

NEWS FROM THE OLD BLANCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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The Courthouse continued its important role as a community center during 2018. The Visitor Center welcomed visitors from all over the world. Fifteen weddings, five parties, and several town hall meetings took place here. We anticipate no less in 2019! This newsletter describes the renovation work that was undertaken during 2018 as well as the projects that remain. We invite everyone to stop by and see the progress. We hope you'll be pleased with the results!

A membership application for OBCCPS is provided at the end of the newsletter. Please fill it out and return it to OBCCPS, or you can become a member or renew your membership at our website, www.historicblanco.org.

Our Capital Campaign has raised more than \$77,500 to support staircase and window restoration projects. More than eighty-five generous individuals, businesses, and organizations, including LCRA, Bamberger Foundation, PEC, Real Ale Bike Ride, Texas Regional Bank, and Security State Bank & Trust, supported our Capital Campaign in 2018. The Bamberger Foundation challenge grant of \$11,739 matched every dollar raised April 1 through December 31, providing an awesome boost to our Capital Campaign.

Completed Staircase



Staircase/banister restoration is complete, making both staircases useable once again. The restoration was done in accordance with Texas Historical Commission guidance and included increasing the height of the banisters to improve visitor safety. Funding was provided by a \$25,000 grant from LCRA and PEC and an OBCCPS match.

Windows with tape to prevent water



Window restoration project scope will be better defined in the upcoming months to provide a permanent solution protecting against further water penetration.

Many thanks to all past and future donors as we strive to maintain and restore the Courthouse. Our Capital Campaign continues in order to raise the necessary funds for the window project.



Bride's Room

The Board has long wanted to provide a space for brides to use while getting ready for their wedding. This year, we were able to do that. We hired Gary Kuykendall to renovate a second-floor room across from the upstairs storage area. The project included drywall work, ceiling repair, restoration of the floor, and finishing a storage closet. A pale pink paint was chosen for the walls to help carry out the bridal theme. Lesley Griffin worked on furnishings and decorations.

2018 Gala

The major Courthouse fund-raising event each year is the annual Gala. This year's event, led by Trey Atchley, Mary Harris, and Karen Knutsen, didn't disappoint. Sullivan Street Caterers prepared the delicious meal. Diners could choose a beef, chicken, or vegetarian option. Music was provided by the Lost Sounds. The traditional silent auction and live auction were held once again. The day kicked off with the annual poker tournament on Saturday morning. Thank you to so many donors for making the Gala a big success and to the dedicated volunteers that helped make the event beautiful and enjoyable.

Floors to Be Refinished

The Board has voted to refinish the floors in the first floor hallway, the Chamber of Commerce office, and the second floor landings. The work will begin February 2. The Courthouse will be closed from Feb. 2nd to Feb.10th. OBCCPS has received HOT funds to pay for the floor project.

Texas Tax Credit Program

The OBCCPS Board has sought funds through the Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program. The program offers a 25 percent tax credit for eligible costs incurred in the rehabilitation of historic buildings. OBCCPS applied for tax credits for the roof replacement project, has succeeded in receiving the required certificate of eligibility from the Texas Historical Commission (THC), and has been awarded tax credits by the Texas Comptroller's office. These tax credits can be sold to businesses in Texas, which the Board is currently in the process of doing. The funds will help cover the roof replacement costs. Those interested can read about the program on the THC website.

OBCCPS 2019 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Old Blanco Courthouse Preservation Society will be held March 21, 2019. The evening will begin at 6:30 PM with a wine and cheese social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 PM. The public as well as OBCCPS members are invited to attend.

Thank You

Gala Committee and Contributors: Thank you to everyone who helped put together another successful, beautiful, and enjoyable Gala. The members of the Gala Committee were Trey Atchley, Mary Harris, and Karen Knutson, Co-chairs; Jan Brieger; David Widaki; Mike Brady; Debra DuPont; and Todd Rogers. Jeff Harkinson and Mabel Rollins organized the Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament. Briana Fuchs of Sullivan Street Caterers provided the delicious dinner. Several businesses and individuals donated to the dinner as well as to the silent and live auctions. Volunteers helped with a variety of tasks before, during, and after the Gala. Thanks to everyone who donated and volunteered!

PEC United Charities: Thank you to the employees of PEC for donating \$285 to OBCCPS.

Capital Campaign Donors: Thank you to the many businesses and individuals that so generously contributed to the OBCCPS Capital Campaign. We are still accepting donations to help with the costs of the planned window restoration. A donation form is available at the end of the newsletter.

Courthouse Volunteers: Thank you to the volunteers that assist Lesley Griffin during busy times and help keep the Visitor Center open seven days a week. Our volunteers are Erika Fickle, Judy Gaines, Joanne Marshall, Dora Weaner and Margie Dyer.

Manager Lesley Griffin: Thank you to Lesley for her hard work as Courthouse manager. Lesley had a lot to put up with this year while the renovations were going on right around her. Thanks Lesley.

OBCCPS Members: Thank you to the members of OBCCPS for the contribution you make as members of the Society.



2018 OBCCPS Board of Directors: Jim Harris, President; Jan Brieger, Vice President; Margie Dyer, Secretary; Barry Pierce, Treasurer; and members Trey Atchley, Joleen Bourland, Doug Dowlearn, Debra DuPont, Jeff Harkinson, Karen Knutson, Mary Harris, and Todd Rogers.



Photos: First page all photos, Lesley Griffin ; second page, Margie Dyer; third page, Willard Gibbons

Capital Campaign Contribution. Please renew your Membership in addition to:

Supporting the OBCCPS Capital Campaign to restore/repair the windows of the Old Blanco County Courthouse in the amount of

\$50 \$250 \$1000 Other (note amount)
 \$100 \$500 \$5000

2019 Old Blanco County Courthouse Preservation Society Membership

Individual Membership

Annual (\$20)
 Lifetime (\$500)

Couple Membership

Annual (\$40)
 Lifetime (\$1000)

Organization/Business Membership

Annual (\$100)

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Return form to OBCCPS, PO Box 302, Blanco, Texas 78606-0302

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