

LIVING

THE PLAIN DEALER

▶ [Click here to subscribe!](#)

▶ [More From The Plain Dealer](#)

Tom Feran

The following article is part of our archive

Sheffield Lake wind turbines to light nearby shopping center

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Tom Feran

Plain Dealer Columnist

Sheffield Lake -- With a made-to-order breeze pushing their blades into immediate action, Mayor John Piskura flipped the switch on two lakefront wind turbines on Tuesday.

He said the 45-foot-tall windmills, next to the parking lot at the year-old community boat launch on Lake Road, will light the Shoreway Shopping Center across the street, and mark the first step in making his Lorain County community a leader in green energy.

Next would be a larger wind turbine between the two, and a series of five turbines on a planned breakwall creating a small-craft harbor. The city has applied for \$14 million in federal stimulus money for that project.

Money from leasing space for a cell phone antenna on a municipal water tower paid the \$32,000 cost of buying and installing the first generators, Piskura said.

The turbines were assembled at the site on Monday. A single crane began lifting them onto concrete pads at 9 a.m. Tuesday. By 11 a.m., the windmill's rotors, 12 feet in diameter, were generating electricity and favorable comments.



TOM FERAN

INSIDE

Living

- ▶ [The Plain Dealer](#)
- ▶ [Cooking](#)
- ▶ [Travel](#)
- ▶ [Health & Fitness](#)
- ▶ [Inside & Out](#)
- ▶ [Love & Weddings](#)
- ▶ [Forums](#)

▶ [SEND THIS PAGE](#)

▶ [PRINT THIS PAGE](#)

SPEAK UP!

- ▶ [Consumer/Shopping](#)
- ▶ [Crafts](#)
- ▶ [Home Improvement](#)
- ▶ [Lighten Up!](#)
- ▶ [Nutrition](#)
- ▶ [Shape Up!](#)
- ▶ [Support](#)
- ▶ [Travel](#)
- ▶ [Wedding Planner](#)
- ▶ [More Forums](#)

NEWSLETTERS

- ▶ [Sign up for the weekly What's New Update](#)
- ▶ [More Newsletters](#)

"I don't even hear them. If you're standing right under it, you can hear a tiny buzz," said Barbara Griffith, a Sheffield resident taking her two young sons and a pal to the public library next door.

"If you hadn't mentioned it to me, I wouldn't even have noticed them," said plumber Larry Greenleaf, a longtime Sheffield Lake resident, who was taking a noontime break in the parking lot. "It's a great idea. I'm all for it. I'm all for alternative energies."

The initiative is one element in the city's plans for the shopping center, which Sheffield Lake bought last year.

Grants coordinator Bill Gardner said the city is committed to making the area environmentally friendly and the center of town.

Demolition has begun on much of the shopping area, to make room for public-private development. A half-dozen merchants are still open....