

COMMUNITY NEWS

NOLENSVILLE

From inside to out, town hall will wow

The keys to the new Nolensville Town Hall should be turned over to the town on Sept. 13, just 12 days later than originally projected.

"It's remarkable," said Town Engineer Don Swartz, who's pleasantly surprised that the opening date is so close to what was projected. "It was a very tight, very aggressive schedule," he said. He gives a lot of credit to American Constructors, which managed the project.

Last Wednesday, Swartz took me for a sneak peek tour of the \$3.49 million building and grounds as about 30 workers hung dry-wall, painted, did millwork, paved and landscaped. Honestly, I think you'll like it.

The building looks really stark from the outside right now, but that look will soften as landscaping, which includes a rain garden, is planted. The biggest room is the main meeting room downstairs where Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings, other board meetings and traffic court will be conducted.

The Police Department is on the left side of the building. It includes a chief's office, an interrogation room, a secure evidence room, and another room for a sergeant and work stations for officers. While we are kinda Mayberry, there's no jail cell.

Upstairs are offices for mayor and administration, planners, engineers and codes. Another meeting room is upstairs for volunteer town committees and for the community to use.

The building's design was actually set years ago, when the town hall was going to be part of the Town Center development in the



old Piggly Wiggly center. After that deal fell through because of lack of financing for the developer, the design stayed the same. "We just added two outer walls," Swartz said.

Here's a part I love. Part of the landscape in front will be a rain garden that uses stormwater runoff from the roof and from pipes underneath permeable concrete in the back. Stormwater will funnel to underground pipes that take it to the rain garden.

Runoff behind the building also goes into a retention pond. That doesn't sound pretty, but that area, which connects by sidewalk to the library, will be a lawn area that could be used for concerts or other gatherings. "You won't find many retention ponds that could be used as a concert park," said Swartz, who has been thoroughly impressed with the engineering firm that had to deal with the drainage issue.

"It's beautiful in function and form," he said. "I'm very proud to be a part of this."

If all stays according to schedule, the keys will be turned over to the town on Sept. 13. Then on Sept. 19, we can all go in again for an open house and the next week, town employees will move in.

Contact Nolensville resident Vicky Travis at vtravis@tennessean.com.