

—WAYNESVILLE/WAYNE TWP./HARVEYSBURG—

Government center vision to become reality

Waynesville facility slated to open in April

By **JESSE REEVES**
THE WESTERN STAR

Architects from LJB Inc. of Dayton have released graphics of how the soon-to-be-built government center in Waynesville will appear.

A one-story structure with a walk-out basement, the 11,800-square-foot building's future address will be 1400 Lytle Road.

"When completed, it will be a building the citizens of Waynesville will be proud of — a home for the people's government," Mayor Ernie Lawson told a crowd of 25 at a groundbreaking ceremony on July 22.

With construction set to begin in mid-August, project architect Jim Tunison said he expects a nine-month construction period, with the building opening in mid-April 2003.

The land on Lytle Road — across from St. Augustine's Church in Waynesville — is 26 acres, which belongs to the village.

The building and parking will take up five acres. Officials say there are no immediate plans for

the remaining 21 acres, although they expect to keep some land as greenspace while other parts could be developed in the future.

Tunison mentioned this in his remarks at the groundbreaking by saying the village has "more room than is needed initially, but room to grow in coming years."

The upstairs portion will include administrative offices, council chambers and the police department.

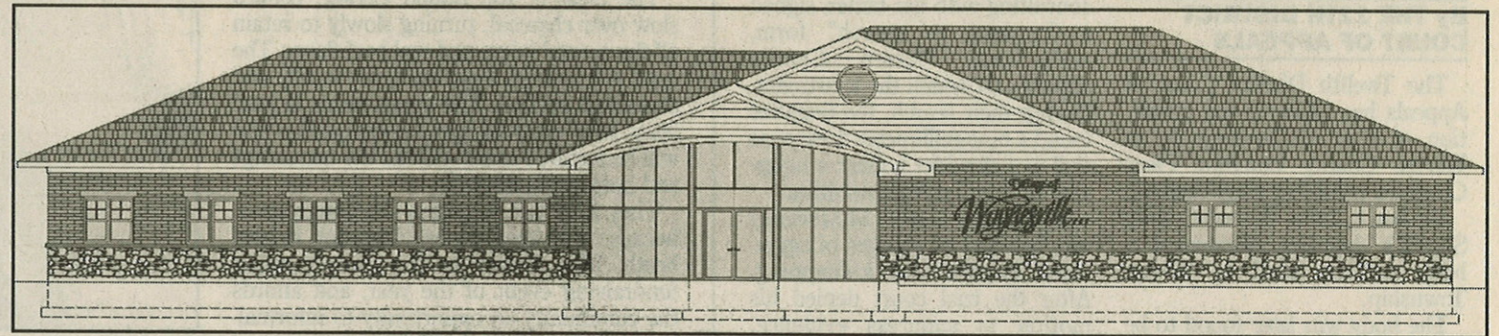
The basement will have a locker room and shower for police officers, storage space and a small meeting room.

Inside the police department area will be a sallyport, or secure area. In this area, a police cruiser can pull into the port and the area can be locked down so a lawbreaker cannot escape.

Tunison said planners looked at local buildings and decided to incorporate materials used in them to determine the look of the government center.

A pre-construction meeting will be held Aug. 7 with all who will be involved in the building process.

"In the end, we hope the com-



Contributed schematic drawings

Shown are a south elevation view of how the government center will appear from Lytle Road in Waynesville, and an overview of the plot of land upon which the R. Kevin Harper Municipal Building will be located.

munity has a building everyone will be proud of," Tunison said.

The projected cost is \$1,168,385. That money comes out of the village's general, water, sewer and police funds, with no new taxes implemented for the project.

The village recently secured a 30-year loan for the municipal building from Lebanon Citizen's National Bank for \$1.25 million at a rate of 5.75 percent. Payments on the center will begin Jan. 1, 2003 at \$68,880.21 annually with payments increasing one or two percentage points every year.

The building will be called the R. Kevin Harper Municipal Building — named after Village Manager Kevin Harper, who will

retire in November. The naming of the building was approved at the May 20 village council meeting after it was proposed by Lawson.

The council and other village boards and commissions currently meet at Der Dutchman Restaurant in Waynesville. Village offices are located in the same parking lot as the restaurant. It was the village's desire to build a government center to accommodate both a meeting place and administrative offices.

"We are here today for a momentous occasion in Waynesville history. We will break ground for the first building to be constructed for a government center in Waynesville," said Lawson at the ceremony.

