

indio hills

New center boasts 'green' innovation



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NEWS

3,400-square-foot, \$1.7 million facility is available to rent out for meetings, parties

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The Desert Sun

Residents of Indio Hills have a new and "green" community center that will now house annual parties and monthly community council meetings.

Residents and county officials gathered Tuesday for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the \$1.7 million facility.

"We're excited about our new building. The other one was old and worn down and needed a lot of repairs," said Tina Houston, 56, a 20-year resident of the rural community north of Indio.

The new 3,400-square-foot facility at 80-400 Dillon Road replaces a much older building that didn't meet building codes or Americans with Disability Act requirements.

The previous building was about 40 years old and was torn down to make way for the new one.

Estelle Dahl, a 29-year resident of the community is impressed with its concrete block construction.

"I think it looks very sturdy and fire resistant. Those are good things," she said.

The building, designed by Integrated Infrastructure, Inc. out of Ontario, touts a number of energy efficient features that include solar paneling, drip irrigation and glass blocks windows.

Riverside County Fourth District Supervisor Roy Wilson said the building is an example of what new county construction will look like.

"This is the start of what we're going to be doing in all our buildings," he said.

Ben Bluemm, a member of the Indio Hills Community Council is impressed with the landscaping

Indio Hills Community Center

Residents gathered Tuesday for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of a new community center at 80-400 Dillon Road.

The 3,400-square-foot facility boasts a number of "green" features:

- Glass block windows, which are 25 percent more efficient than conventional windows.
- Translucent wall panels, which are 300 percent more efficient than conventional windows.
- A 4 kilowatt photovoltaic system that will offset 45 percent of the building's electricity. The system can eventually be expanded to include an 8 kilowatt system.
- Drip irrigation to reduce water usage.

and amount of tables and chairs inside the new facility.

"It's outstanding," he said.

The plan is to have community functions such as the annual Halloween party and chili cook off, held there.

Bluemm said they don't know how much it will cost to rent the facility though.

Rob Field, assistant county executive officer said they are in the process of developing a rate structure for renting the building.

Bluemm said the Indio Hills Home Improvement Association which hosts the special events doesn't have a lot of spare funds and runs mostly on donations.

He's confident though that the county will work with the association in pricing.

"If it was too expensive it would be prohibitive (to have events)," Bluemm said.