

# Annex completes Turlock's downtown shuffle

Public well-served by addition to City Hall

By **JOHN HOLLAND**  
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**TURLOCK** — The new City Hall annex opened Thursday, bringing about 40 public works employees to downtown.

The two-story structure on South Broadway, with an old-fashioned facade similar to City Hall's, houses the management of Turlock Municipal Services and its entire engineering staff.

They had been working at the public works complex on South Walnut Avenue, near the west edge of the city.

"We're just consolidating things and increasing the efficiency and being able to provide much better service," said Cliff Martin, director of municipal services.

The site is convenient for people seeking review of building plans and other services of the department, City Engineer Brad Klavano said.

The annex completes a city building shuffle that increased the number of employees downtown and freed up space elsewhere.

City Hall was created by a renovation of the former Blue Shield building on South Broadway, a project completed in 1998. That allowed the police and recreation departments to take over the former City Hall on North Palm Street.

The water and sewer operations staff is moving into the

South Walnut space vacated by engineering and public works management. Park maintenance and public transit are also part of that complex.

The 16,167-square-foot annex cost about \$2.2 million, said Eric Picciano, supervising civil engineer for the city. It was built by Span Construction and Engineering of Madera.

Construction started in December 2001 but was delayed for five months by the collapse of part of an old building on the north side of the site. A private, two-story building, with space for rent, is rising where the collapsed building stood.

The annex connects to City Hall to the south via hallways on each of the two floors. City Hall houses the city manager, council, attorney and clerk, plus finance, planning, economic development, Fire Department headquarters and a few other functions.

The annex is somewhat of a twin of City Hall, but not an identical one. Their facades have brick and stucco in differing patterns, but the building shapes are roughly the same.

"A lot of people said (the annex) looks good, blends well with City Hall," Klavano said. "That's what we were trying to do."

**An open house will be held at the annex, 156 S. Broadway, at 6 p.m. May 27 in honor of National Public Works Week. The annex will be dedicated at 10 a.m. June 13. Both events are open to the public.**

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JOHN HOLLAND/TURLOCK BUREAU

Aman Deeb, left, and Kulwant Singh bring office equipment into the new Turlock City Hall annex.