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Court OKs data center regulations amid concerns

BY GRANT GERSTNER
EDITOR

After over a year and a half since a $6 billion data center proposal arrived on Oldham County's doorstep, the Oldham County Fiscal Court approved an ordinance establishing regulations on data centers on Oct. 6 in an 8-1 vote, Magistrate Michael Logsdon opposed.

As previously reported, the regulations were made stricter in early September, effectively proposing to limit all data center developments to a maximum power capacity of 10 megawatts and capping total square footage for data center facilities to 110,000 square feet.

That, alongside the previously proposed 1,000-foot setback from all residential property and 1,500 from adjoining school properties, effectively bans hyperscale data centers from the county for the time being, according to Judge Executive David Voegele.

"We have designed a bill here where there is no place in this county that will fit … There is no place in this county where a data center will fit right now. It doesn't mean that in the future it won't fit somewhere if some other group of people sitting here decides that it's appropriate," Voegele said.

During the public hearing for the ordinance, some residents expressed concerns regarding the language of the regulations as well as the process leading up to their approval.

Sarah Little of La Grange raised concerns regarding the process of approval, specifically questioning if state law requires the regulations to be approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission again, since they were first denied by the court on Aug. 18.

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Photo by Grant Gerstner

"This is going to have to continue to be monitored ..." Planning and Development Director Ryan Fischer warns the Oldham County Fiscal Court regarding the data center regulations passed on Oct. 6.



Photo courtesy of One Stop Media KY

Local developer and former State Rep. Bob Jones poses after receiving the Oldham Chamber & Economic Development's 2026 Oldham Countian of the Year award on Oct. 6.

Chamber names Jones as 2026 Oldham Countian of the Year



Era Editor Grant Gerstner smiles before expressing his gratitude for receiving the Oldham Chamber & Economic Development's 2026 Young Professional of the Year award on Oct. 6.

BY ERA STAFF

Dynamic, driven, compassionate, kind and generous — those were some of the words close friends and family used to describe local developer, former state representative and 2026 Oldham Countian of the Year Bob Jones at the Oldham Chamber & Economic Development's annual award ceremony on Oct. 6.

Though the recipient is normally revealed via a video recording of community members describing them, this year local businessman and Jones' friend of over 35 years Jay Hall had the honor of surprising Jones with the award.

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2026 Oldham Countian of the Year Bob Jones poses for a photo with his family — many of which surprised him by being at the Oct. 6 award ceremony.

Humane Society breaks ground on adoption center expansion

BY JANE ASHLEY PACE
PUBLISHER

The Humane Society of Oldham County (HSOC) held a groundbreaking last week for its new Adoption & Community Center, a project made possible through a $1.5 million capital campaign.

The new center is designed to dramatically improve the adoption experience and provide a better environment for the animals in the Humane Society's care. The facility will feature 20 indoor/outdoor dog runs, individual meet-and-greet rooms where prospective adopters can spend time getting to know dogs and cats, and large cat areas designed to provide cats with more comfortable and enriching spaces while they await their forever homes.

A large community space will also be a centerpiece of the new facility, providing room for educational programs, volunteer activities, community events, meetings and other opportunities to bring Oldham County residents together.

"This groundbreaking is the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the Humane Society of Oldham County," said Debbie Croak, Executive Director. "Our $1.5 million capital campaign is about much more than constructing a new building. It is an investment in the future of homeless animals and in our community. This center will allow us to provide better care and better adoption experiences while creating a place where our community can come together."

Rollo Fox, a board member and donor that Croak refers to as a "guardian angel," donated to get the new building started. The remaining money needed will be raised through the capital campaign.

As previously reported, an article submitted to the Oldham Era requesting a 10-acre parcel as a 'Christmas gift' for a new facility in 2014 resulted in Peabody and Rollo Fox donating the 7.4-acre parcel that's now the home of HSOC.

The new facility opened in November 2021 and allowed the society to move from the 3,200-square foot rental they had near Cherry House furniture before then.

Since then, Fox has remained involved and, as the Humane Society has grown, the need for a second building has emerged — especially with the end of Camp K-9, a partnership with Kentucky State Reformatory that paired rescued dogs with KSR inmates.

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