

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP — MORE SPACIOUS SURROUNDINGS



CITIZEN PATRIOT - DAVE WEATHERWAX

Columbia Township Clerk Barbara Hulbert vacuums the floor of her new office Wednesday inside the newly constructed addition to the township hall.

ELBOW ROOM

Columbia Township moves into roomier new offices

By Whitney Stewart
For the Citizen Patriot

Until Columbia Township employees moved into their new offices Wednesday, department heads made confidential calls from the parking lot or the utility closet, and workers tripped over each other on their way to the copier.

Now, the construction project that began in July on the 5,000-square foot addition to the township offices at 8500 Jefferson Road is wrapping up.

Outgoing Supervisor Ray Kuzminski said good investments of budget surpluses into a rainy day account made it possible to pay for the \$461,000 project with cash.

"We've had an impeccable record of coming in under budget every year for the last eight years," Kuzminski said.

As employees finished relocating file cabinets and relining desk drawers with pens and pencils, Clerk Barbara Hulbert said her new 12-by-11-foot office that includes an east facing window is a big improvement over the narrow, windowless cinderblock room she used to share with Kuzminski and the deputy clerk.

"I can store more of my stuff for voting in here," she said after locking a file drawer. "In there, we had stuff stacked everywhere."



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Sky Marshall of Kentwood Office Furniture assembles a desk for the new Columbia Township offices.

The new space provides a bigger conference room, which will be used for township business and firefighter training, as well as more space for work stations, a break room and private offices for Kuzminski, Hulbert, Treasurer John C. Calhoun and Assessor Ruth A. Scott.

The township's old 975-square-foot office stood bare Wednesday, except

for a lone copy machine and a few boxes, but it will soon become the new headquarters for the township police department.

On Friday, offices will be open to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon and an open house from noon to 5 p.m.