



## New YMCA should open next year

AVON – The new French Creek YMCA is under construction and appears to be on schedule, despite some harsh winter weather.

Mayor Jim Smith said the facility should be finished by early next year. Y officials are planning a January opening.

The contractor is Dunlop and Johnson, Inc., based in Valley City. Ken Miller, Avon's chief building official, said the snow caused a few delays, but the footers are in and the drainage system is being installed.

The finished building will have about 67,000 square feet of space.

Smith and Glenn Haley, president and chief executive officer of the YMCA of Greater Cleveland, recently signed a large steel beam which will be incorporated as part of the facility's structure. The beam, which is 8 feet long and weighs 297 pounds, is expected to be raised into place during the week of April 23.

According to Smith, the recreational facility will provide the city's 17,000 residents with a variety of exercise and athletic programs.

The new facility, which will be located near Miller Road and Route 611, just west of Interstate 90 and close to the Lake Erie Crushers' new ballpark, will cost



Avon Mayor Jim Smith, left, and Glenn Haley, president and chief executive officer of the YMCA of Greater Cleveland, sign a beam that will become part of the new French Creek Y.

about \$3.5 million.

Smith praised the YMCA organization because of its agreement to fund 40 percent of the project. He said the funding contribution helps to take a big load off the city.

"We are very excited to have the YMCA build in our community," Smith said. "They are a great group of professionals to work with. It will be great to offer families and young children a facility fit specifically for them."

Smith said that residents are fortunate to have access to EMH Center for Health & Fitness, 1997 Healthway Drive in Avon, but the YMCA will allow more programs for children, since the EMH mostly caters to adults.