

Bond County Transit Facility Groundbreaking

November 1, 2012

Bond County Senior Center, Greenville, Illinois - www.bondseniors.org

At 102 Bowman Industrial Drive, Greenville Illinois

This was a big day in the history of Bond County Transit. Construction should be complete by early 2013.

[photos by rainofhearts]

Welcome by Doane Bonney, Chairman, Bond County Senior Center



The Korte Company, Tindall Construction, Bond County Senior Center Board, City and County Leaders



Anna Oestreich - Executive Director, Bond County Senior Center



The Korte Company, Tindall Construction, Bond County Senior Center Director and Chairman of the board



Senior Center board members



City and County leaders



Bond County Transit Staff and Regular Riders



And read the article in the November 6, 2012 Greenville Advocate Newspaper:

Ground Breaking Ceremony Last Thursday

Construction Of Transit Bldg. Finally Underway

The wait was long, but ground was finally broken Thursday morning for the construction of a building for Bond County Transit.

A crowd gathered along Bowman Industrial Drive in Greenville, immediately east of the Illinois Department of Transportation property, for the special event.

Anna Oestreich, administrator of the transit system, said work on the project began about three years ago, working with the state and federal governments to obtain funding and complete paperwork.

During Thursday's event, most of those speaking about the project commended Oestreich for her work in making it become a reality.

Immediately after the ground-breaking ceremony, the contractor for the building, Tindall Construction, began dirt work at the site.

Oestreich said that if the weather cooperates, she hopes that the transit system building will be in use in early 2013.

Several individuals spoke at the ground breaking ceremony. Doane Bonney, chairman of the Bond County Senior Center, told those gathered, "This is a very important occasion. It takes a lot of people to make something like this happen.

"First and foremost, it has to start as a dream and that started in Anna Oestreich's heart and mind. I suspect that over the time this has been going on, there's about two feet of documentation that has been prepared by Anna and her staff to get this thing passed through the different levels of bureaucracy."

Bonney said that the senior center board's job in the project was easy. "Just ask Anna the questions, she answered them and then we passed it onto the county board," he said.

He concluded by talking about

what the project means to the people of the county. "The services that will be provided by this building will help a lot of people," Bonney advised. "Anybody in the county can take advantage of this transportation service. It's a wonderful, wonderful thing."

Brock Willeford, county board chairman, also praised Oestreich. "She has been the blood, sweat and tears for this project for many years and I want to commend her and her staff for all the work done."

Willeford also recognized his predecessor as chairman of the county board, Jill Franks, for helping to get the ball rolling on the project.

"We've all seen an expansion of the transit system over the years. It's helping bring people to hospitals, to schools. This will only enhance that and provide a great resource for the county," he stated.

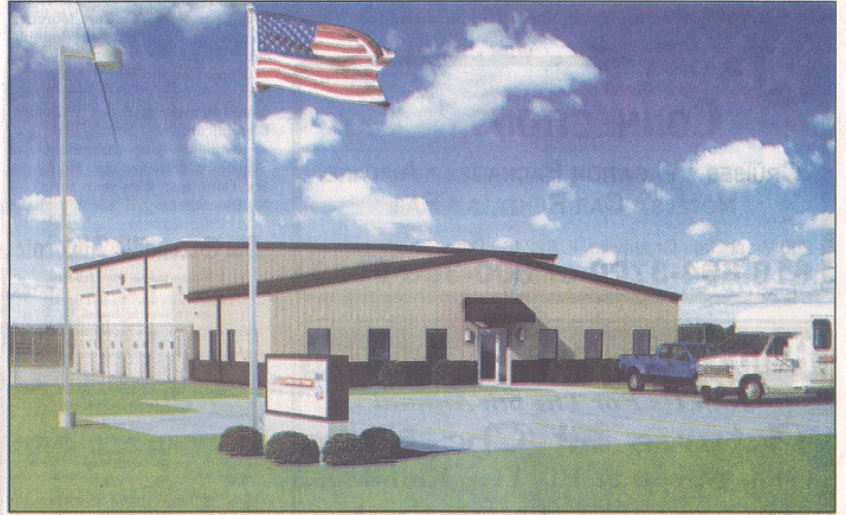
Willeford added that the people of Bond County have also been instrumental in the success of the transit system and will continue to benefit from it.

