

RENOVATION: Water infiltration at City Hall being monitored, says Hunt

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Other items found, according to a presentation before council, are damaged window framing, water infiltration a the the lower level under main entry wall, partial height furred walls, raised floors with furred walls, jail cell windows and original wood floors. Water infiltration is being monitored, according to the presentation. “There are times where it rains and we don’t see water in the building, and there are times when it rains and we do see water in the building,” Hunt said. “We’re trying to continue to monitor that and gauge what the next steps are. Like we’ve talked about previously, when we start doing the site work out front, we’ll be able to uncover a little bit more about what’s going on underneath that front sidewalk.” Approved change orders include those associated with “hidden items” mentioned as well as, a drinking fountain with bottle filler and upgraded A/V security and access controls, according to the presentation. “We do have four more change orders that are being priced right now,” Hunt said. “The first is a revision to the fire department connection. That was to deal with updated flow from the hydrant and tie into the main line in a different location. We have another change order again where we’ve had to make some modifications in the field during construction. We have found that the sanitary line is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. And then there were some structural stabilization issues.” About 60 feet of the exterior sanitary line was found to have debris inside, she said, More updates made to the building include new openings in masonry walls and continued underground work in electrical/data rooms, according to the presentation. Framing and drywall is underway in council chambers and council lounge. “There is a lot that has changed on the second floor,” Hunt said. “This is where we uncovered the bulk of the hardwood floors. The walls are all framed, drywall is installed. We’re still working on overhead MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing), and the wood floors have all been uncovered and patched where needed. Sanding is in progress, in preparation for staining.” On the third floor, along with completed framing and drywall, the skylights have been framed, she said. A new interior stair connects the second and third floor. An elevator installation is still in progress. Highlights made to found features in City Hall include wooden floors, a tin ceiling in the mayor’s office, a jail window and a vault door, Hunt said.

SCARES: Field Day contest open to public observation June 28-29

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“A (handheld radio) with an antenna does not work well in a bunker,” Malinowski said. “We, being amateurs, we knew what to do at that point. We would set up our vehicle—our vehicle radio can bounce our signal, too—so we could use it as a repeater. The vehicle’s 10, 20, 30 feet away from you, not a problem talking to that.” Not only do SCARES and ham radio operators communicate during emergencies but also ahead of them, he said, to make sure folks get to safety. Many members are SKYWARN-certified and/or listen to weather radios of their own for life-saving information. “Not all of our members live right next to a shelter, and it takes time,” Malinowski said. “In this particular event, there was plenty of notice that we’ll probably need the shelter used, and we had people there ahead of time. We typically watch the weather at least two counties out.” For folks interested in getting involved in the ham radio hobby, there are multiple avenues to check the club out, he said. SCARES hosts a handful of activities throughout the year that are open to the public. On June 28 and June 29, club members participate in Field Day, Malinowski said. Operators set up their equipment and compete to receive as many points as possible. “We typically will set up a station at a park, where we’re off commercial power,” he said. “The event runs from 2 p.m. on Saturday to 2 p.m. on Sunday. Basically, you make as many contacts as with other clubs that are participating throughout the country. “Based on how many transmitters you have set up, if you’re on emergency power, if you’re on solar power. ... You get so many points based on how difficult you’re making it to communicate. If you’re strictly using extremely low power, all your contacts are worth a little bit more. They publish those results in a magazine called ‘QST’ that’s put out by the (American Radio Relay League).” The club gets together occasionally for demonstrations at the library, Malinowski said, and they attend monthly breakfasts to “get out in the community more” and connect with other members. “That’s something fairly new we’ve done in the club,” he said. “That gives us the ability to learn about our members’ personal lives a little bit more, whereas that doesn’t come out at a meeting. The meeting’s more structured.” Their open monthly meetings are held at the Scott County Cooperative Extension at 9 a.m. on third Saturdays of each month, according to their website at ne4st.net. As with many hobbies, getting in isn’t free, but for \$35 and the cost of decent equipment for General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), he said, a “short-distance two-way communication” ideal for communicating emergencies in localized areas, anyone can try it out. “There’s a designated channel on GMRS for emergencies,” Malinowski said. “We can monitor that. We can communicate with them, as well. ... We’re hoping to foster the other radio communications that are available to families in Scott County.” For higher power equipment and broader range, testing and licensing are required, he said. “For the technician, it’s about 10-to-12 hours of study time,” Malinowski said. “It’s \$14 for the test, and then once you pass the test, there’s a \$35 application fee that goes to the Federal Communications Commission, and then your license is good for 10 years.” The next two license levels require approximately 10-to-20 hours of study and an additional \$14 for each upgrade, he said. Ham radio has been a hobby since the early 1900s, with Columbia University launching the alleged first recorded American amateur radio club around 1908, as published in the Nov. 28, 1908, issue of “The Sun.” The sinking of the “Titanic” in 1912 spawned regulations that led to creating “the proper procedures, including monitoring the frequency and recognizing the priority of emergency traffic, were lacking,” according to Middle Tennessee State University’s Free Speech Center. These regulations on private radios were expected to deter hams by limiting them to the “useless” 200-meter band only, as stated in Jim Maxwell’s “Amateur Radio: 100 Years of Discovery.” After an initial drop, “the plot didn’t work,” and 6,000 were back on U. S. radio by 1917. Today, there are about 3 million ham radio operators worldwide; 700,000 in the U. S.; and 250 here in Scott County, according to Malinowski. Despite those numbers, the biggest challenge is “getting others interested” in the hobby. “The more people you have doing what you do, you have more people available during an event or a situation,” he said. “There’s many facets of the hobby, the Winlink, APRS, stuff like that. ... There’s digital modes, strictly analog modes. There’s something in the hobby for everyone.”

