

You can tour the home of Collinsville's first mayor this month

BY LEXI CORTES
lcortes@bnd.com

Collinsville announced Wednesday that after years of restoration, a 171-year-old home in its historic downtown will open as a public museum this month.

A grand opening celebration for the Daniel Dove Collins House in downtown Collinsville begins with a program at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, in the Collinsville Memorial Library's community room. A dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

D.D. Collins was Collinsville's first mayor, a Madison County judge,

farmer, contractor, road commissioner and school board president. He built the home, located at 621 W. Main St., around 1845 and lived there. It's also the place where the first council meetings were held.

The public is invited to tour the museum, which is filled with furnishings from the 1840s, during the grand opening celebration. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the D.D. Collins House group.

The cost to reopen the Collins House has included \$2.3 million in public money, most of which was used to improve the aesthetics of the lot; Among that work was the purchase and demoli-

tion of two dilapidated buildings where the museum now stands. The city's non-profit Historic Preservation Commission has also raised money for the restoration through grants and donations.

Lexi Cortes: 618-239-2528,
@lexicortes



TIM YIZER News-Democrat file photo

In this 2015 file photo, the historic D.D. Collins House is settling in to its new location, welcoming motorists as they drive up West Main Street and enter the downtown Collinsville area.