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[Cinergy opens for fun](#)

Movie, entertainment complex hosts grand opening night

By Janet Jacobs [Corsicana Daily Sun](#)

Corsicana — Cinergy Cinemas officially opened in Corsicana Thursday, with pomp, dignitaries, and the requisite red ribbon cutting.

Thursday hosted officials from the Chamber of Commerce, political leaders, people who supported the cinema in its infancy, and friends and family members. It was shoulder-to-shoulder inside the lobby, where people came to celebrate the first large opening of an entertainment center in Navarro County in at least a quarter of a century.

Over the chatter of hundreds of people, Cinergy Cinemas Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Benson thanked his family, Community National Bank, which provided the loan, officials from the city and county and the workers who made the dream possible.

“There’s something here for everybody,” Benson said, referring to the expansive food and drink choices, game arcade, putt golf course, go-carts and other aspects. “I think, if this is any indication of future business, it’s going to be great.”

The cinema and entertainment complex is a nearly \$8 million project. It suffered some setbacks in construction because of snow and heavy rains in spring, which delayed the opening by nearly a month, but the final product included more features. Even as the grand opening was going on inside, workers were still putting finishing touches on the go-carts and putt golf courses. Those should be finished in the next two weeks, Benson said.

“It’s everything I thought it would be, and a little extra,” said Jerry Bauer, who partnered with Benson to bring the cinema to Corsicana. “It’s encouraging to see the city’s support. Everybody’s excited. Jeff did a beautiful job.”

Related Photos

- Navarro Chamber of Commerce and Cinergy Cinemas officials cut the red ribbon at the red carpet grand opening Thursday at the new movie and entertainment complex.



- It was shoulder-to-shoulder inside the lobby, where people came to celebrate the first large opening of an entertainment center in Navarro County in at least a quarter of a century.



- The 33,798 square-foot theater includes a mini-bowling alley, which has shorter lanes and smaller balls than a traditional alley.



- A large crowd lined up for the Cinergy Cinemas red carpet grand opening Thursday.



- Cinergy Cinemas Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Benson thanked his family, Community National Bank, which provided the loan, officials

Cinergy is the only movie theater and entertainment complex of its size and style in a four-county area, and was designed to draw crowds from as far away as 50 miles.

“It’s going to bring tons of people to our community,” said Paul Hooper, executive director of the Corsicana/Navarro Chamber of Commerce.

Byron Cook, Texas Representative, praised Benson and his partners for the project.

“Thank you for investing in our community. We really appreciate it,” Cook said.

Among the people attending the opening was Lydia McKendree and her children, who sampled the soft drinks and snacks, and checked out the game arcade. McKendree was eager to book one of her children’s birthday parties at the facility.

“We usually have to go to Dallas to do this,” she said. “Now we can do it right here. This will be fun.”

Cinergy Cinemas is at Corsicana Crossings, next door to the Home Depot and roughly behind the Russell Stover Candy factory. The 33,798 square-foot theater includes a mini-bowling alley, which has shorter lanes and smaller balls than a traditional alley; a 70-game arcade center, two “birthday rooms,” and eight theater screens, two of which are equipped with 3-D projectors.

“I love it because it’s amazing,” said James Attaway, 9.

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