THE
Beacon-News

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Yorkville data center project to be rephased

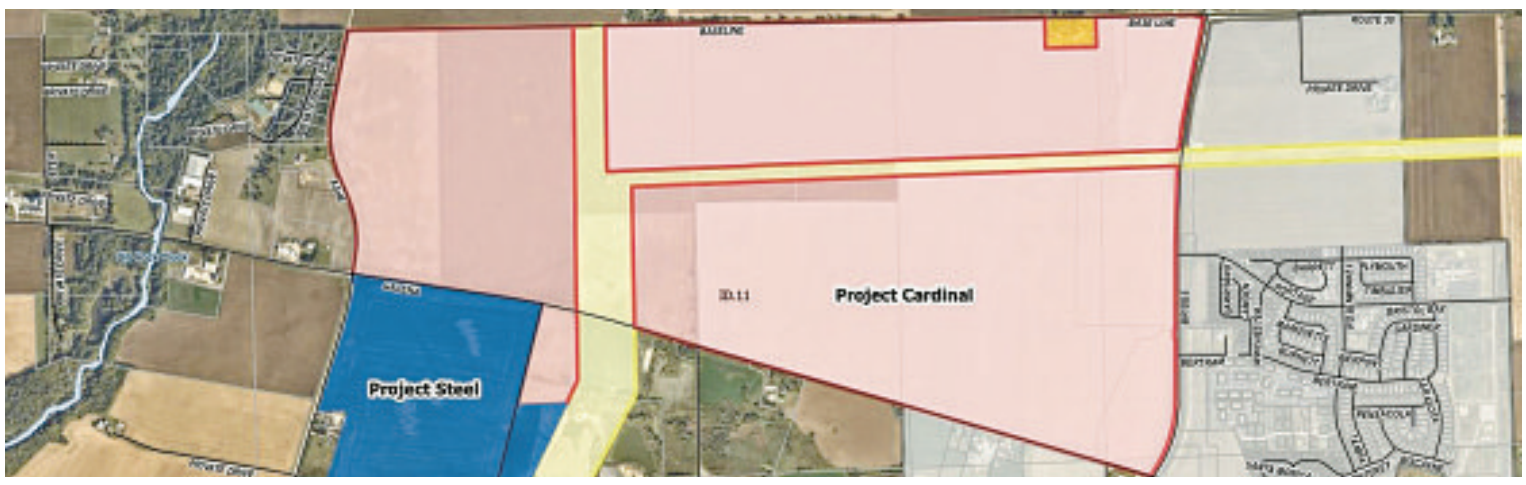
Change is part of resident lawsuit settlement agreement

By Molly Morrow
AURORA BEACON-NEWS

A settlement agreement has been reached in a resident lawsuit against the city of Yorkville over a roughly 1,000-acre data center campus slated to take shape in the area in the future.

Last week, the Yorkville City Council approved a conditional settlement agreement in connection with the lawsuit that, among

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A map of proposed data centers in Yorkville shows Project Cardinal, a planned data center development on just over 1,000 acres in the northwest corner of Yorkville on the border with Sugar Grove. Engineering Enterprises Inc./**CITY OF YORKVILLE**



Children beat the heat by playing at the Festival Park splash pad Monday in downtown Elgin. The Fox Valley is in the midst of a heat wave, with area officials reminding residents to take precautions to deal with the sizzling weather. **GLORIA CASAS/THE COURIER-NEWS**

With Fox Valley sizzling, Aurora advises residents to take precautions

AURORA BEACON-NEWS

As a heat wave grips the Fox Valley, Aurora officials are reminding residents to take precautions to deal with the dangerously high temperatures blanketing the region.

The National Weather Service issued an extreme heat warning for the Chicago area this week, with the advisory expected to remain in place until midnight Thursday, National Weather Service Meteorologist Ricky Castro said Tuesday.

In a Facebook post, Aurora officials said there are cooling centers in the city for those who need them. For more information, go to www.aurora.il.us/Cooling-Centers.

