



Library construction on track

BY STEVEN FURLOW
The Lebanon Reporter

The clock is ticking on the Lebanon Public Library expansion with the scheduled completion date of early December approaching.

A Wednesday evening tour of the building addition for the Lebanon Public Library board of trustees and staff showed off recent progress on the project.

"Things are going (well)," said Don Hawkins, project manager for Terstep. "We have a strong group of workers, they're a good bunch."

Nearly all heavy equipment has been removed from the site and Hawkins said the next time such machines will return will be when the Minute Print It building is demolished and to work on the parking lot on the east side of the building. Hawkins said grading on the area has already begun and concrete curbs poured in several places. The parking lot is expected to have 17 spaces when completed.

He said work on the demolition and parking lot should start soon, with much of the demolition done by Sept. 6.

Hawkins also said carpet for the new addition has been procured and is expected to be installed in around six weeks. The installation of the carpet is a sign for Hawkins that the addition is nearly complete. Walls will be painted and ceilings installed before the carpet is installed. The most important part is getting the new rooms properly humidified, otherwise drywall, paint and other wooden materials may not set properly.

"Getting the air turned on is important," he said.

Matt Mayol, architect for the project with the Odle McGuire and Shook Corporation, said the building is proceeding nicely.

"The project's ahead of schedule," he said. "I'm super pleased."

Mayol said a tour such as Wednesday's is important because it shows both the library board and workers the sacrifices they have made are worth it.

"We felt we were at a milestone with the project," Mayol said. "We hope they can say they got everything they wanted and more."

Mayol went on to say the project has exceeded what he hoped the job would accomplish.

"This is one of the best job sites I have running right now," he said adding, "it's exactly as I envisioned it. In reality, it's better."

With walls and windows in place the next big steps inside the project will be installing the new downstairs bathrooms, four facilities each for men and women, as well as wiring and water lines. Improvements such as a fail-safe fire alarm system, increased shelf space and other windows still need to be installed but the majority of the work is nearing completion.



Reporter photo by Steven Furlow
Matthew Mayol (right), an architect with the Odle McGuire and Shook Corporation, and co-worker Ben Griffin (left) show off water pipes and other maintenance capabilities in the expansion of the Lebanon Public Library Wednesday evening, during a tour for library board members and staff.

Mayol and Hawkins said they have been impressed with the masonry work done by local firm Broenger Masonry. They recognized the difficulty of the work and say it has gone smoothly and with outstanding results because of local pride in the work.

"They've taken a lot of pride in this," Hawkins said. "It's not an easy job, they've gone above and beyond."

Jane Myers, library board president, said every time she has toured the building she has left increasingly amazed.

"I'm satisfied with the job so far," she said. "I'm anticipating great things. I'm optimistic on how well the project has been turning out."

She said the group she was walking with let out audible gasps of enjoyment as every turn they made revealed more of what would soon become their workspaces.

"Everywhere I looked around, people were excited," she said. "It was fun for all of the board."

She added it will be fun for the staff to watch public reaction when patrons first enter the addition.

"We always talk about looking forward to Friday," she said. "I think we're into Tuesday evening, Wednesday morning of this project."

She said it is exciting for those involved in the library to see the project nearing one phase of completion. Once the addition is complete, materials currently housed in the library will be transferred over and the existing building will be renovated. Plans call for this to begin around April.

"We're over the hump," Myers said. "I hope this excitement will carry us through to a climactic ending. I always knew it could be this good, but this is great."

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