

Bampa's House construction

Work has begun on First Street location

By Jeff Smith

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CORNING - Work is under way to upgrade the Bampa's House, a non-profit comfort care home determined to make end-of-life care better for the community.

Harrie Stevens, project manager, said upgrades to the 170 East First St., a 1900 Queen Anne Eastlake style home, began in late December and the interior work is expected to be completed in the summer months.

"When the interior work is completed we have to hire staff, train staff, get furniture and all systems ready," Stevens said. "We expect to be ready to accept people by the end of 2019. The cost of the work is expected to be just under \$500,000."

Joan Wilson, director of the Bampa's House Board of Directors, said it's wonderful to see the work is underway.

"This has been a long journey," Wilson said. "It's great to see we are getting closer to opening a great comfort care home."



Harrie Stevens, project manager, explains upgrades currently being completed by Croft Construction crews at a 170 East First St. home, that will soon house Bampa's House, a non-profit comfort care facility. [SHAWN VARGO/THE LEADER]

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Bampa's House, which was started after Jim Dugan died in 2016, long attempted to open its non-profit comfort care home on Brown Road but was met with opposition from the neighborhood.

The East First Street property was purchased in October 2018 from Guthrie Hospital for \$60,000.

"To me the location is ideal," Stevens said. "It's in the center of the city and is more accessible than other locations we looked at. I'm glad to see work is underway."

Stevens said Bampa's House officials visited several local comfort care homes to better learn details about what has and hasn't worked at those locations.

"That is information we will incorporate at the Bampa's House," Stevens



Upgrades to the 170 East First St. home, a 1900 Queen Anne Eastlake style home, are expected to be completed by sometime in the summer months. [SHAWN VARGO/THE LEADER]

said. "We asked what did you do that you liked and what did you do that you would do differently. We really got a lot of input."

Wilson recently explained how the Bampa's House project works.

"Usually a person finds out from a physician that they have a terminal illness and they don't have much time left," Wilson said. "The Care First organization typically received the

request for hospice care and people come to homes like ours asking if there is a bed available. That's typically the process."

There is no charge to the residents, Wilson said. There are usually four components for funding, one is grants, two is corporate sponsorship, three is benefits, and four is sometimes residents are so grateful they make a donation.

The interior of the home

is currently being extensively refurbished to create two first-floor bedrooms and a bathroom for residents, officials said. A kitchen, laundry room, volunteer room, and director's office will be configured and a family bedroom and bath will also be added to the second floor.

Bampa's House officials said the home also needs to be updated to meet accessibility guidelines.