

BALL *from A1*

The Paktech-sponsored event was the latest in an effort to raise funds for the remainder of the remodeling still needed for the building. According to the city manager's office, the dancing, desert dashes, silent auctions featuring trips across the country and the live band managed to bring in \$89,000 on Saturday night.

"It was nearly \$90,000," said city manager Richard Meyers and that's a rough number, there still might be some additions and subtractions as we go through and make sure people weren't counted twice. And that's gross, that's before we go through and pay for the meals and the money goes back into the Armory trust fund to pay for the building's remodel."

The Armory has already undergone several phases of its reconstruction including brand new windows after the city discovered failing panes on the original windows and lead paint around the edges. The windows were not the only place lead was discovered. Last year, after several media reports indicating that the city was not properly cleaning the building's lead, the city manager's office released new lead testing



The Mayor's Ball took place under a blanket of neon clouds Saturday night. Above, former mayor and current county commission candidate Gary Williams checks out the auction. Right: Deputy Brigade Commander Geoffrey Vallee speaks to the crowd. GREG LEE

that showed all of the building's lead levels had decreased from initial test readings conducted when the city first purchased the building. The only area the

lead levels had increased was in the drill hall--the area most used for community events--in a corner of the room by the stairs and outside entrance. At

the time, Meyers attributed the elevated level to the fact that the building's exterior stairs were painted with lead paint and the contaminate was being

tracked in on visitor's shoes. The remodel of the Armory will include a new fascade on the exterior, handicap accessible entrances, a remodel of the

facility's restrooms and other modern additions. To view the plans for the remodel, visit the city's website at cottagetrove.org.

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