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Early September opening slated for Legacy Link

Program aims to aid seniors and their families

Legacy Link hopes to move to its new home off Mundy Mill Road in Oakwood in early September.

“We should have the keys handed over to us at the end of August,” said Pat Freeman, the private nonprofit organization’s CEO. “That’s not an absolute, but that’s what we’re looking forward to.”

The agency, which provides services to seniors and their families, has worked since earlier this year on a \$1.8 million renovation project to convert a building that formerly housed Bodyplex fitness center and, before that, Oakwood Sportsmen’s Lodge.

“They’ve got primer on the walls and all the Sheetrock is in,” Freeman said of construction progress. “It’s beginning to look like offices, thank goodness.”

A big part of the project has been fixing the exterior.

“We’re real pleased as to how that’s shaping up in the front,” Freeman said.

Landscaping touches also will be added to the building, which sits between Continental Drive and the entrance to Mundy Mill subdivision.

Legacy Link serves as the Department of Human Services’ Area Agency on Aging for Northeast Georgia, providing advocacy for seniors, as well as programs and home-based services.

Freeman said she doesn’t expect the move to affect operations.

“We hope to have computer and telephone service up immediately, but we shall see,” she said. “There may be a day there we don’t have.”

Initially, officials looked in Gainesville for a new home before finding the Oakwood location.

“Oakwood is expanding. (South Hall) is where the growth is in the county,” Freeman has said. “Lots of seniors live in this area.”

She said the new building will help with coordinating staff and save the organization money.

“The mortgage payment will be less than paying rent in our three locations,” she said.

Legacy Link now has offices at Gainestown Office Park off E.E. Butler Parkway, Lakeshore Mall off Pearl Nix Parkway and in the Gainesville school system building at 508 Oak St. Some employees work at senior centers in Union, Towns and Habersham counties.

Also, the new building “will give us conference rooms we don’t currently have and meeting space where we can do educational sessions that we don’t have space for,” Freeman said. “And we’ll have room for expansion of staff.”