A list of available cooling centers in Kane County is available on the Kane County Health Department's website at https://www.kanehealth.com/Pages/Warming-Cooling-Centers.aspx.

During the hot weather, Aurora officials in the city's Facebook post said residents should stay in an air-conditioned indoor location as much as possible; drink plenty of fluids; schedule outdoor activities carefully; wear loose, lightweight and light-colored clothing; wear and reapply sunscreen as indicated on the package; check on friends and neighbors, especially the elderly and disabled; and never leave children or pets unattended in cars.

The scorching weather is having an impact in a number of ways around the Aurora area.

The opening of Aurora's midweek Farmers Market, which was scheduled for Wednesday at West Plaza at 1999 W. Galena Blvd., has been pushed back a

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Fourth of July travel has already begun

By David Sharos
FOR THE AURORA BEACON-NEWS

People have already starting hitting the road for the upcoming Fourth of July weekend, which may see a record number of travelers in Illinois, officials with the AAA Auto Club Group said.

In a recent press release, officials with AAA predicted that 4.2 million Illinois residents will travel at least 50 miles during the Fourth of July travel period, which has already begun and will end Sunday, July 5.

The release adds that about 3.8 million Illinois residents will travel by car during the holiday period, and that "while this year's increase is modest compared to recent gains, it still sets a record for Fourth of July travel in Illinois, as strong consumer demand continues to offset higher travel costs."

A total of 147,000 are expected to fly from the state, along with a 4.7% increase in other modes of transportation like train and bus, at a level of almost 269,000, officials with AAA said.

Molly Hart, spokesperson for the AAA Auto Club Group, said this week "will include a lot of people traveling nationally and also here in Illinois."

"We are up .5% from the Fourth of July in 2025," Hart said of predictions for Fourth of July travel. "The good news is that gas prices are down. They are still high, but they are down."

As of Monday, the average price per gallon in Illinois was $4.13, while a year ago it was $3.48 — still 65 cents a gallon higher than last year, "but below what we've been experiencing in the last couple of months" Hart said.

"The Fourth of July is a family holiday and people are still planning to be together. However, because of the high gas prices,

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High Court upholds states counting mail-in ballots after Election Day



Central count election judges process primary election mail-in ballots, March 24, 2024, at the Chicago Board of Elections. **BRIAN CASSELLA/ CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

By Rick Pearson
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Monday that Illinois and other states can continue to count mail-in ballots cast by Election Day that arrive afterward, rejecting a challenge by President Donald Trump and Republicans to require ballots be delivered to election authorities by the date of the November general election.

In a 5-4 ruling authored by Justice Amy Coney Barrett, a Trump appointee, the court's majority found that "while federal law dictates when ballots must be cast, state law dictates when they must be received."

"The defining element of an 'election' — the term used in ... federal statutes — has always been the electorate's choice of candidate," Barrett wrote. She was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and the court's three liberal justices in upholding a Mississippi law allowing ballots cast by Election Day but arriving five days afterward to be counted.

"By setting the day for the 'election,' (federal) statutes set the day when the electorate must make its choice," she wrote. "The electorate's choice is made when voting is complete, not when ballots are received."

The ruling upholds Illinois law, which allows mail-in ballots postmarked — or personally attested to — by Election Day to be counted up to two weeks afterward. It also appears to render moot a separate federal court challenge to the Illinois law brought by Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Bost of Murphysboro.

Bost's suit was assisted by the GOP-aligned legal organization Judicial Watch. Its president, Tom Fitton, called the high court's ruling "astonishing" and said it "further eviscerates the very notion of Election Day and threatens to make a mess for our nation's already stressed federal elections."

Roughly 30 states count at least some absentee ballots mailed by Election Day but received afterward, the opinion noted. A ruling to end the practice threatened to upend state election laws heading into the crucial midterm elections on Nov. 3.

The court's decision is a blow to Trump, who has long sought to curb mail-in balloting in favor of in-person voting on Election Day. He

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