



Journal photo/Steve McEnroe

A crew from Freeman Electric, the electrical contractor for the new parking ramp in downtown Rapid City, uses an elevated platform to raise a light post into position on the second level of the new facility.

New ramp nearly ready for parking

■ Open house from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday.

By Diane Rietman
Journal Staff Writer

Some 323 downtown workers and residents will have something special to give thanks for on **Rapid City** Thanksgiving — a new parking spot.

Construction crews have been putting the final touches on the facade of the Sixth Street Parking Ramp, which should be completed

in time for Wednesday's open house, city officials say.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, followed by a tailgate party to celebrate the completion of the project for people leasing parking spaces. The open house for the general public will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The ramp will open officially on Dec. 1 to people who have leased a spot. It will be available for free use over Thanksgiving weekend, according to the city's Community Development Office.

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Ramp: Security measures

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Anyone who placed his or her name on a waiting list for the parking ramp can pay the initial lease payment and receive parking tags at the Community Development Office starting Monday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tags will be available in two colors, one for covered spaces on the bottom level and another for uncovered spaces on the second tier,

according to Bonnie Hughes, community development director. The ramp was designed so a third tier could be added.

The cost of renting space is \$40 a month for covered spaces and \$30 a month for uncovered spaces. A limited number of spaces are still available.

As a safety measure, the city has contracted for drive-through security services at night. The ramp also has a panic-button security system

connected directly to 911 dispatch.

The parking ramp replaces a parking lot that provided parking space for 150 cars. Gustafson Builders/Heavy Constructors was awarded the general contract after submitting the low bid for just over \$1 million. The project will be completed within budget, according to Jimmy Hilton, city public works director. Initially, city officials estimated the cost of the project to be \$2.1 million.