

## Mahuron Park's community center nears completion

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Though the new community center at Mahuron Park is not completed inside, the city is allowing this weekend's Juneteenth celebration to be conducted inside the building. The construction of the center is being financed by the city's 1-percent sales tax, which comes up for renewal at the November elections. Daily Leader photos/Jessica Crawford

By JESSICA CRAWFORD • Daily Leader Mahuron Park on the northeast side of Liberal is in the process of receiving a community building. This is a project the tight-knit community surrounding the park feels will be a positive addition to their neighborhood.

Liberal Public Works Director Joe Sealey said although the building is not yet totally completed, it is coming right along.

"The building is up, we are waiting on the liner material we're going to put inside," he said. "It will be steel instead of sheetrock. That is on order. It will match the outside color. It should be in this week sometime." This weekend, Liberal will be celebrating Juneteenth. The official Web site for the celebration describes it as "the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States." This year, Juneteenth will be celebrated in a brand new building, although it's still under construction.

"The Juneteenth Celebration is this weekend, the city is going to make it available," Sealey said. "We will have it cleaned up so they can utilize it for those festivities. We don't have everything done by any means, no walls are up yet. But, it will be suitable for use for that celebration."

Former Liberal Mayor Ivanhoe Love Jr. believes the building will be a wonderful addition to citizens that already utilize Mahuron Park on a regular basis.

"I think it is going to mean that the community over there now has a focal point for community activities," Love said. "It has been needed for a long time. The city is working hard so they can have it prepared just for the Juneteenth Celebration.

"It has been an inspiration to see a new building constructed, one that is a quality building – it reflects the community," he continued. "I think the people of the north side agree, we are thankful to the city for what they are doing."

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