

Banks City Hall in the process of renovation to keep serving city

Banks (Pop. 1,435) has begun renovation of the stately City Hall building, originally built in the 1930s as a bank. The building is brick construction with large, old fashioned windows and a former vault that now houses the Washington County Deputy Sheriff's office for Banks.

"The building has seen better days," says City Manager Jim Hough, "but the City Council wanted it to remain an asset to the community, as well as providing a strong example of

community pride and the renaissance of Banks. So they authorized funds to repair some minor structural deficiencies and to renovate the exterior." The project is being done by Five Star Construction, a local civic-minded company that has done a number of significant construction and remodeling projects in and around the City.

Brick masonry in the building is being repointed and the entire exterior is being resealed. The City Hall Council Chambers (with the vaulted Deputy

Sheriff office) and adjacent administrative offices portion of the building will also be getting the accent trim paint refurbished. The exterior work will make the building more attractive in the downtown core, and should preserve the value of the building for a number of years to come.

Mayor Teri Branstre said, "We are seeing a renewal of the spirit of our small community." There are a number of other downtown revitalization projects in the offing. Branstre

continued, "We have a Ford Family Foundation Leadership class that is working hard to expand the Banks Chamber of Commerce seasonal banner project." Downtown building landlords are beginning to paint and fix up shops and offices, as well as adding appropriate signage for new and existing businesses. Two new restaurants recently opened to rave reviews, and the Chamber Ambassadors just helped cut the ribbon on a newly reinvented coffee shop and Hawaiian shaved ice emporium right downtown in Banks.

The Mayor pointed out that "Our next improvement project is intended to be reconstruction of the sidewalks at City Hall." The City is in the process of reminding citizens that they must

maintain adjacent sidewalks, so setting an appropriate example is important. Removing cracked sidewalks and complying with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) is vital to any renaissance that will occur in Banks. Everyone in town seems to be saying what the Chamber has been saying for a number of years, "Banks is a great little city in which to live and do business."



Banks City Hall shown at the beginning of the renovation on the building, was built in the 1930s as a bank.

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