

Danville Register & Bee

Grenta's Sharswood Manor marks fifth Juneteenth celebration

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Rail Days jumping tracks to new month away from famed train wreck

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Tuesday, June 16, 2026

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Compromise brings optimum

Data center tax break still sticking point on budget for Virginia

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

A compromise on a state budget that hinges on tax incentives for data centers is providing an optimistic boost for Southern Virginia's

potential record-breaking project. Money matters have been at a standstill in Richmond with Senate Finance Committee chair Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth, firmly entrenched in repealing a sales tax exemption for data center equipment that started in 2010 and is supposed to run through 2035. Stack Infrastructure plans to bring a digital infrastructure campus to the Southern Virginia

Megasite at Berry Hill, representing a \$100 billion investment over three decades and 2,500 jobs over 20 years. That deal is contingent on keeping the state tax breaks, which Lucas said amounts to a \$1.9 billion yearly hit to the Virginia budget. Proponents of the break counter state that data centers contribute far more than that to the state's economy.

On Friday, House leaders unveiled a roadmap to a deal on a state budget in hopes of preventing a government shutdown at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, which would be a first for Virginia. "This proposal creates a clear roadmap for evaluating the impact of the data center industry in Virginia and for reassessing the state's

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PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

RESIDENTS VOCAL ON FUTURE PLANS



CHARLES WILBORN, REGISTER & BEE

Vlad Gavrilovic, with New Paradigm Planning, talks to Katie Whitehead at Thursday's community session on Pittsylvania County's new comprehensive plan at Gretna Fire and Rescue.

As guiding document shifts to second phase, community members join in

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

GRETNA — As Pittsylvania County moves through the phases of developing a new comprehensive plan, residents are letting it be known they want to protect the agricultural landscape of rural Southside Virginia for the future. Dubbed Pittsylvania 2047, it will be a guiding document to take the county through the next two decades, a time the region will undergo exponential growth, leaders have touted. A comprehensive plan isn't a regulatory document or even something that dives into every possible road the future may take. For example, the last plan was adopted in 2010, before the notion of a data center

VIEW: For video highlights of the meeting, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**

landing next to a farm would even have been considered possible. "It identifies where the county wants to be growing in the future," Rachel Falkenstein, a project manager with Line and Grade, told residents at a Thursday evening session at Gretna Fire and Rescue. "It's not necessarily an exhaustive list of everything the county is going to do," she said.

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STACK INFRASTRUCTURE

Leader says China behind false info on data centers

Report: Propagandists use ChatGPT to mislead

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

Vic Ingram, the chair of the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority, said that much of the "propaganda" against data centers is coming from China, a fact that also surfaced in a report last week.

With Stack Infrastructure's plan to invest \$100 billion over 30 years and bring 2,500 jobs over a two-decade period to Southside Virginia, residents have taken to social media — as they often do — to criticize the downsides of the industry from economic and environmental circles.

The project at the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill would be the largest investment in Virginia's history and one of the largest in the nation.

"The propaganda that we see on primarily social media, a lot of that, in part, is driven by the Communist Chinese," Ingram, also the vice chair of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors, told the Register & Bee in a phone conversation on Saturday. "Because this is truly a race for technology in the advancement in technology."

He said it's no secret to leaders at the federal, state and local levels.

It was reported last week by Reuters, among other news outlets, that Chinese propagandists used OpenAI's ChatGPT to not only spread chatter against data centers but also oppose Donald Trump's tariffs.

Ingram said residents read these kinds of things — "and it looks very believable" — and buy into it.

It's created a heated debate in the local online world about Stacks' project in Pittsylvania County.

It's important to clarify the difference between data centers and what is proposed at the megasite, Ingram noted.

Stack calls it a digital infrastructure campus, which is different from the general data center, which mostly holds things like photos and emails in the so-called "cloud."

"This is AI-driven, so they'll be able to do so much more internally," Ingram explained of artificial intelligence, which is basically a computer system performing thinking tasks of a human.

Ingram sees the information floating around on social media, but wishes residents would reach out to him directly

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Weather
Nice, partly sunny
High: 85 **Low:** 64
Forecast: A8

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