

**SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**  
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CORONADO HEIGHTS CASTLE AND RESTROOM BUILDING  
TO RE-OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BY LABOR DAY WEEKEND

With finishing touches and clean-up underway the Smoky Valley Historical Association, owner of Coronado Heights Park, located 3½ miles northwest of Lindsborg, is happy to announce the park's iconic castle and restroom building will again be open to the public by Labor Day weekend.

"By actual traffic count during a previous seven-day period on and around Labor Day we've had at least 1,250 visitors", said Chris Abercrombie, president of the association. "This year that figure could be eclipsed due all the pent-up demand for access to the castle", he added.

*A cautionary note for those who plan on entering the castle: there is an 8-inch step up at the front door. Railings will soon be installed to make access easier, but for now the SVHA recommends you be prepared for the step up. Once inside you'll find the ramp taking you to the great hall and stairs much easier to navigate than in the past, and the castle great hall floor has been ground down and made smooth for your comfort and safety.*

Built as a Depression-era WPA project 80 years ago the castle has been closed since the end of May for replacement of its second-floor observation deck, the installation of new support beams in the first floor great hall, the work on the floor and improvements to the entrance way.

The entrance ways to both sides of the restroom building have been replaced as well as have the wooden beams above each window.

According to Isaac Eller, supervisor of the Harbin Construction crew, the fences will come down, the temporary door on the castle will be removed and all construction debris will be hauled away by Wednesday or Thursday of next week.

SVHA president Abercrombie has said the total project cost nearly \$150,000. Gifts from over 200 individual, business, and foundation Friends of Coronado Heights have made the project possible along with a \$90,000 grant from the Kansas Historical Preservation Trust Fund.

According to Lenora Lynam, association treasurer, the group is now moving into Phase Two of the I ♥ Coronado Heights campaign; improvement of the ¾-miles road leading to the top of the hill. This includes the restoration of original drainage system to avoid constant water damage to the roadway due to rain and other sources as it runs down the hill. An engineering study has previously been received as well as a recently completed hydrological report by Earles Engineering of Salina.

"The road and drainage restoration project is projected to cost at least \$70,000 and probably more as the final plans are formulated" said Lynam. "We've already received some gifts for the road and drainage but we have a long way to go" she added.

Checks may be sent to the Smoky Valley Historical Association, P.O. Box 255, Lindsborg, Kansas 67456, or may be given on-line using your debit or credit card on the association's website [www.smokyvalleyhistory.org](http://www.smokyvalleyhistory.org). The SVHA is a 501c 3 non-profit and all gifts are 100% tax deductible.