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These quotes are from an interview with Dave Breunig on January 17, 2018. They have been edited for clarity.



Darlington, Wisconsin

Mayor Dave Breunig

Not quite a native, Mayor Dave Breunig has been in Darlington nearly 40 years and has served as mayor for the past 16 years. He can be found frequently walking on the recreational trail in town shared with four-wheelers, especially in July when he is picking blackcap berries. He says the people of Darlington value its independence and way of life.

“The excitement in town when we realized Quilt Block Wind Farm would be built was palpable,” Mayor Breunig said. “People, especially those who owned businesses, were really eager for it to get started.”

One of the first tasks for the mayor and others in Darlington was to help accommodate the more than 200 people who would be coming to town to help build the wind farm. Breunig said the city has a campground but that it is not equipped for longer-term stays, so they had to expand their search.

“It is not just the city of Darlington that benefitted greatly,” he said. “I directed some people to Shullsburg, some to Gratiot, and others to Belmont. They were elated to have the business!”

Breunig said that the economic impact to the area is undeniable with an increase in traffic at the hardware store, print shop, gas stations, restaurants, and other local businesses.

“Our Ford dealer was grinning from ear to ear,” Breunig said. “The facility used all Ford white trucks, and, while they didn’t purchase them here, it was great advertising and they did need service work on occasion.”

Even people who Breunig said were initially skeptical, watched the process and agreed that EDP Renewables not only kept their word but also “left the area better than they found it.”

One of the greatest impacts, according to Mayor Breunig, is the impact Quilt Block has and will continue to have on kids in the region. Schools in the area now have wind technology instruction and students can see the opportunities in different types of jobs, whether or not they pursue a college education.

Mayor Breunig understands the importance of a growing community. “We can keep our young people here, where they can have a great future, right here at home.”

