

Carpentersville police prep for move

Relocation clears way for start of village hall construction

By Gloria Casas
FOR THE NAPERVILLE SUN

Carpentersville police will be packing up everything from case reports to evidence to guns as they prepare to move into a temporary location before the start of a \$38 million renovation and expansion of village hall.

With 62 sworn officers and 20 civilian employees, the police department is the village's largest and will be moving into a leased building at 250 Carpenter Blvd., Deputy Chief Greg Poulos said.

The mixed-use building has sufficient office and warehouse space to

accommodate the records division as well as providing offices and a large open area where police officer cubicles can be set up, Poulos said. A lobby separates the front of the building from its interior space with a glass partition.

Poulos said the only thing it lacks is an area for processing or holding for detainees.

"If we have a person remanded to a jail cell, they are going straight to the Kane County jail (in Geneva). Regular processing will happen at one of the local police stations here," he said.

The village is negotiating an agreement with a neighboring

police department where suspects can be handled, he said. Police departments often reciprocate services for each other when their facilities are down for repairs, he said.

What's different in this arrangement is it will last a year and a half.

The police department addition is part of a larger project in which village hall is to be renovated. An additional 58,000 square feet is being added to the building rather than building a new campus, which had been considered.

In addition to providing more

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The Carpentersville Police Department needs to move out of village hall for 16 months while the building is renovated and an addition is constructed. **GLORIA CASAS/THE COURIER-NEWS**



Kathy Freedlund spends some time with her dog Remy in the kitchen of her Batavia home. Freedlund recently established a "stick library" for dogs outside of her house. **KATHY FREEDLUND PHOTOS**

'I think it brings joy to people'

Batavia woman makes neighborhood 'stick library' for dogs

By Molly Morrow
AURORA BEACON-NEWS

Kathy Freedlund says she's always walking her one-year-old mini-Bernedoodle named Remy.

On her foot travels, the long-time Batavia resident sees little neighborhood libraries around town, where passersby can take and leave books for free.

But, one day, as she walked her dog and passed by one of these little libraries, Freedlund had an idea: what if she made a library for sticks, so dogs, too, could take part in the fun?

"What dog doesn't like a good, juicy stick?" she asked.

Freedlund, 74, got the idea up and running last month — though she refers to it as Remy's business venture.

The idea is a sort of riff on the little libraries concept, which is essentially a free book exchange. The Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that aims to build community and expand access to books, according to its website.

And, while Freedlund's isn't the first or only stick library in existence, she thinks the new fixture brings a little extra joy to the community.

Freedlund — a recreation supervisor at the Batavia Park District, who teaches fitness and yoga — has lived in Batavia for 50 years. Growing up in Plain-

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Kathy Freedlund has created a "stick library" for dogs outside her Batavia home.

Kane Co. Board OKs \$402M '27 budget

Officials won't use cash from dwindling reserve fund

By Molly Morrow
AURORA BEACON-NEWS

After years of balancing its budget by dipping into a dwindling reserve fund, the Kane County Board on Wednesday OK'd a \$402.9 million county budget for fiscal year 2027 that doesn't, at this point, rely on using any cash reserves.

The board voted 13-9 in favor of the budget, as some members took issue with things like the reallocation of some sales tax money away from county transportation spending and the county's planned vote before the year's end on raising its property tax levy. The new fiscal year begins on Dec. 1.

However, while a near-term draining of the county's emergency funds appears to have been averted for the time being, some uncertainty still remains about possible amendments to the budget, the county's fund balance and how its reserves can be rebuilt in the future.

Like last year, the county board's budget-making efforts of late have largely centered around addressing a looming budget shortfall in the county's general fund.

For the past three years, the board has dipped into its general fund's general account to balance its budget — and has used money from other general fund reserve accounts to balance the budget dating back as far as 2020, according to Kane County Finance Director Kathleen Hopkinson.

For years, county staff cautioned that using reserves this way wouldn't be an option forever, warning that the county had to make significant cuts or find new revenue before 2027 to avoid fall-

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How to regulate data centers in Ill. is at center of latest proposal



Construction at the new Compass Datacenters 197-acre site in Hoffman Estates on June 23. Compass is constructing five hyperscale data centers on the former Sears Headquarters campus. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Provisions include requiring closed-loop cooling, spurring use of renewable power

By John Lippert
and Jeremy Gornor
FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Even as a political backlash against data centers mushrooms across the U.S., a broad consensus on how to regulate them is emerging in Springfield, according to key corporate, labor and environmental lobbyists.

Marc Poulos, a Springfield labor quarterback, is circulating a three-page proposal that would require data centers to use closed-loop cooling to preserve water, speed up grid connections for data centers that use renewable power, roll back some biometric privacy protections and restore data center tax

incentives that Gov. JB Pritzker suspended in July.

Jen Walling, executive director of the Illinois Environmental Council, said her group is likely to support or not oppose several provisions in the Poulos document.

Broadly speaking, she said, they resemble proposals already circulating among the governor's office and data center operators. They contain several important elements, including requiring data centers to bring their own power, which she said her coalition supported in a bill introduced this year called the POWER Act.

No formal bill-writing negotiations have occurred, although Pritzker representatives and top

legislative officials are scheduled to hold a second meeting of their data center task force this month.

Around the country, more than 530 counties and municipalities have blocked or severely restricted data centers, according to Heatmap Pro, a clean energy news service. More than 200 additional towns are considering similar restrictions, Heatmap reported on July 30, as they seek to protect their land, water, electricity supplies and clean air.

These include six Illinois towns where data centers have been canceled since last year, and 13 which have enacted moratoriums or restrictive ordinances, according to Robinson Meyer, Heatmap's executive editor. Four other Illinois towns are still debating how to proceed,

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