

Schaefer building opened

By IKE WILSON
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On the count of three, former Gov. William Donald Schaefer on Wednesday cut the ribbon, officially opening the \$5.2 million government services building named after him in Frederick.

Local officials had said that naming the 52,713-square-foot building after the former governor was fitting, considering his cooperation and leadership on a number of important local projects including the \$60 million Carroll Creek flood control project and the Weinberg Center.

Taking the podium, Mr. Schaefer recalled his initial comments when he visited Frederick for groundbreaking.

"I remember saying, 'They can't put it here. This is the wrong place for it.' But how stupid I was. This is an absolutely delightful place. Since this building has gone up, the renovations that have come to the area and with those planned, make it the perfect place," he said.

"You can have vision, but without doing anything, the vision does no good," Mr. Schaefer said as he applauded local officials for working to see the plan come to fruition.

He said some of the state's "almost half-billion sitting in reserve should be used for buildings like this that people sometimes scoff at. It creates jobs."

He then prodded local officials to address problems head-on, and not let them linger.

"When I see the problems in Baltimore, I thought about you here. We've got to confront the problems of drugs and race and not let them go by the wayside," Mr. Schaefer said.

He also had a word for young people, many of whom are social services clients, encouraging them to prepare themselves financially while they are young so that their "glory years" may indeed be glorious.

Mr. Schaefer closed his remarks by asking, "Have you helped someone today? That's what it's all about."

Delegate Anita Stup said former Mayor Paul Gordon should be given a lot of credit for the building since he pushed so hard for it during his time in office. She also recalled her days as a DSS board member.

"We used to meet upstairs where I call the attic. More and more clients meant more file cabinets. We were just squished. We did study after study to prove that we needed more space. But it was Paul Gordon who pulled it together. He should get the credit," Mrs. Stup said.

Mr. Gordon said it was a win-win situation for the city, the county and the state.

"Within six weeks of being in office, I attended a board meeting and was told of the need for space, so we began to work. I don't know about taking the credit," the former mayor said.

Hazel Dawn, the newest DSS board member, said, "The building makes the clients feel they are somebody. It makes them feel important. It's a lovely environment and I'm excited about the dedication. It gives me the opportunity to share and learn."