

# THE Landmark

HOLDEN, PAXTON, PRINCETON, RUTLAND, STERLING

News Holden News November 18, 2010 Search Archives Search

- Front Page
- Holden News
- Paxton News
- Princeton News
- Rutland News
- Sterling News
- Regional News
- Schools
- Sports & Recreation
- Real Estate
- Obituaries
- Fire & Police
- Editorials & Opinions
- Letters



### Question of the Week

What is the most important thing for politicians to focus on now that the election is over?

- Creating more jobs
- Reforming health care
- Illegal immigration
- Cutting taxes

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### Special Sections



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## Public Safety Building opening this Saturday

BY MELISSA MCKEON [MMCKEON@HOLDENLANDMARK.COM](mailto:MMCKEON@HOLDENLANDMARK.COM).



Though all agree it's been a long road to get a public safety building in Holden, local officials are just focusing on the future and the benefits of the new 34,500-square-foot complex.

"There's room to move and breathe," said Holden Police Chief George Sherrill. "There's room to meet with the public, to have training and meet with the officers instead of meeting in

the hallway or offsite."

The new building rising just next door to the cramped 1950 fire station has given Holden Fire Chief Jack Chandler a leg up in hiring new folks he needed to run the town's ambulance service, a new responsibility the town took on just a few years ago after contracting out that service for many years.

He's also been able to add more call firefighters, as employees look at a new facility and move the Town of Holden to the top of the list of desirable places to work.

"It gives people a stronger force in the numbers of people, the abilities of people and the ability to respond," Holden Fire Chief Jack Chandler said.

The building that will house fire, police and ambulance services has its grand opening this Saturday, and Holden taxpayers will get a gander at what their tax dollars are buying in the \$13.5 million complex. The project came in nearly \$2 million under budget, thanks, officials say, to the economy that has made contractors hungry for work and willing to work for less than in the past.

The effort to get a public safety building to replace two older facilities that weren't meeting the needs of a modern — and larger — force, began eight years ago; two previous efforts met public approval at town meeting, but not at the ballot box where borrowing to fund the projects happened.

In 2006, then-town manager Brian Bullock put together a committee composed of folks from several town groups — some of which had opposed previous projects.

That team, led by Christopher Lucchesi, got the design before the public and the public on board. The project was approved at the ballot box in 2008 and a shovel in the ground in June 2009 with an 18-month estimate before the grand opening: they're making it with a few weeks to spare.

Though chaos reigns as fire, police and ambulance crews work among boxes with the goal of moving in entirely on Nov. 30, it's a happy chaos.

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and T. Kevin DeBorja

**Charter**



Reader's Choice



Summer 2010



Gardening & Landscaping



Hey Kids



Home Improvements 2010



Who's Who in Business 2010



Mission of Hope: A La Romana Diary



The Ice Storm Remembered

"We've been waiting for this for a long time," Sherrill said.

*The Grand Opening of the Holden Public Safety Complex will be held Saturday, November 20, with a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. and tours and activities until 4 p.m. at the complex at 1370 Main Street. Activities will include fundraisers for the Wachusett Food Pantry: lock up your loved one or friend for a fee in the new lockup, and the funds will go to the food pantry. Attendees are also encouraged to donate food or funds to the food pantry on Saturday.*

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