

Park Avenue parklet moves toward welcoming visitors

By Mike Crowley

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Work on a new downtown Meadville greenspace is progressing nicely and should be ready to welcome visitors within the next month, according to project leaders.

“It’ll be ready for them — we hope they enjoy it,” volunteer project manager Amara Geffen said Monday. “I think it’ll be a good addition to the community.”

Construction of the “parklet” at 960 Park Ave., the location of the former Park Avenue Cinema, is being led by the nonprofit Meadville Community Revitalization Corp. (MCRC) and supported by a \$50,000 award from the national T-Mobile Hometown Grant program. Located immediately east of The Arc Community Greenspace, the new parklet will include walkways, seating, plantings, a timber-framed pergola and other amenities.

“As folks can see, all of the concrete work is in and they’ve started working last Thursday on the seating wall at the end of the walkway,” Geffen said.

Rough grading will take place soon and over the next few weeks, footers for the pergola will be poured, and six large trees and other items will be planted along the Park Avenue edge of the lot. Other amenities to be installed include three benches, two trash receptacles and two picnic tables.

Water service has already been established to supply the plants, according to MCRC Executive Director Andy Walker, and underground drainage was installed along Clinton Court, which borders the northern edge of the parklet.

The MCRC is a nonprofit corporation formed last year to foster economic development in the downtown business corridor.

Construction on the project is being completed by Fairview-based Yardmaster, which was selected from among four landscape firms who submitted quotes and pricing, Walker said.

In two weekend workshops this month, about a dozen volunteers have worked with Cambridge Springs-based David Yasenchack Timber Framing & Design to construct the components of the

pergola.

“All of the components are now complete,” Walker said of the pergola in an email. “We’re working on site conditions and scheduling for its raising.”

The pergola project is part of “40 Frames for 40 Years,” a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Timber Framers Guild.

The project has benefitted from volunteers and donations in a variety of ways, Geffen noted, even down to the safety fencing from Sunbelt Rentals.

“We’re excited to see it come together,” she added.

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Work continues on the new parklet at the former location of the Park Avenue Cinema.

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