



***By Russ Pankonin***

***The Imperial Republican***

Harchelroad Motors of Imperial took the first step in replacing the facilities they lost in a 2009 fire.

BD Construction Inc., of Kearney began construction last week on a new collision and restoration center. The new 20,000-square foot, state-of-the-art facility is located on East Hwy. 6 just west of the ALCO store.

Three years ago, a fire destroyed the five buildings that made up the dealership, repair shop and body shop in Imperial. Since that time, the Imperial dealership has operated out of temporary sites.

The dealership and repair shop has been operating in a converted storage building just across the street from the previous dealership.

Harchelroad Motors owned the building and was storing Corvettes and other car lines at the time of the fire.

The body shop has been operating out of a building on the southeast corner of 12th Street and Hwy. 61.

BD Construction President and CEO Mark Benjamin said the new building will be an important addition to the company and the community. "This building provides Harchelroad Motors the space and necessary tools to rebuild and expand the business after the fire," Benjamin said.

Harchelroad Motors also plan to rebuild their dealership facility on the site of the old structure that burned down.

"We are proud that our services contribute to the growth of this Nebraska business," Harchelroad Motors owner Sid Harchelroad said.

The expansion will help the business take its custom car and restoration services to the next level. Harchelroad said the fire forced the company to turn down business because it lacked space.

"With the extra space, we expect to add more people to our staff in order to provide better service for our existing and new customers, which will help boost the local economy," he added.

The stand-alone, body shop will include a custom show room, offices and a meeting room.

The collision center is certified by General Motors (GM) and PPG (Pittsburgh Paint and Glass) and will use the latest technology with eco-friendly waterborne paint that is non-hazardous and contaminant-free when dry.

Construction is expected to be complete by spring 2013. BD Construction Superintendent Ryan Quiring said erection of the steel framework should be completed by the end of this week. He said they expect to begin sheeting the exterior of the building in early December. Once that is completed, work will concentrate on interior finish work.

Harchelroad Motors is the largest GM dealership between Denver, Colo. and Grand Island, Neb. The company is also the top dealer in the U.S. for Callaway-modified Corvettes and Camaros.

