

The Telegram

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Saturday, December 3, 2011



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Photo By Barbara Summers

The first wall at the former Frick Gallagher building came down during the demo kickoff November 30. The project is funded by Clean Ohio.

Demolition underway at Wellston's Frick-Gallagher site

By Barbara Summers
Telegram Staff Writer

After years of hard work by Wellston officials, Jackson County Commissioners, and the Jackson County Board of Economic Development, the long anticipated demolition of the Frick-Gal-

agher building in Wellston is underway.

Jordan Hurd, a member of Garrett Well LLC, owners of the property, made it official with a Demo Kickoff Wednesday November 30.

Despite blustery winds, a good crowd gathered to mark this momentous occa-

sion. The building has long been vacant. Weather and vandals took quite a toll on the structure. Once the site is cleared, it can be turned to productive purposes which will benefit not just Wellston, but the region.

Among those on hand were Commissioners Jim

Riepenhoff and Ed Armstrong, Service Director Mark Jacobs, City Engineer Tim Wojdacz, mayor-elect Connie Pelletier and her soon to be service director Chris Barber, Economic Development's Jennifer

See DEMOLITION, A3

School Resource Officer grant denied for Oak Hill

By Red Thompson, Jr.
Telegram Staff Writer

The members of Oak Hill Village Council received bad news when a school resource officer grant, from the Department of Justice, was not approved. That does not mean the program is dead as representatives from both the Oak Hill Local Union Schools and the village tell *The Telegram* they are willing to meet again to keep the program intact.

Currently, the schools and village have an agreement in place to pay Resource Office Sgt. Scott Hughes until Dec.

During the school board meeting Tuesday night, Superintendent Mike McCoy explained he was informed of the news Monday. He has already asked Middle School Principal Adam Michael to see if there is federal money available for student safety and what other funding alternatives might be available.

McCoy, though, also told the school board he would go to village council again and would need help in finding a solution.

"We do not want to lose the School Resource Officer position because we think it is important," McCoy told the board. "We will be as fair as we can. Council meets again on December 13 and I plan to be there."

Wellston City Hall is closed Fridays

By Steven P. Keller - Telegram Managing Editor

According to discussion during the December 1 meeting of Wellston City Council, Wellston City Hall is now closed Fridays. Councilman Dennis Dupree asked if this was true since residents had gone to the building to conduct business and found it closed.

Service/Safety Director Mark Jacobs said the building is closed Fridays as a cost saving measure. He added when the new administration takes office January 1, that may change, but until then it will be closed Fridays.

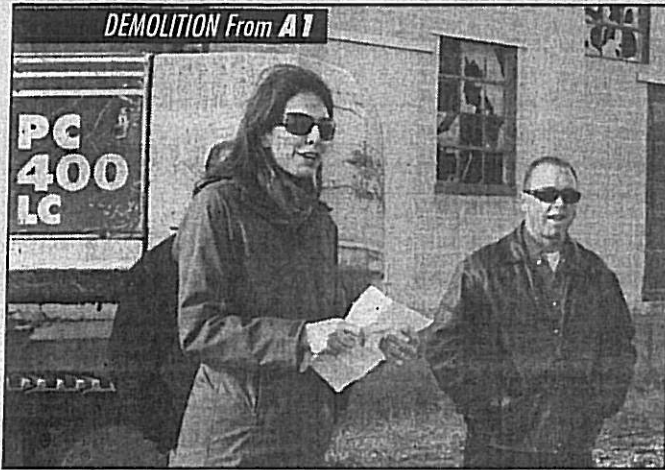


Photo By Barbara Summers

Jordan Hurd, left, a member of Garrett Well, LLC and consultant Matt Wagner of Keramida Environmental Engineering welcomed people to the demo kickoff at the former Frick Gallagher plant in Wellston.

Jacobs and Sam Brady, consultant Matt Wagner of Keramida Environmental Engineering, as well as representatives from Wellston's Chamber of Commerce and WesBanco.

Hurd thanked the team that's worked so hard to get to this momentous day including city personnel, Ohio Department of Development, Eslich Wrecking for their demolition work, and the Clean Ohio Fund's Brownfield Revitalization program which is funding the work.

"The cleanup and redevelopment of this site," Hurd declared, "will result in positive economic impacts to the region in the form of jobs, tax revenues, and benefits to the city, in a safer, more vibrant community."

"We're current in the process," Hurd continued, "of communicating with several local institutions and businesses to determine if the site can be used for their needs."

"Today," Hurd stated, the site "is an eyesore and a potential health hazard to the

businesses and resident living or working near it. Tomorrow, our hope for the site is that it will be a new benefit to the community as a clean and functional redevelopment success story."

City Service Director Mark Jacobs spoke on behalf of Mayor Edgar Hayburn. He noted Hayburn has pursued this project since taking office in 2004 when "so many jobs were lost." Hayburn singled out Engineer Tim Wojdacz for the outstanding job he's done in bringing the project to this point. "He does the work," Jacobs said, "and we sign it."

Jacobs is hopeful this initiative will be "the start of new memories. I hope it goes well for everyone."

Hurd echoed Jacobs' comments with the "hope this is the first of redevelopment projects among Garrett Well, LLC, the City of Wellston, and Jackson County."

As the brief program concluded, a trackhoe swung into action by using its claw to tear down the first exterior wall on the east side of one building.

Arthur Alan Corp. takes over management of Red Roof Inn



Photo By Steven P. Keller

The familiar Red Roof Inn, located at 1000 Acy Avenue, near U.S. Rt. 35, has a new management team as of Thursday morning, December 1. The Arthur Alan Corporation has signed an agreement to manage the facility. The corporation owns the Comfort Inn and the Days Inn, but will only manage the Red Roof Inn.

By Steven P. Keller
Telegram Managing Editor

According to Deanna Stroth, manager of Jackson's Comfort Inn and Days Inn, the Arthur Alan Corporation, owned by the Stockmeister family, has signed an agreement to manage the Red Roof Inn located at 1000 Acy Avenue.

"This is strictly a management agreement to operate the hotel which encompasses overseeing the staff and managing the operations," said Stroth. She said there is currently a staff of 10, but more may be employed in the future.

"I'm very excited about this," said Stroth who added there will be challenges when it comes to managing the new facility as she also manages the other two.

The Arthur Alan Corporation owns the Comfort Inn and the Days Inn, but will only manage the Red Roof Inn.

The Red Roof Inn has 62 rooms and an exercise center.

"I met with many of the existing staff this morning and they seemed eager to adapt to the change," she said.

The management agreement took effect at 9 a.m., Thursday, December 1 and Stroth, who has offices in each of the three hotels,

plans to visit each facility every day.

In total, the three hotels employ more than 40 staff members.

OAK HILL

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"We only have money to work support the McCarty belief department in the program, even if some to be made.

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everything. Besides that, pretty."

While she has large animals smaller animals reptiles, birds calls pocket posters, gerbils,

You are invited new Animals