



David Carries On With Revitalization Effort

A former member of a city administration that was involved in efforts to revitalize downtown Binghamton is helping to do just that as a private citizen.

Piece by piece, an old downtown building gets new life. Former Deputy Mayor Rich David -- who is now Broome Community College's Public Affairs Officer -- bought the 3,000 square foot property at 45 Court Street with a vision to create a two-story loft for himself, and improve the building's facade.

"It's terrific. This is what we were hoping for," said Ron Sall, President of the Downtown Binghamton Business Association. "Young people coming in, investing in property and rehabilitating it."

Built in the 1800s, the structure is one of the oldest downtown. David said M & D-R Nuts and Curry's of India restaurant will continue to occupy the first floor.

David also plans on renovating the exterior part of the building, and he hopes that once people see the improvements to the outside of the structure, it will attract them to the downtown area.

"People are going to drive by, and they're going to see it on the outside and inside that there's significant change going on in this building," said David. "And I want people to look at it and say, 'You know, if he's doing this project, I can do it, too'."

The 30 year-old purchased the property through Southern Tier Mortgage, and said he is not receiving any public grants or loans.

"It really is a leap of faith, and once you take that step, you'll see that there are so many people in the community that want you to succeed, and want to help you," added David.

David expects to be moved in by mid-December, but downtown visitors will begin to see progress much sooner.

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