePaull began to look ahead. "I looked at the next logical step for me," DePaull said.

# city zoning backed

By ROBERT CREENAN  
 Staff Reporter

rcreenan@cortlandstandard.net

A 14-acre, 2.6-megawatt solar farm project in Cortlandville won the unanimous support of the Cortland County Planning Board on Wednesday, after developers said only three of 22 neighboring homeowners objected.

The 14 acres near Wellington Drive behind the Cortlandville Crossing plaza would have 425 tables each consisting of 18 panels, capable of generating 2.6 megawatts of electricity. Melissa Clark, vice president for business development for the applicant, Abundant Solar of Toronto, said that would be enough to power 340 homes. The solar panels will have a lifespan of 25 to 35 years.

The company has requested site plan approval, an aquifer protection district special permit, a conditional permit and a zoning map amendment. It is also asking the town of Cortlandville to rezone the parcel to agricultural from a planned unit development.

Employees of Abundant Solar, which would own and operate the solar farm, spoke with 22 neighbors near Wellington Drive, near Walden Oaks Country Club. Three members of a homeowners association were very protective of their land, but the others were more positive, Clark said.

Jared Pentella, an engineer for Rochester-based LaBella Associates, said 600 feet would separate the panels from the nearest property line.

"We're not trying to sneak in under the cover of night," Clark said. "We want to build a quality grid and we will be here for the long term."

The planned unit development allowed 270 homes on lots one acre or smaller with the rest of land designated as recreational/open space. County Planning Director Daniel Dineen said the development has between 150 and 175 homes.

The county Planning Board also unanimous supported the

## The next steps

The proposals will now go back to their respective government boards:

- The solar farm proposal will go back to the Cortlandville Planning Board where it would review the permits and make a recommendation for the aquifer protection permit and the zone change permit. The Town Board would make the final decision following a public hearing and a state environmental quality review.

- The Cortland zoning code goes back to the common council, where a public hearing will be held and the state environmental quality review would be carried out before it is adopted.

proposed new zoning map for the city of Cortland.

The new zoning would create two general business districts. The area around the Clinton Avenue Interstate 81 exit, designated as General Business Regional, would be for large-scale commercial activities while other general business areas, designated as General Business Local, would be for small-scale activities.

Two student overlay districts would be created, meant to protect the single-family, owner-occupied character of the neighborhoods near College Hill area and along Groton Avenue near Main Street.

The College Hill student housing impact overlay district would keep 500 feet between student housing structures. The other district would allow up to five unrelated persons to live in a single dwelling unit as long as the property is designated for student housing. It is meant to develop vibrant, higher-density student housing opportunities.

The Planning Board backed the plans and recommended that the city complete a state environmental quality review and add the wellhead protection overlay district boundaries to the zoning map.