

PRESERVING HISTORY, PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE



ABOVE: JESSAMINE COUNTY PROPERTY MANAGER GARY GOLDEY WITH JESSAMINE COURTHOUSE PROJECT BLUEPRINTS.

MIDDLE: ATTIC EVALUATION FAR RIGHT: SCAFFOLDING IN USE ON FRONT PORTION OF



Take a drive down Nicholasville's Main Street, and you can't help noticing it. Something out of the ordinary is happening at the Jessamine County Courthouse—something BIG.

It started in 2017, when Judge/Executive David West and the Jessamine County Fiscal Court commissioned GRW Engineering to perform an assessment of the building and recommend necessary actions. In August, 2019, the project bid was awarded to Midwest Maintenance Inc., an architectural restoration company known for its work on the Kentucky State Capitol Building, the Governor's Mansion in Texas, and The Hermitage (home of President Andrew Jackson). "It was important for us to find a company with a high level of expertise and experience with historic buildings," Judge West said. "For example, the metal on the historic part of the Courthouse has been there since 1873. Working on it will require a certain level of expertise. Even the pressure washing must be carefully done, using specific temperatures and pressure levels." The repairs and renovations began in August and include but aren't limited to:

- Pressure washing to remove old, peeling paint—from top to bottom of the building, new paint applied where appropriate (this includes the historic bell in the Courthouse's tower)
- Stripping and repainting the metal roof on the historic section of the Courthouse
- Replacing the old asphalt roof on the North and West sides of the Courthouse
- Cleaning brick and replacing mortar where necessary
- Repairing/replacing rafters where necessary

Although the repairs and renovations will provide the Courthouse with a fresh new look, Judge West wants citizens to know the work is also necessary for structural and even safety reasons. The replacement of the asphalt roofs on the North and West wings of the Courthouse is a good example, he said. "These wings were added in the 1960s. They were expected to last approximately 25 years, and we've almost doubled that. Over the years, there have been leaks and attempts to repair the roofs, but we're beyond that now."

A few months ago, Judge West's concerns regarding safety were reinforced when the weather vane actually fell off the Courthouse building. Luckily, Property Manager Gary Goldey and his crew had already noticed structural weaknesses around the weather vane and taken precautions, so no one was hurt. "As we did a walk around for bidding on the repairs and renovations, we noticed problems with the weathervane," Goldey said. "We roped off the front part of the Courthouse, and the weather vane toppled off the very next morning."

The repairs and renovations are expected to continue for the next few months.

For more information, like "[Jessamine County, Kentucky](#)" on Facebook or call 859-885-4500.

“WHEN THE WORK IS FINISHED, WE'LL HAVE A COURTHOUSE THAT WE CAN EXPECT TO LAST FOR ANOTHER 150 YEARS AND BEYOND.”

—Judge/Executive David K. West