

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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NEWS

Acquisition of Lights Questioned

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Police Department

Township cites a required 32 percent increase in property taxes to fund 2013 operation as the principle reason for disbanding police department. **Page 3**

Harney's Sense of Community

Residents strive to bring back the community feel. **Page 4**

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Following the shooting in Newtown Ct., is American finally ready to have a serious discussion on gun control? **Page 11**

Down Under

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The Book of Days

It has become customary in England to look to St. Hilary's Day as the coldest of the year. **Page 13**

In the Country

Emmitsburg Glass goes solar

Emmitsburg Glass Company (EGC) has completed major construction of roof mounted solar panels and is currently working on the final interconnection of the system just in time for their 25th anniversary celebration on January 25th 2013.

The solar panel array, which will consist of 1057 solar panels, which will produce 253.68 kilowatts of DC power and will eliminate one hundred percent of the electric power obtained from their local utility at current consumption rates. Dan Reaver, co-founder and President of the local glass company said, "We're installing solar power as a way to help sustain the company in the future by eliminating our reliance on traditional energy and it's a contribution to going green."

Energy Systems and Installation (ESI), the engineering and construction firm hired to do the project spoke highly of EGC's management teams' commitment to solar power. "It's obvious why they have been successful over their 25 year history," said Corey Wolff, CEO of ESI. "Emmitsburg Glass Company has a manage-

ment team in place that can plan far into the future while simultaneously satisfying current client requirements. That long term approach of thinking is rare in today's short term, quarter-by-quarter corporate thought process. While the solar array will begin reducing their electric bill almost immediately, it is a significant building upgrade, so one has to think in terms of a longer timeline. We applaud Emmitsburg Glass Company and all of our clients that see the value of making commitments now to avoid higher electrical costs in the future."

According to Mr. Reaver the company is always looking for ways to streamline their overhead to be more efficient and competitive. Mr. Reaver said, "While solar is a significant short term investment, it fits within our long term strategic planning and will allow us to build more value into our products and do it in a sustainable manner. Plus, with the incentives available, the annual return on investment is significant. It makes a lot of sense from an accounting standpoint."

Why Solar, Why Now?

The cost to install solar on a com-



Emmitsburg Glass' solar panels will produce 276,004 kilowatt hours/year, allowing Emmitsburg Glass to go 100% solar.

mercial scale project has dropped as much as 60% over the past five years. Couple the price drop with several state and federal incentives, which may have a limited life span, and it makes "now" an opportune time to do a solar project.

"After carefully reviewing these programs with the solar consultants from ESI, it seemed like the right time to move forward with a project of this size and scope" adds Mr. Reaver. "ESI was very proficient in their explanation of the cash flow projections and how to make the most of the incentives available. Plus their

pricing was extremely competitive."

The solar power will be utilized by the EGC's Emmitsburg facility to replace all of their traditional electric requirements. Located within their facility will be a remote monitoring system that employees and clients can view to see a live dashboard of performance data from the array. It will also translate that data into sustainability metrics so viewers can understand how the production of solar energy relates to the reduction of the facility's carbon footprint including number of trees saved, barrels of oil off-set, etc.