Painesville parking lot project complete

The former Municipal Parking Garage in Painesville, shown in April. News-Herald file

By Tawana Roberts, *The News-Herald*

POSTED: 11/13/16, 8:09 PM EST | UPDATED: 1 DAY AGO

Additional parking is now available in Downtown Painesville.

Despite delays, the former parking garage at 66 S. Saint Clair St., located behind Victoria Place, was prepped for surface parking and opened Nov. 9.

According to a recent news release, parking at the lot was delayed because the city wanted to make sure that the lot was prepared for the winter.

Doug Lewis, the acting city manager, said the base coat of asphalt was applied to the parking lot on Nov. 4.

"It was important that the asphalt was applied because it provides a better surface to plow over during the winter," he said.

Lewis says the remaining work on the parking lot — including final elevations, storm sewers, lighting, landscaping, and the final layers of asphalt — will be completed in 2017.

The total cost of the project was $572,508. Half of that cost will come from the city and the other half is being covered by the Lake County Lake Land Reutilization Corporation, commonly known as the Lake County Land Bank.

The decision to demolish the garage and convert to surface parking was announced in April because of ongoing structural and safety concerns.

The new lot created about 175 parking spaces. There is no fee to park in the lot at this time, but there is discussion about adding a parking revenue control system such as a gate in the future, Lewis said.

For more information, contact Lewis at 440-392-5800 or City Engineer Leanne Exum at 440- 392-5926.