

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Strand Weekly Email 1/27/2017

Written by David on January, 27 2017

Dear Strand Fan,

This week the work continues. Bob S. has been diligently fixing all sorts of things. We have expanded our concessions storage and fixed trim work throughout the lobby. When we first did the lobby we installed rubber base board. Two reasons, one we had it, two we were out of time and money. We have replaced the rubber with wood to be contextually consistent with the rest of the theater.

Pat Turner of PET Construction has been doing drywall and plaster repair upstairs. We have put finish coats on all our office spaces. This means that it is ready to paint! This has been a long time coming for the Strand. The office spaces were abandoned in 1967 and have been basically dormant ever since. This was due in large part to no heat or air conditioning. We also had to install electricity, as there were no outlets in the offices. Much of the preparation work has been done over the course of the last 7 years. We have taken baby steps, but now is the time to take a giant leap and bring these spaces back to life.

The offices will arrive not one moment too soon. The Strand as an organization has grown tremendously. We have volunteers who focus on marketing, scheduling, theater maintenance, and business continuity. We need the space to work. While we will love our new offices, we are already out of space. Every inch is accounted for...which is a good problem to have.

We are holding a work session Saturday January 28, 2017 (yes that is tomorrow) from 9:00am to 1:00pm. This is going to be a big push to get everything painted. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Put on your paint clothes and come join us. If you have a paint brush bring it along too. We have many different spaces to work. All the painting tomorrow will be with water based paint.

The Shelby County Historical Society is getting their lobby displays ready for the Strand. This will be a great addition to the Strand. Our audience will get a glimpse of the vast SCHS collection and hopefully visit the Grover Museum. While locally we all know the Grover, many of our patrons are from out of town. This will give them a chance to see what else Shelbyville has to offer. The Strand has been partnering with organizations since we started. This is a continuation of our commitment to the entire community.

We are now planning our stage work. The process was derailed by the State Fire Marshal's inspector. He was going to require us to sprinkle the Strand if we opened the connection to our annex that was cut in the side wall of the auditorium. We already had a state Construction Design Release for that project with no conditions. We had followed all the proper steps and met with the local building and fire inspectors well before submitting the project. The inspector remained resolved to require sprinkling. We had been diligent in our planning and we were not required to do that, as demonstrated by the CDR with no conditions. Would we like to install sprinklers, of course, but after Mr. Knaepple made that requirement, our costs were over \$500,000 to accomplish the task. That would mean we would close the Strand.

With the help of local attorney and Strand volunteer Lee McNeely, we met with the leadership of the State Fire Marshal's office, including Jim Greeson, the State Fire Marshall. The result was they rescinded our Construction Design Release!

We were flabbergasted. We have no idea what they wanted to prove, but were forced to go through the legal remedies.

We were entitled to a conference before we filed a formal appeal that would have been heard by an administrative law judge. At that meeting, the State decided that we were OK, and reinstated our Construction Design Release.

We are an all volunteer organization. The State Fire Marshal's office has done irreparable harm to the Strand, its leadership, volunteer base, and ongoing mission. We will overcome this setback, but it certainly dampened our enthusiasm. You will see a direct result of their actions by our work on the lobby and the lack of performances for the first quarter of 2017. Now that issue is resolved, we can get back to the straight line process of improvements to our theater, focusing on our performance space first.

The Strand is fortunate to be located in Shelbyville at the heart of Shelby County. Our patrons and community understand

the Strand. We are pleased to be another piece of the puzzle that makes our community an attractive place to live, work, and play. We have partners, including Mainstreet Shelbyville, Blue River Foundation, Shelby County Historical Society, City of Shelbyville, and many others that understand what we are trying to accomplish. Thank you for your support. See you at the Strand (hopefully tomorrow morning!)

Images on this post:

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