

PORTAGE DAILY REGISTER

Endeavor civic center ready to open

By Kevin Kirkpatrick, Daily Register | Posted: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 11:20 pm

ENDEAVOR - After nearly seven months of construction, the Ada Mills Donner and Melvin R. Donner Civic Center will be open for business Monday.

The new multipurpose facility, located next to Endeavor Elementary School, is home to the village hall, police department, library, senior/community center and a kitchen.

While construction crews still will be working inside the facility until the end of next week, the new library and village hall will be opening its doors to the public for the first time Monday. The rest of the facility will be open to the public March 22.

"It's like a new house, you have to live in it for a bit and see what else you can do," said Kevin Boodry, village president.

The interior of the facility is complete except for a few finishing touches, Boodry said.

Crews will install window blinds, appliances and the air conditioning system over the next few days.

Finally, clean-up crews will make the facility presentable to the public. Exterior projects will be ongoing throughout the spring.

Anticipation for the center's opening is building throughout the village.

"It will be great. I can't wait," said Endeavor Chief of Police Dominic Ferraro, whose office is currently his squad car. "The village has needed this for a long time."

Ferraro said he will begin moving his belongings into the new police department next week. Library and village hall members already have started setting up this week in their new home.

Neal John, Endeavor board trustee, can't wait to see the finished product.



Kevin Kirkpatrick / Daily Register

Jay Tiutczenko installs a door handle Wednesday on the men's restroom inside the Ada Mills Donner and Melvin R. Donner Civic Center in Endeavor. The center will be open for business Monday.

"All I've seen is what it looks like on paper through blueprints. The real thing has to be better," he said.

The building was scheduled to be completed by March 1, but ran a little behind schedule.

"There was a couple of glitches on getting the windows and bricks, but overall the project went smoother than when I built my home," Boodry said.

Construction of the 6,100-square foot facility is directed by Ko-Bra Buildings of Appleton. This is the firm's first municipal contract.

The project costs \$784,000. This cost includes all of the labor, materials, tools and equipment necessary to construct the facility. The total price also includes the furnishings, engineering costs and administrative costs.

More than \$500,000 has been raised to date for the project through grants and donations.

In May, the village was awarded a \$340,000 grant from the state Department of Commerce through the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to be used toward the project. Additionally, former Endeavor resident Ada Mills Donner donated \$100,000 to the village in July to be used toward construction costs.



The Ada Mills Donner and Melvin R. Donner Civic Center in Endeavor will be open for business Monday.

The facility will don the names of Donner and her late husband.

Numerous other area individuals, businesses and organizations have donated money, supplies or labor to the project.

"I couldn't be more proud of the people who have kicked in to help out," Boodry said. "I think (the center) is going to be an excellent asset for Endeavor and the surrounding communities."

Money needed to fund the project that isn't raised through grants, donations or fundraising will be borrowed from the Royal Bank of Endeavor. The construction loan has a maximum draw of \$444,600 with a 4.57 percent interest rate for a term of 20 years.

The board can borrow money as needed with this loan until the project is finished. The amount of money the board will need to borrow to fully fund the project is yet to be determined.

A grand opening ceremony is tentatively scheduled for July, in conjunction with the village's annual Broiler Fest. Donner and several state dignitaries have been invited, Boodry said.

Not everyone is thrilled with how the building project came to fruition.

A direct legislation proposal on the April 7 ballot would require voter approval of all future major borrowing or capital projects.

Resident Bobbi Jo John, who began circulating a petition initiating the proposal last fall, said the proposal is in direct response to the construction of the center because the board didn't give residents a say in how the building was going to be funded, John said.

kkirkpatrick@capitalnewspapers.com

