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Founders Day procession

Spectators watch the beginning of the New Albany Founders Day parade Saturday, May 16. More annual festivities celebrating New Albany's establishment in 1837 followed at the New Albany-Plain Local School District campus.

CHRIS PARKER/THISWEEKNEWS

Amazon project

New Albany in prime position to secure data center

By LORI WINCE
THISWEEKNEWS.COM

New Albany is poised to benefit after recent reports indicate Vadata's data-center plans for Orange Township in southern Delaware County will be abandoned.

Although Orange Township trustees were scheduled to meet Wednesday, May 20, to discuss a rezoning request for the Vadata project, Trustee Lisa Knapp said, the company's efforts in the township likely are over.

"The township has been notified that Vadata is no longer going to be purchasing the property," she said.

Columbus-based Ford and Associates Architects, a local representative for the data-center project, sent the township a May 15 letter that said the zoning request was withdrawn.

Meanwhile, New Albany City Council on May 13 voted 5-0, with Chip Fellows and Mike Mott absent, to approve incentives for Vadata, an Amazon subsidiary that builds data centers.

The approved resolution authorizes Joseph Stefanov, the city manager, to sign an agreement for a 15-year, 100 percent property-tax abatement with Vadata.

Jennifer Chrysler, the city's community-development director, said the potential project would include an initial 150,000-square-foot building on 68 acres north of state Route 161 and east of Beech Road in New Albany's International Personal Care and Beauty Campus.

The land northeast of state Route 161 and Beech Road is owned by MBJ Holdings, which is affiliated with the New Albany Co., and the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority, according to the Licking County auditor's website.

MBJ owns almost 22 acres at the northeast corner and the port authority owns three parcels of 150 acres, 49 acres and 22 acres east of the corner.

Chrysler said Vadata would be expected to invest $300 million in the site and create 25 jobs.

City Council's legislative report estimated the

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Honor Ride Ohio

Cyclists will pedal alongside heroes May 23

By LORI WINCE
THISWEEKNEWS.COM

Organizers of the second annual Honor Ride Ohio are expecting 700 bicyclists to converge on New Albany on Saturday, May 23.

Honor Ride Ohio is a fundraiser for Ride 2 Recovery, a nonprofit organization that provides cycling equipment to injured veterans and helps them with individual and group programs.

Linda Glassel, the director of the national Honor Ride series, said many veterans ride during the events.

"I think that really is the key thing, that it's a community event that connects veterans with riders in the community," she said.

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>
> — LINDA GLASSEL
> Honor Ride director

"They ride alongside America's heroes."

Last year, Honor Ride Ohio partnered with Mission Essential, founded in 2004 by Chad Monnin and Greg Miller, New Albany residents who served in the U.S. Army Special Forces and met during training at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base.

Glassel said 500 riders participated last year and raised $100,000.

"That's definitely on the higher side," she said of the Honor Ride fundraising. "The support of Peter Horvath(CEO of Mission Essential) and the team atMission Essential really make a differencein this ride. They have really been instrumental in helping to build awareness and, therefore, fundraising in the local area."

Honor Ride Ohio will begin and end at the Philip Heit Center for Healthy New Albany, 150 W. Main St.

Sgt. Mark Anderson said city police officers would close Village Hall Road from Johnstown Road to the New Albany branch

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