



Save, salvage, recycle

Volunteers showed up in force to help salvage ceiling tiles, chairs, wood, fans and other items out of the former Sunflower Cinema and Golden Age Center on Saturday.

"Between 50 to 60 volunteers turned out, including at least 30 teenagers," said Greg Lohofener, with the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp.

"They were all good workers," he said, "and they pretty much got the job done. There's still some clean-up work and items that have to be hauled off but the buildings are pretty much ready to be demolished.

For more than a year, a volunteer committee has been working on raising money and designing a new building to house the Golden Age Center, Sunflower Cinema and a six-lane bowling alley.

The idea was to salvage as many reusable items as possible from the two buildings. Theater seats were put up for sale at \$5 each.

"Some things might be sold later," said Mr. Lohofener, "but a lot of the items may be used in the new building.

"Some of the salvage was removed just to clean up the building so that some of the wood and other items won't go into the county's concrete pile.

"After the salvage is done, the demolition will start, hopefully by this Saturday."

He said he thinks contractor Dave Bose will knock the building down and Mick Barth will load it into trucks provided by the county. The county will provide drivers to haul the debris to the landfill.

"The idea is to have as much done on the new building as possible by the county fair the first full week in August," he said, "but it really depends on the weather."

Pizza Hut and Raye's Grocery donated lunch for the volunteer workers.

"I just want to say thanks to everyone who has come out and volunteered," said Mr. Lohofener.



WORKING TO SAVE WIRING, duct work, furniture, fixtures and anything else useful from the Golden Age Center and the Sunflower Cinema, volunteers Mike McKenna (above), Haley Barrett (left) and Jessica Fredrickson (below) moved, removed and transported salvaged items most of the day on Saturday. The weather cooperated with sunshine and only a little wind.



Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



VOLUNTEER LEVI JONES FROM COLBY helped move tables and insulation out of the Golden Age Center building, which will be demolished to make room for a new senior center, theater, bowling alley complex, which will be built on the site.