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Former Historic Furniture Factory Finds Space for Senior Cafe

Batesville, IN (December 12, 2011)

City of Batesville Mayor Rick Fledderman has announced the development of a new senior café to be located in the former Romweber Furniture Company manufacturing facilities on Depot Street in downtown Batesville. The new senior café, “Big Four Café”, named after the railroad that first passed through Batesville in the 1800’s will be located on the grounds of Batesville’s first train depot. The new 7,000 square foot senior café will offer daily meal service in conjunction with the Lifetime Resources. Margaret Mary Community Hospital is also announcing that it will open a new clinic next to the senior cafe. Open to all seniors in the area, the new Big Four Café will have a vintage appeal and will provide daily activities and be available for rental for gatherings. Former Big Four Tavern owner Katherine Freese has given the café its new name. The bar that resided in the Big Four for decades is being refurbished and will find its new home here. When asked about the new senior café Mayor Fledderman commented: “There has been a need for this type of facility as identified in a study several years ago. With the aging baby boom population the new center will help make Batesville a more appealing place to spend retirement years and help area residents find a social network” The Big Four Café will also help breathe new life into the downtown by bringing more people into the this area. Funding for the development of the senior café came about through the redevelopment of the RomWeber buildings into senior housing at no cost to the City.

After closing in 2008 the former historic Romweber Furniture Company manufacturing plant is now being re-purposed into 54 low income senior apartments as part of a master re-development plan for downtown Batesville. A team of City leaders, private investors and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority worked closely in creating the \$10.5 million dollar housing project that fills a need for senior housing and in the process will start the City of Batesville's plan for development of the downtown.

Construction began in November and the senior center will open in Spring 2012.