



February 19, 2016

Wednesday, (February 17) the Detroit News published a story about an agreement the Michigan Crossroads Council has entered into with the Edw. C. Levy Co., a Michigan -based company, to mine gravel on our D-Bar-A Scout Ranch property.

The article contained numerous comments from Metamora Township residents expressing concerns they have about the potential damage such a mining operation will do to the character of the community. Their main concern appears to be the anticipated increase in truck traffic into and out of the area as a result of the mining.

One of the basic and lasting tenets within our organization is "leave no trace." We have extensively reviewed all the studies and plans included in the use permit requests to make sure that the Levy Co. adheres to this tenet. In addition, as phases of mining are completed, our agreement gives the Boy Scouts full control with respect to the reconfiguration of land for future agricultural use and expansion of camping programs.

Though it may sound cliché, change is never easy. But, this agreement will provide us with funding to enhance and expand our camp programs while continuing our mission to provide all of our youth with the best outdoor experiences that are available only through the Boy Scouts of America. All of our primary camp programs at the D-bar-A Scout Ranch will continue as usual.

We appreciate the township resident's concerns and hope that the formal review process will proceed as planned so that questions may be answered and issues resolved. Our history as a good neighbor in Metamora goes back decades and we want that legacy to continue for decades to come. I invite you to visit the project website (www.dbaraproject.com) or our Council website (<http://www.michiganscouting.org/about/communications/>) for more information on the project and how it will be implemented. If you would like further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us at communications@michiganscouting.org

Serving youth is our mission. We ask you not to lose sight of that as we work to reach a resolution that will be agreeable to us all.

Yours in Scouting,

Matt Thornton
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