

# Jefferson County slates Aug. 11 groundbreaking for highway shop

By Amy Smith, Union staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:41 am

JEFFERSON — A groundbreaking ceremony for the new \$15.37 million Jefferson County Highway Department facility is set for Monday, Aug. 11.

The ceremony will be held from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. at the facility site on 1425 S. Wisconsin Drive (County Highway W) on the west side of the City of Jefferson. Located on the site of the former Countryside Home, the facility will be home to the Highway Department's entire fleet of 60-plus vehicles.

The building, approved for a budget not to exceed \$15 million, will utilize approximately 11 acres of the 40-acre plot, and necessitated demolition of all of the existing buildings of the county's former nursing home.

Debate at the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors on the site and size of the facility went on for a number of years. Plans ultimately were approved with a series of resolutions in August 2013. Mother Nature delayed the county's ability to move forward with construction with bitter winter cold.

Due to the delays, the project now is set to be completed by around March 2015. Maas Brothers, based in Watertown, is the construction manager for the project.

Grading has begun to shape the site for construction of the 85,000- to 92,000-square-foot building. The precast panels and structural steel that one day will make up the walls of the building currently are being fabricated and slated for delivery in early August.

In the next month, lime stabilization on the site will continue, and more grading and fill will take place at the site to shape it to its final form.

Excavation for the building's footing and foundation then will be completed, along with the reopening of the roadway that has been closed since late April.

During the past few months, a project to install public utilities along County Highway W reaching the site of the new building was completed. Jefferson County Highway Commissioner Bill Kern said access to the site for the groundbreaking will be permitted from the city side off Wisconsin Drive or Collins Road.

However, the southside access from State Highway 89 over the bridge will remain closed for another few weeks until construction is completed.

Delays related to the installation of the utilities and ongoing deliveries to the construction site have further slowed paving the roadway.

Kern said he anticipates the paving to be completed prior to the start of school.

"We had hoped to have everything done," he said.