

Cambridge to fete new center

By Jerry Ambelang

Area News Chief

CAMBRIDGE — The move from the old Village Hall to the new municipal building was like “shifting from an old Model T Ford to a new stretch limousine,” says Clerk Barbara Winters.

“That’s an apt comparison for the change from a wooden structure that doubled as a pump-house, garage and crowded village office to the \$950,000 Amundson Community Center. It will be dedicated Sunday afternoon.

An even more satisfying situation is that “the Community Center did not cost the village taxpayer a cent to build,” said Village President Eileen Scott. “It’s all paid for by grants made through the Cambridge Foundation.”

Behind those gifts is the Alvin R. Amundson Trust, now worth more than \$1.4 million and administered by the foundation for the betterment of the Cambridge community, which includes the local school district.

Amundson, a longtime banker in Cambridge, stipulated in his

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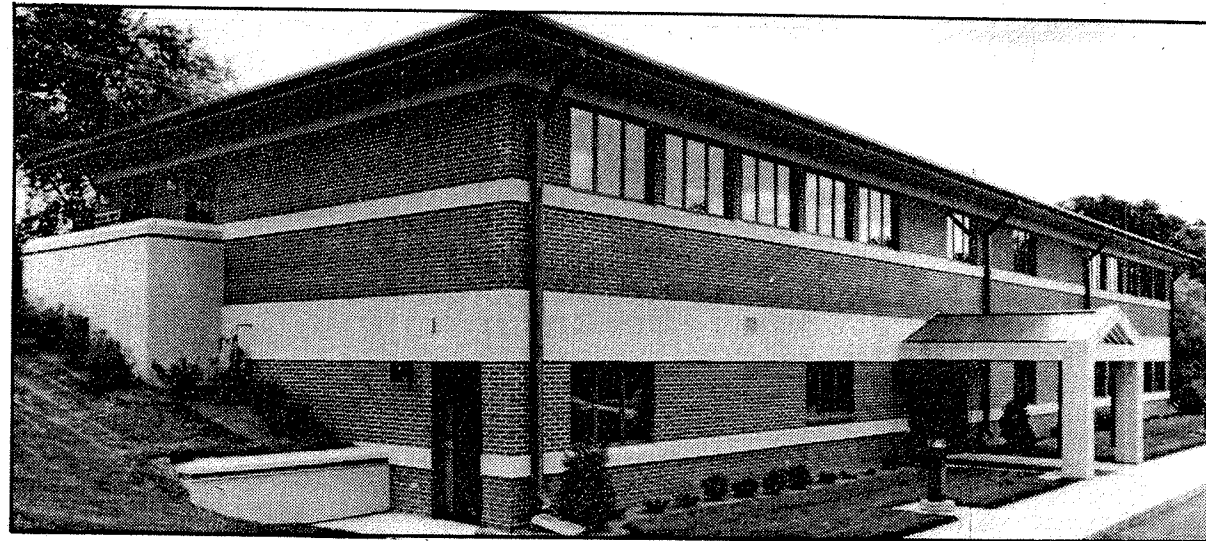
EILEEN SCOTT

will that the interest from the trust be provided annually for community projects, said Cambridge Foundation President Donald Rumpf.

“The community building falls into that category,” added Rumpf, “so the foundation board has been providing funds for the project over the past four or five years.” Other funding has gone to school district programs, civic club undertakings, Fire Department, churches and other projects.

The foundation also received more than \$400,000 from the estate of Irene Amundson, wife of Alvin Amundson, according to Rumpf.

Scott said the new civic center already plays an important part



The new Cambridge municipal building awaits dedication.

RICH RYGH/THE CAPITAL TIME

in community life and is used regularly, day and night.

The 9,600-square-foot building, built into a hill, contains a large community room, kitchen and senior citizen area on the lower ground level entry, and Police Department, village offices and 2,600-square-foot library on the upper ground-level floor. It also has an elevator.

“We have already added several programs, an expanded juvenile section and additional books and magazines since moving into our new spaces,” said library Director Judy Doan Brassington. “Much of it has been made possible by a \$12,000 gift from the Friends of the Library.”

The library formerly was in a part of a lumber yard coal storage area that had been refurb-

ished, said Scott. “The atmosphere is entirely different and it has doubled in size.

“We are tremendously fortunate for people like the Amundsons who had the best interest of the community at heart, and people in the foundation have shown the same civic dedication. It’s a wonderful advantage for our thriving community,” said Scott, a Cambridge native, now retired after 43 years as an educator.

The building will be officially dedicated at 1:30 p.m. Sunday with an open house and reception. Among those participating will be the Amundsons’ niece, Eleanor Amundson Brown, a Cambridge native, who will present a “portrait of the Amundson legacy.”