

Volunteers install fencing at Castaways

Posted 3 weeks ago

JOSHUA VAIL

josh@chanute.com

Outdoor fencing work was completed at the Castaways Animal Shelter building Saturday, thanks to volunteers from the American Fence Association Midwest Chapter.

Volunteers from the AFA donated their time and some concrete, saving Castaways about \$5,000 on the \$15,000 fencing project for dog runs.

Castaways' founder and board president Verdon Parham praised the help of the AFA chapter and their generosity with time and expertise.

"Fencing is a major part of the project," he said. "They have certainly taken the workload and a lot of expense off our shoulders."

Parham said progress has been continuing a little bit each month since construction started.

"We realize it's very frustrating for progress to be so slow," he said, "but we think we'll have a facility that we'll be proud of."

Parham said a major goal is to open the facility with no debt.

"That's one of the main reasons why new organizations get into so much trouble," he said. "They're not careful about the finances when they begin."

Dan Hardy, of Hardy Fence in Yates Center, learned about the need for fencing at Castaways around December and offered to help with pricing on the fence. He also began to talk with the AFA Midwest Chapter President Barry Baker about making Castaways the chapter's volunteer project for 2017. The chapter participates in an annual volunteer project and enters it into a contest for the national organization.

Baker runs Baker Fencing in Derby, and has become a friend and mentor to Hardy as Hardy is newer to the fence business. Hardy said he has become good friends with Baker despite the fact that they would normally be competitors.

In addition to people from Hardy Fencing and Baker Fencing, staff from D Roche Fencing in Frankfort and Modern Fence and Supply Co in Springdale, Ark. also volunteered at Castaways on Saturday.

Castaways Board Member Chris Wehlage said the county hooked up water earlier this month, and sewer should be hooked up by the end of August. Sheetrock should also be done soon. They expect to be open by the end of fall.

"All of the money has been from the community and local businesses," he said. "We still definitely need support as far as donations."

Wehlage said state grants to organizations like animal shelters are one of the first things to go in the face of a budget crisis.

While the planned boarding facility will generate some revenue, Castaways will still need donations to keep running.

Updates on construction at Castaways can be found at www.facebook.com/castawayssek/



Randy Ward, Don Langston and Steve Langston with Modern Fence and Supply of Springdale, Ark. work on the fence at the Castaways Animal Shelter building on Harper Road. Member companies of the American Fence Association Midwest Chapter volunteered time and donated some concrete to the fencing project that was completed Saturday.