

Fun at the YMCA begins next week in New Albany

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— Joe LaRocca credits teamwork as the backbone of bringing Scribner Place/YMCA to downtown New Albany.

The executive director of YMCA of Southern Indiana is overseeing the final touches of the recreational facility ahead of its Nov. 15 opening.

Contributions beyond financial considerations from the Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County, Floyd Memorial Hospital and Health Services, LifeSpan and of course New Albany and Floyd County are not lost on LaRocca.

“It really is a collaboration — people coming together to make it work,” he said.

Opening day will feature several activities, such as performances by kid bands that are orchestrated by the New Albany business Jimmy’s Music Center. Members and those purchasing day passes will be able to workout, swim in the aquatic center and ascend the vaunted 40-foot climbing wall for the first time.

LaRocca said Y staff has been attempting to get members photographed for their identification cards before opening day, but expects many will get their IDs Nov. 15.

LifeSpan and Horseshoe already have their offices manned at Scribner Place, and LaRocca said the Y executive staff will be moved into its office by Monday.

There is still work to be completed, including finishing a virtual donor wall to honor those who gave to the Y. The organization is hosting an invitational reception to honor donors Nov. 13.

But beginning Nov. 15, LaRocca said it will be “business as usual” at the Y. In the meantime, LaRocca said he and other managers have been busy hiring and training staff.

While leaving the Y earlier this week, LaRocca was approached by a Knobs businessman in the parking lot who was on his way to meet some clients for lunch.

He thanked LaRocca for sticking with the project, but LaRocca said the credit doesn’t just belong to him or the Y.

“If you think where it’s come from since 2002 to this point, a lot of people didn’t think it would happen,” he said.

“There were people who maybe questioned it and had some problems with it. In the end, I think everybody has embraced it.”

LaRocca enjoyed watching the building go from a design to a full-blooded structure, but he’s ready for what makes the Y complete.

“I’m excited to see people in it. Right now it’s just us getting ready. Traffic flows, that’s what really makes it fun,” LaRocca said.

So you know

- Opening day is Nov. 15. Doors will open to Scribner Place/YMCA at 8 a.m. There will be activities throughout the day beginning at 10 a.m., with the building closing at 6 p.m. These are normal weekend hours for the Y. There will also be a giveaway for a 32-inch flat screen television that was donated by Best Buy.

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