

Police in Marine City get new digs

By LIZ SHEPARD

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The Marine City Police Department is moving back downtown.

The city has bought a 2,200-square-foot building at 375 S. Parker St. that will house the police station, Chief Don Tillery said. Since the 2005 closure of City Hall for issues regarding its structural integrity, the department has been renting a facility at 6282 King Road, on the west side of the city.

"(The new location) will bring us into the heart of town, and it will make us more accessible," Tillery said.

Tillery hopes to have the move completed in the spring after the new building is renovated. City Manager John Gabor said the building has been vacant for about two years and cost about \$145,000.

It cost about \$2,600 a month -- or a little more than \$31,000 annually -- to rent the building on King Road.

"It will give us double the administrative area," Tillery said. "It will be designed as a police department, and we have input on the interior design so it will work much better for us administratively."

The building was bought with money from Tax Increment Finance Authority District 3. Gabor said the TIFA District's plan allows for buying and renovating buildings.

An architectural design must be done to determine the cost of the renovations, Gabor said. Officials haven't decided from where money for the renovations will come.

There had been discussion about moving the police department back into City Hall, 300 Broadway St., but Gabor said the department may not be able to fit in its former office if it grows as it has since Tillery became chief in the fall.

Ten part-time officers have been hired since October. A detective division also has been established.

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