

# THE FOREST REPUBLICAN

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## HILES NEWS

Snow, rain, sun, repeat pattern. Spring in Wisconsin, right? Woodticks are out, so be sure to start checking yourselves and your pets. Make sure that they are up to date on their vaccinations as animals are coming out of hibernation, and have their tick and flea treatment ready to go. It's also nice to see people coming up to open up their cottages.

Two weeks ago, many people were upset to learn about the possibility of the state buying the house previously owned by Jennifer and Tony Blank that's on the corner of State Highway 32 and County Road S. The reason people were and still are upset is because the state is looking into buying it to house a sexual offender that is being released, possibly back to our county. He is listed as a violent sexual offender, and was previously charged also in Minnesota with crimes. This house is also the home where when I was a young girl, there was a triple murder. For many reasons, our town residents do not want to see him housed in that location.

The issue was briefly brought up at a County board meeting, and then on the 20th, at a meeting held at the Hiles Town Hall. At the meeting on the 20th, the Town Board brought up a resolution that a violent sexual offender not be housed in the Town of Hiles. Even though the meeting was held at 10 in the morning, and on short notice, it was truly amazing to see that almost 100 people showed up to voice their unhappiness, and to work together to try and stop this from happening. Unfortunately, the town itself isn't given a choice as to whether the sexual offender should be housed here. The state has the final say, but hopefully, between the resolution and the amount of people that were there and are speaking up, our voices will be heard. Part of the reasons why are the limited cell phone reception in Hiles, the lack of jobs, and the distance from police presence if something were to occur. Also, are the number of children that aren't far from the house to begin with.

One of the solutions that was brought up was for someone to buy the house and take it out of consideration. That idea is gaining speed, and is currently in the works, with an offer to buy the house made, and a go-fund me page started. The thought is that the property will be bought, the house burned down as a practice drill for our local Fire Department, and possibly a small building built that can be used as a farmer's market for town residents.

At this point, even though that house is currently out of contention, the plan still holds, more as a protection for our town members, and a chance to do something positive once again on that site.

Also sad to hear this last week that Eddie Rausch, longtime Hiles resident, passed away. Eddie died on April 24th, and there will be a Memorial Service for him on May 8th at 1pm at Weber Hill Funeral Home in Crandon. Our sympathies go out to Terry and family. Eddie was the image of a good old boy to me. Always with a smile and a belly laugh. He'd do whatever was needed to help, and have fun doing it. We will miss you Eddie!

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