



Pat and Joe Hammer, of Elkton, met 55 years ago at the Elkton Theatre and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. In his earlier years, Joe worked at the theater, which has recently received a new marquee and lighting. – Photo by Joshua Gooden

Lights, camera, action

Newly-lit Elkton Theatre receives a facelift downtown

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ELKTON – In conjunction with his plans for the town, Pham Chopra incorporated a construction business late last year.

Chopra established Bright Visions LLC on Dec. 1, 2015, and said the entity replaces Valley Construction, a business

he owned previously.

Chopra, who moved back to Elkton last year from Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., after having lived here years ago, purchased some 15 area properties last year for a total of more than \$4.7 million.

Among the area properties Chopra purchased was the historic Elkton Theatre, which was last used

in July 1987.

The remodel of the facade of the Elkton Theatre was made visible on Saturday, when Adam Good, a contractor hired by Chopra, removed a wooden wall.

Good, owner of Peak Home Improvements, obtained a permit in October

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Chopra hopes to put the sites on a historic registry

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from the town for the "refurbishing process of the theater," according to a Feb. 5 letter from Charlotte Shifflett, the town's zoning administrator.

Good inquired of the town on Nov. 12 in regard to the wooden wall, which covered the facade of the theatre while it was being remodeled.

Former town manager Kevin Whitfield gave Good permission to build the wall and 90 days to remove it, according to Shifflett's letter.

Chopra contracted with Nielsen Builders to repair the roof of the theatre.

He confirmed that the work was completed on Jan. 22.

Chopra said he plans to pursue a grant to finish the remainder of the theatre.

Chopra plans to put the theatre, Conrad's Store and the former Leap House at 154 W.

Rockingham St., which he also purchased, on the National Register of Historic Places.

He plans to make Conrad's Store into "Conrad's Pioneer Museum" and is considering making the former Kite Mansion into the "Blue Willow Restaurant."

In addition, J.W. Gordon, an Elkton resident and Blue Ridge Community College student, and Harrisonburg Realtor Jack Rose are working with Virginia Tech's Community Development Assistance Center on a greenway that would run from the springs near the Kite Mansion to the South Fork of the Shenandoah River.

Gordon told the Elkton Council in November that Virginia Tech students could conceivably work on the greenway at no cost to the town as part of a class project.

ROCKINGHAM

A Total of 181 known families of Shenandoah National Park records, including head of household forced to sale land/property owners churches and many businesses.