

Over the past couple of weeks, two pieces of good news were received here in Iron County.

The first is the optimism that the Michigan State Housing Development Authority will approve the Central School redevelopment project, giving the developers the ability to start selling bonds to finance the project.

We can look back at the recently completed Crystal View Apartment project for details on how the project will be completed, as Central School will be handled in the same manner, ultimately providing affordable housing in the community, while maintaining the structure's historic integrity.

Members of the Iron River Downtown Development Authority noted that Crystal View is "full." That's a good indication that there will be no lack of applications for residence once the apartments are completed.

Another observation by the DDA is hope of the attraction of businesses in the downtown area. A lot of folks look forward to filling those empty storefronts.

The redevelopment project itself will provide much-needed employment for local contractors and sub-contractors, another benefit to the community.

A second piece of good news is the agreement on all parties concerned to give the go-ahead on the Heritage Trail non-motorized trail project's grant awards.

This project has also been progressing slowly for years, and the time is right for it to get under way. In fact, anyone who enjoys biking and hiking, residents and visitors both, are looking forward to a dedicated route that will allow them to enjoy the outdoors safely.

And, again, construction of the path will provide employment for a lot of local folks.

So, let's get going and support these opportunities that are designed to enhance the county, both economically and aesthetically, and move forward with more in the future.

--Marian Volek