Community celebrates grand opening of new Scott County Farmers’ Market Pavilion

Special to the News-Graphic

The heart of downtown Georgetown is set to bloom with local flavor and community spirit as it celebrates the grand opening of the new Scott County Farmers’ Market Pavilion on Saturday, May 10. The Georgetown/Scott County Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony, which will commence at 8:30 AM at the corner of Broadway and Washington Streets, marking the beginning of the market’s opening day, which will run until 12:30 PM. “This pavilion is more than just a structure; it’s a testament to our community’s dedication to local agriculture and entrepreneurship,” said Char Williams, President of the Scott County Farmers’ Market. “We’re thrilled to offer a space that supports our farmers and artisans and serves as a gathering place for events throughout the year.” This state-of-the-art pavilion was made possible through a collaborative effort involving the Scott County Fiscal Court, the City of Georgetown, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF), and the Scott County Extension Office. Judge-Executive Joe Pat Covington emphasized the project’s significance, “I am grateful to the Fiscal Court for their support of the capital investment for this project. This could not have become a reality without the City Council and their partnership with the location and the collaboration from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and our Ag. Extension. Investing in this pavilion reflects our commitment to our local producers and vendors and enhancing the quality of life in Scott County. It’s a wonderful addition to downtown Georgetown that will serve our community in numerous ways, from supporting local producers to hosting public events.” “The new structure expands the market’s capacity from 16 to over 30 vendor spaces, providing a venue for various events beyond the traditional Farmers’ Market. Attendees can enjoy music throughout the morning, and food truck Nice Nachos adds to the festive atmosphere. The Scott County Farmers’ Market proudly features a dedicated group of full-time vendors who bring a diverse array of locally produced goods to the community each week. From fresh fruits and vegetables to artisanal products, these vendors offer something for everyone. Regular attendees include McFarland Farms, New Evolution Farm, On the Run Farm, Packs a Kick in the End Beer Cheese, Payne’s Green Thumb Market, Purplewood Farm, Misty Thicket Farms, Sadieville Soap, Triple J Farm, The Twisted Orchard, Backwoods Jewelry, BiWater Farm, Blue Collar Coffee, D&T Produce and Processing, Elmwood Stock Farm, Evans Orchard, George-



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