



Dalton Senior Center

Finish line in sight

Facility worth the wait is the consensus

By Jenn Smith

Berkshire Eagle Staff

DALTON — Six months after breaking ground, the new Dalton Senior Center is nearly complete.

Workers are installing simulated wood flooring and electrical wiring with the goal of finishing work by the end of the year.

Inspections to certify the building for occupancy are scheduled for Jan. 3.

“We are so excited,” said Sue Jacobs, executive director of the Dalton Council on Aging.

She said the mission of the project is not only to serve area seniors, but also their families.

“After 10 years of working toward this, you can’t imagine how good it feels to see it all come together. We’ve just had the best volunteers on this. It’s so beautiful,” said Marjorie Limburg, chairwoman of the Friends of the Dalton Council on Aging (COA) group.

The group also recently met its fundraising goal, receiving more than \$150,000 in charitable donations from area banks, businesses and individuals needed to help equip and furnish the building.

Town residents Susan and Dave Lombard even sponsored a matching funds program, contributing \$25,000 for every \$50,000 raised.

“We’ve lived here 40 years, raised our family here and now we qualify to be the seniors,” Lombard said. “Seniors have waited a very, very long time. We wanted to help make [the center] something Dalton could be proud of.”

Throughout its history of development, the Dalton COA has faced numerous fundraising and education campaigns, votes, and false starts to bring the project to fruition.

This fall, Dalton voters approved the construction and financing, with

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Sue Jacobs, the executive director of the Dalton Council on Aging, shows off some of the proposed plans for the Dalton Senior Center. The project is nearing 10 years since its inception.

Holly Pelczynski / Berkshire Eagle Staff



The new Dalton Senior Center is where the former Dalton High School used to exist. It should be ready for use not long after the start of the new year.

Holly Pelczynski / Berkshire Eagle Staff

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Senior center on schedule

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Allegrone Construction coming in with the lowest bid, \$911,000, for the project.

The new 5,000- square- foot senior center is located on High Street behind the old Dalton High School.

It will not only be the new home of the Dalton COA — currently a cramped 150- squarefoot office space located within the Dalton Community Recreation Association — but also feature a multipurpose space with the capacity for 120 people and

the ability to be divided into three separate rooms using retractable walls.

There is a commercial kitchen, coffee shop/lunchroom; a cyber café with computers and places for people to set up laptops; a classroom; an arts and crafts area; office space; a reception area; and a health room for wellness programs.

A boardroom will be dedicated to longtime Dalton COA member, the late David Powell, with conference tables built by his son Jeff.

The Friends of the Dalton Council on Aging have been working with BBE Office Interiors of Pittsfield to create a palette of colorful interior walls, cherry finished wood and warmcolored upholstered furniture.

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