Area dignitaries gathered in Mesa Village Tuesday morning for the “Groundbreaking Ceremony” for the new Forest Service Building. Joining in the festivities are (left to right) Billy French, French Brothers Commercial Contracting; Tom French, French Brothers Commercial Contracting; Lou Woltering, Forest Service Administrative Officer; Vicki Milne, Farm Services; Jim French, French Brothers Commercial Contracting; Glenn Woolsey, PreCheck, Inc.; Bob Sartain, PreCheck, Inc.; Jeff Rabon, The Heritage Group, Inc.; Randy Rabon, The Heritage Group, Inc.; Carol Ruiz, Farm Services; Dan Abercrombie, District Conservationist; Bruce Smith, PreCheck, Inc.

Alamogordo, NM. A large gathering of Otero County citizens and area dignitaries gathered at the future home of the United States Forest Service and United States Department of Agriculture Service Center in Mesa Village on the morning of September 18, 2007, to break ground for the $5 million dollar facility. Glenn Woolsey, Senior Vice-President of PreCheck, Inc. served as the emcee for the event which put the spotlight on local businesses and agencies who worked together on this project. Construction is scheduled to begin in about 60 days.

Speakers included Lou Woltering, Lincoln National Forest Supervisor; Hollis Fuchs, National Resources & Conservation Center Southwest Conservationist; Randy Rabon, President of The Heritage Group, Inc.; and Tom French, French Brothers Commercial Contracting, LLC. Rabon summarized the progress made since Mesa Village was initiated three years ago and noted the accomplishments of the local businesses and agencies working together on a project for the betterment of the community.
French echoed Rabon’s remarks: “For me this is the value of teamwork. No one is smarter than everyone, and the accomplishments of a team of competent, committed, principle-centered people is really hard to beat,” said French.

French Brothers Commercial Contracting, owned by brothers, Tom, Jim and Billy French, will be constructing the five million dollar, 19,900 sq. ft. facility in a unique southwestern architecture that will compliment other buildings located in Mesa Village. The building will feature state-of-the-art design and will offer the latest innovations in energy efficiency.

“We’re proud to have the United States Forest Service at Mesa Village,” said Rabon. “They conducted an extensive process to find a location to house their new facility; we are excited about being selected as their choice for relocation.” The building will be constructed North of PreCheck, Inc. and South of the new Allen Theater complex currently under construction.

Woolsey, whose Houston-based firm began operation in Mesa Village about a year ago, developed a plan with the other local businesses and made land available for the project. “PreCheck is pleased to be in Alamogordo and to be able to reinvest in the community by partnering with other businesses on a significant project,” stated Woolsey. “We are very pleased with the partnership that we have formed with these dynamic local development firms. It’s gratifying working with them and the Department of Agriculture to make this project a reality.”

Groundbreaking for residential construction in Mesa Village took place June 1 of this year. Bar M Construction purchased a block of residential lots and began their first phase of residential construction in Mesa Village. “We’re looking forward to working with Alamogordo’s many fine builders as the community continues to grow,” said Rabon.

“Otero County Economic Development Council, the City of Alamogordo, Otero County and local citizens have been working for years to attract these kinds of facilities to Alamogordo,” said Rabon. “All of us involved in this business venture are very appreciative of the support from these organizations and especially the City of Alamogordo. City Manager Pat McCourt and the city commissioners believed in this project from the very beginning and never wavered in their support. Now we’re getting ready to deliver what we promised to the city,” added Rabon. “We feel good about this opportunity. New or better operations keep people here and benefit our entire community in the long run.”