Greenville City Manager Dave Willey commented about the road taken to reach the ground breaking ceremony. "Anna Oestreich drove this train and got us here," he stated. He said that while the city reviewed plans and approved some resolutions of support for the project, all of the hard work was done by Anna and her staff.

"We've been very happy to have this (the transit building) within our city limits," Willey concluded.

Todd Korte, president and CEO of The Korte Company, said his firm is glad to be partners with Bond County for the building. The Korte Company is the construction manager for the project.

He presented Oestreich with a



WILL SOON BE A REALITY: This is a drawing of the Bond County Transit building that is being constructed east of the current Bond County Health Department.

plaque to commemorate the construction of the transit building.

Scott Garman, project manager for Tindall Construction, reported that his firm was ready to begin work.

Oestreich, who is also executive director of the Bond County Senior Center, spoke to those gathered.

"The mission of Bond County Transit is to provide safe, affordable and convenient transportation to all residents of Bond County," she began.

"The development of the system is due to the vision of the board of directors of the Bond County Senior Center and the Bond County

Board.

"Since becoming a general public operator with a single vehicle in 2000, we have grown to a system with 13 vehicles with two more expected. In transit terms, we are still small, but continually growing."

Last year, the transit system provided approximately 30,000 trips for residents of the county. They covered over \$260,000 miles.

"Today marks a significant milestone for Bond County Transit," Oestreich continued. "The construction of this facility, dedicated to transportation for Bond County residents, shows that we have made a commitment to improving

the lives of our residents through increased mobility.

"Access to education, employment, medical services, nutrition, shopping and more means a better quality of life. It also leads to improved economic development for our community.

"The building will allow us to provide more efficient service through desperately needed upgrade dispatch and communication facilities. The protected areas for vehicles will extend vehicle life and permit a safe area for detailing, inspections and minor maintenance on site."

(Please turn to page 10)

Transit Building

Oestreich expressed appreciation to the Illinois Department of Transportation for awarding a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). She said that without the funding the facility would not be possible.

She stated, "We are also deeply grateful to the dedicated staff (office personnel and drivers), who daily work so diligently to provide this service to Bond County. Nothing gets done without them.

"We also thank the public for their support, their input, and their patience as we continue to grow the system for their future use."

Oestreich expressed gratitude to the Bond County Board of Health which is providing the land for the transit building under a lease of the property for \$1 per year.

Darryl Bolen, also a member of the senior center board, also gave praise to Oestreich for her work on the project. He concluded by com-

menting, "Hallmark Cards say the best things in life are worth waiting for, so this should be one unbelievable building."

The county obtained \$1,491,000 of state and federal funds for the transit building. This included \$1,018,000 from AARA. The state is providing the remainder of the money from the Illinois Jobs Now! capital construction program.

The transit building will not be a location for area residents to go to

for a ride. Passengers will continue to be picked up at their homes or at the various transit stops.

The structure will include office space, a reception/dispatching area, a conference/training area, restrooms and a kitchenette.

The garage area will be large enough for a wash bay and the storage of more than 10 transit vehicles.

There will also be space heat, power wash equipment, an emergency wash station, a wash basin, parts storage area, exhaust ventilation system, emergency lighting, lighted exit signs, three-phase power, and a tool and small parts room.

Outside of the building will be parking for transit vehicles that are not parked inside, employee parking and limited public parking.

(Continued from page 1)



PARTICIPANTS IN THE BOND COUNTY TRANSIT ground breaking ceremony last week were (l-r) Scott Garman from Tindall Construction, Todd Korte from The Korte Company, Anna Oestreich, administrator of the transit system and executive director of the Bond County Senior Center; Doane Bonney, chairman of the Bond County Senior Center Board, Dave Willey, Greenville city manager; Brock Willeford, chairman of the Bond County Board; and Darryl Bolen, vice chairman of the Bond County Senior Center Board.



GROUND BREAKING MOMENT: Todd Korte (left), president and CEO of The Korte Company, presents a plaque to Anna Oestreich, administrator of Bond County Transit, in commemoration of the start of the project to erect a building for the transit. Behind Oestreich is Greenville City Manager Dave Willey.