

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Strand Theatre Weekly Email: May 21, 2010

Written by David on May, 20 2010

PLEASE READ THIS

A story to tell. We do that each and every week. The Strand is a concept for our community that lives and breaths. Sometimes we talk of good things, other times we tell of funny things. There is "tech talk" and every so often our news isn't so good, we tell that too. Last week was just one of those times. We spoke of the of a very serious topic. (We know right now you are all going through your emails to see what was said last week!)

We had some wind damage to the metal fascia on our soffit. We spoke of the hazards involved. The board member who guides the upkeep of our 94 year old theatre, Bob S. said it had to be fixed immediately. He ran the red flag up on Wednesday. We spent Thursday investigating options. On Friday we sent our weekly email that spoke about it. We sent the email out at 12:36am on 5/14. We said: "We don't know quite what we are going to do, but we know we have to do something. We will tell you it is a bit depressing for us, but more on that next week."

Next week is here, and boy do we have more. At 10:30am on Friday 5/14 Strand board member David F. received a call. It was from Jim Marshall of R.D. Marshall Construction. Jim's words were short. He told David that a group of "clandestine" contractors had instructed him to let us know "don't worry about your soffit." The other question was "what color does it get painted." When David asked for details, none were given. Needless to say we were THRILLED. We didn't know who the rogue accomplices were, but we sure did appreciate it. Nothing more said. That was Friday. On Tuesday night David's phone rang once again. At first he thought it was Purdue Pete, but no, it was Jim Marshall. In his cryptic way he said; "I think you need to have the Strand open at 7:30 tomorrow morning. Some people might need to plug in power tools." Again more details were asked, and none given. So dutifully David drove to the Strand at 7:25 only to see the parking spaces in front of the theatre were all blocked off. Hmm, something was happening. Remember, this is Wednesday, and our email went out on Friday. Meeting David at the theatre were 3 pirates. They all had the same uniform. It was a gray shirt with red lettering. Yep, it said "R D MARSHALL, GENERAL CONTACTORS" The door was opened. A few minutes later a really big truck delivered a 60 foot bucket lift. Did it look pretty.

Work began, and soon the offending metal was safely off the building. Strand friend Dick Delaney (and former owner of the Strand) stopped by to say that metal was put up 35 years ago. It did its job, but it was time to go. To the contractor's surprise, the wood beneath wasn't as rotted as expected. Slowly but surely the three worked their way from north to south, fixing the rotted wood, and installing a new fascia board. It looked beautiful.

Now at this point we STILL didn't know all the accomplices. One thing we did know is that this is a wonderful thing. Since no good deed should go unpunished, a call was placed to our friends at the Shelbyville News. Soon, BJ Fairchild-Newman was on the scene. The excellent writer and reporter she is, the story became a little clearer. Who was there to meet her but our good friend Jim Marshall. We didn't learn until Thursday's front page story, but he sang like a songbird.

Let's not get too far ahead of ourselves. Midway throughout the day (Wednesday), the gentlemen working on the lift asked David to make sure there was the correct color of paint waiting at the theatre after lunch. With a quick trip to Shelbyville Paint and Wallpaper, we had the paint ready and waiting. Guess who showed up.....John Huber. That would be John Huber, owner of Huber Bros. painting. The plot thickens.

By the end of Wednesday the entire soffit was repaired. The poor birds didn't know where to go, there nesting place was no more. We sat back, looked up and saw that is was good.

Thursday that lift was back in the air, this time with one of the pirates from the previous day, and also John Huber....safety belt in place and a paintbrush in hand. The paint was our stone color that we used for the windows. As the dark brown soffit details emerged with the light colored paint, David's phone started ringing. The calls were all similar "Wow, just passed the Strand, looks great." Then the Shelbyville News was delivered. Right there on the front page (along with an excellent article about the Shelbyville Middle School's performance at the Strand that night) was a picture of those pirates on the lift in front of the theatre. The article went on to unravel the mystery. It seems Mr. Marshall and Mr. Huber were the head pirates. They enlisted the help of Dennis Baker from Builders Lumber. Dennis supplied all the material. They also enlisted the help of AirWorx. They supplied the lift. All four businesses teamed together to get the job done....all at no cost

to the Strand! By Thursday afternoon, the job was finished. Quite amazing.

We live in a great community. The Strand is humbled by the generosity and dedication given us by these four businesses. They showed true community leadership. They were not asked to help. They received our email and knew they could solve our problem. I am sure Jim's Dad is smiling down at him this week!

ROBERT D. MARSHALL CONTRACTORS

HUBER BROS. PAINTING

BUILDERS LUMBER AND HARDWARE

AIRWORX

These are all heroes in our community. The Strand not only benefits from having our facade safe, but also having the beautiful architectural details seen once again. Next time you see any of them, please give them a BIG thank you from the Strand. Several have helped us when we were down. This time, these businesses came to the rescue....THANK YOU.

The SMS Jazz Band and Jazz Choir played to a full house on Thursday night. These kids did a great job. We are thrilled they are cutting their jazz chops at the Strand. They'll be back next year!

Thanks for all your support. We are humbled and honored by your words of encouragement, patronage at our events and even in the case for a few this week, a trip up to the top of the facade. Thank you.

Images on this post:

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