

Costs of development

IT IS SADLY ironic to see local people finally beginning to wake up to the downside of unbridled development. I have written about this many times. It happened in my backyard two years ago. It has been happening east to west nationwide.

Some big-box store wanted to build a store on the Gettysburg Battlefield in Pennsylvania. Bush wants to privatize our national parks and drill for oil in Yellowstone. They know the price of everything and the value of nothing. We're only here about 100 years and what we leave behind is our legacy.

Now it is happening in Shiloh at Tamarack and in Swansea off Smelting Works Road. Part of the current development at Green Mount Crossing in Shiloh was done on wetlands, supposedly protected by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They did it by whittling down the size of the actual wetlands. Someone will build on what is basically swampland. The rest (wetlands) is for sale. What will they do with that?

But you can stop this. An organization, www.Stop158.org, is fighting tooth and nail with the Illinois Department of Transportation over the proposed expansion and development of a big highway over Scott-Troy Road and then south and west over virgin farmland to Columbia. It is totally unnecessary and not supported by growth estimates or demographics. Population in St. Clair and Madison counties has remained almost static at around 250,000. True.

Support Stop158.org by joining them to stop pork-barrel projects that waste our money and destroy our land.

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