

From the Chairman:

This is an update on the Courthouse Dome and tuckpointing project. In March the workers from Bovard Studio in Fairfield, Iowa were busy placing netting and safety wires up on the third floor and the opening of the dome at the Courthouse so they could protect the public from any falling debris while removing the stain glass panels from the dome. This was quite an undertaking as they had to saw each panel loose. There was at sometime caulk placed around the panels to either hold them in place or prevent water from getting in through the roof and the caulk was very old and dry.

You can't see the dome from the outside of the Courthouse as a "doghouse" was installed over the dome sometime ago. There is also a false ceiling, inside the doghouse, with florescent lights used to illuminate the dome, since the natural light was gone. The false ceiling was also removed as the space between the ceiling and the top of the dome was only 2-3 inches. That made it extremely difficult, actually impossible, for the workers to remove the top panels. So the decision was made to remove the false ceiling and paint the interior of the doghouse that covers the dome with a bright white and replace the florescent lights with new LED lights. That in turn will make for a far better illumination of the dome.

The dome should be finished and installed by the end of June this year, so to see the finished project please go to the second floor of the Courthouse and look up. The total cost of the project is approximately \$51,000. With this investment the dome should be there for many future generations and continue to be a beautiful part of the Courthouse.

Another project going on is the tuckpointing on the courthouse, which has begun. Vinton Tuckpointing out of Vinton, Iowa is doing the work and are hoping to have the project completed at the end of June, weather permitting. Tuckpointing needs to be done every 10 to 15 years to preserve the stone on the building. The Courthouse was last done around 20 years ago. By spending money now to repair and maintain the building we hopefully will not be looking at spending millions to replace the building in the future. The cost of the tuck pointing project is right at \$120,000.

You can contact me at: jtellin@co.fayette.ia.us

On a personal note: The Supervisors are starting a book to document the progress of the dome project. However, there is little history of the dome up to this point so if anyone knows the history of the dome and why the doghouse was installed please email one of the Supervisors with that information. We would truly appreciate it and will add it to the history book. Email addresses are: ddolf@co.fayette.ia.us or vrowland@co.fayette.ia.us

May 5th thru May 11th the Second Annual Fayette County Greenhouse tour will be held. Visit the Fayette County Economic Development website for more details. Enjoy the spring.