



Holland Township selects new manager during special meeting

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The Holland Sentinel

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Silver Maple Solar faces major roadblocks in Zeeland Twp.

Cassidey Kavathas
Holland Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

RWE has suspended scheduling for a solar development proposal before the Michigan Public Service Commission, according to a filing dated July 6.

The project boasting 200 megawatts would stretch across 1,914 acres of agricultural-zoned land south of I-196 near the Ottawa Executive Airport.

A local farming family currently embroiled in a lawsuit with RWE has motioned for the project's application to be dismissed altogether — but that motion, filed July 3, is being held in abeyance “pending the applicant's determination on how it intends to proceed.”

What led to the suspension request from RWE?

RWE requested the suspension of all dates and agreed to waive a twelve-month decision deadline “while it evaluates measures to address the impacts” of a decision from the Michigan Court of Appeals in May — which defines an “Affected Local Unit” as any local government in which all or part of a proposed energy facility will be located.

ALUs were previously defined only as units of local government that exercise zoning jurisdiction over such projects — in this case Zeeland Township and Jamestown Township.

The updated interpretation would

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A resident speaks during public comment about a proposed solar development in Zeeland Township on March 10.

ADAM VANDER KOOP/HOLLAND SENTINEL

Sara's Pizza returns to its family roots



Mike Verstrate, center left, and his family have taken over Sara's Pizza in Hudsonville. PROVIDED BY MIKE VERSTRATE

Austin Metz
Holland Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sara's Pizza in Hudsonville is reverting to second-generation ownership, announcing a return to longtime recipes and a plan to address previous health inspection citations.

Mike Verstrate announced via social media in June that he and his wife Xhuljeta — along with their children Klea and Lucas — have taken over the

business at 3114 Chicago Drive.

Verstrate is the nephew of business founder John Agrusa, who opened the pizzeria in 1987. Verstrate's parents operated the restaurant with assistance from their children until it was sold in 2025.

Less than a year later, the family is restoring the same homemade recipes, product quality and community focus that defined the restaurant for decades.

“It's an amazing feeling,” Verstrate

told The Sentinel. “For as long as I can remember, Sara's Pizza has always been a part of my family. ... It has that nostalgia.”

The restaurant is currently closed for renovations and improvements. Verstrate is planning a soft reopening toward the end of the month, followed by a grand reopening after staff training is complete.

The ownership change follows a

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HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Restaurant cited for dirt, food debris in kitchen

Evan Sasiela
Holland Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, the Ottawa County Department of Public Health releases a round-up of recent safety inspections at restaurants, schools and other facilities.

Adhering to proper safety practices is critical to preventing foodborne illness and promoting public health.

The Sentinel publishes regular reports on “priority” violations — ones that could directly lead to contamination of food or increase the risk of transmitting a foodborne illness, as well as corrective measures taken.

The Sentinel also reports on “priority foundation” violations — ones that could lead to a priority violation. The health department notes “core” violations, but The Sentinel only reports on those if there's a significant accumulation at a single eatery.

Applebee's

680 N. Beacon Blvd. in Grand Haven

Correction:

• All potentially hazardous foods were holding at 41 degrees or below. A risk control plan is due by July 14.

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