

Done! Central School sale completed by IR

Written by Mark Lewis

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The former Central School building in Iron River, built in 1904 and unused since its final classes in 1980, will be renovated into the 22-unit Apple Blossom Apartments. Construction starts this spring.

IRON RIVER— Sale of the former Central School building by the city of Iron River to a private developer is complete, according to City Manager Perry Franzoi. ___PUBLIC___

“The city no longer owns Central School,” Franzoi said Monday morning. “The transaction has been completed.”

Contractors should arrive April 1 to begin renovating the Central School into the Apple Blossom apartments.

“We received confirmation as of this morning that Central School has passed its lead abatement tests,” Franzoi said March 22. “Wolverine [Building Group] will be here the first week of April to start construction.”

“I’m overjoyed,” Mayor Terri Tarsi said in response to the site passing the lead abatement test. “I’m glad for everyone who has worked so hard on this project, both now and in the past. It’s been a long process.

“Yes, we did spend some money. Yes, we did clean up the area. But in the long run, it’s going to be a beautiful thing for the people of our community to enjoy.”

Franzoi said Friday that the last issue blocking the transfer was completed last week when the lead abatement certification documents were delivered to title company.

“Everything has been signed,” he said of documents transferring the property from the city to Hovey & Associates.

Developers plan to convert the old school into a 22-unit apartment complex. The original plan of converting the basement into retail stores was scrapped last year.

Developers plan to have apartments ready for occupancy by year’s end.