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French Creek YMCA expected to open mid-March

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AVON — Construction at the French Creek YMCA is nearing the finish line 10 months after building began. The 67,000-square-foot facility is expected to open March 15.

Construction Administrator Chuck Polinko said all that's really left to complete is tiling and painting.

"We've got more floor covering and painting than anything else to do," Polinko said. "Most of the tiles are the small 1 inch by 1 inch, and that's a big chunk of work to do."

The two pools were tested for leaks so tiling can begin. One pool has eight lanes and will be used for swim team competitions. The other is a zero-entry pool that will be kept warmer and allow for easier access to older or handicapped members.

The downstairs has a day care center, a gym for volleyball or basketball games and locker rooms. The upstairs boasts an aerobics room that has a view out the front of the building, and a fitness room that has a view of All Pro Freight Stadium.



MORNING JOURNAL/ ANNA NORRIS
Chuck Polinko, construction administrator for the French Creek YMCA, front, and Avon mayor Jim Smith, back, look out over the eight-lane competitive swimming pool from the second-floor viewing deck yesterday inside the new facility in Avon.

People who use the fitness room will have access to Total Gym equipment, which uses a swipe card on each machine to track a workout's progress.

Also on the second floor is a weight room and a track above the gym. The track loops around the gym and into the fitness room. Users can shorten their path by following a portion of the track that excludes the fitness area. Eight laps of the full circuit is a mile while it's 16

laps for a mile if users stay only on the gym part of the track.

The Y will also have bleachers for spectators to watch swim meets. Polinko said equipment deliveries will be made between Feb. 22 and 26.

Avon Mayor Jim Smith said opening this facility will improve the quality of life not only for the city, but for the county.

"In the county, we only have the Splash Zone in Oberlin," Smith said. "They've done a nice job, but the county can't be serviced by just one area."

Part of the reason construction has gone so smooth is because of Doty & Miller Architects, of Bedford.

"It really helps to partner with someone who knows what they're doing," Smith said. "They know what works, what doesn't (and) what paint to use. They've got it all. If we tried to build this on our own as a city, we'd be swinging in the wind."

The YMCA agreed to pay 40 percent of the \$13.5 million building cost and is still fundraising to find \$5.5 million. Avon residents passed a 0.25 percent tax increase in 2007 to cover \$8 million.

The cost to be a member is different for Avon residents and nonresidents. The joiner fee for teens is \$30; for all others, it's \$100 and then monthly fees. To sign up, call (440) 934-5622.

Membership rates

- Monthly rates for Avon residents:

- Youth/Teens ages 30 and younger: \$12
- Adults ages 31-64 years old: \$40.80
- Family plan: \$60.80
- Seniors ages 65 and older: \$36.80
- Monthly rates for nonresidents:
- Youth/Teens ages 30 and younger: \$15
- Adults ages 31-64 years old: \$51
- Family plan: \$76
- Seniors ages 65 and older: \$46

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