

Veterans building receives temporary occupancy permit

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The new Jenny Lind veterans Memorial District hall is open for business.

The hall, which has been under construction since 2010, received a temporary occupancy permit last week from the Calaveras County building department.

“It allows us to rent the hall and office space, but the kitchen is unavailable for now,” Memorial District General Manager Frank Garza said.

A grease interceptor needs to be installed in the kitchen.

Garza said they hope to have that completed in time for the annual community Thanksgiving Day dinner organized by Paul Coca.

Other steps necessary to obtain the permanent permit include placing more aggregate outside the building, installing a pair of handrails and adding more concrete at a Boy Scout project in front of the building to improve wheelchair accessibility to a nearby bench.

Other work not required to gain occupancy includes installing carpet in offices and professionally cleaning the remaining concrete floors.

Garza said they are looking for volunteers to help in some of the tasks and they can reach him at (209) 483-3187.

Several activities are scheduled for this weekend at the hall and an official dedication ceremony is in the planning stages with a time to be determined.

The new building is more than three times as large as the previous hall, which was demolished to serve as the parking area for the new hall. The new building has multiple meeting rooms, a larger stage area for theatrical events and a larger capacity for community and private events.

The new hall will also solve handicap-access, heating and air-conditioning issues associated with the old hall.