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Bergens building gets a new life

BY ANDREW MOORE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — More activity is expected to come to Ram Cat Alley in downtown Seneca.

Seneca Planning and Development Director Ed Halbig confirmed this week that the Bergens building on Ram Cat Alley, site of the former Bergens Department Store, will soon be open again for a different kind of business.

Planning and Development issued a certificate of zoning compliance to Audrey Shedd under its current zoning, "core commercial," Halbig said.

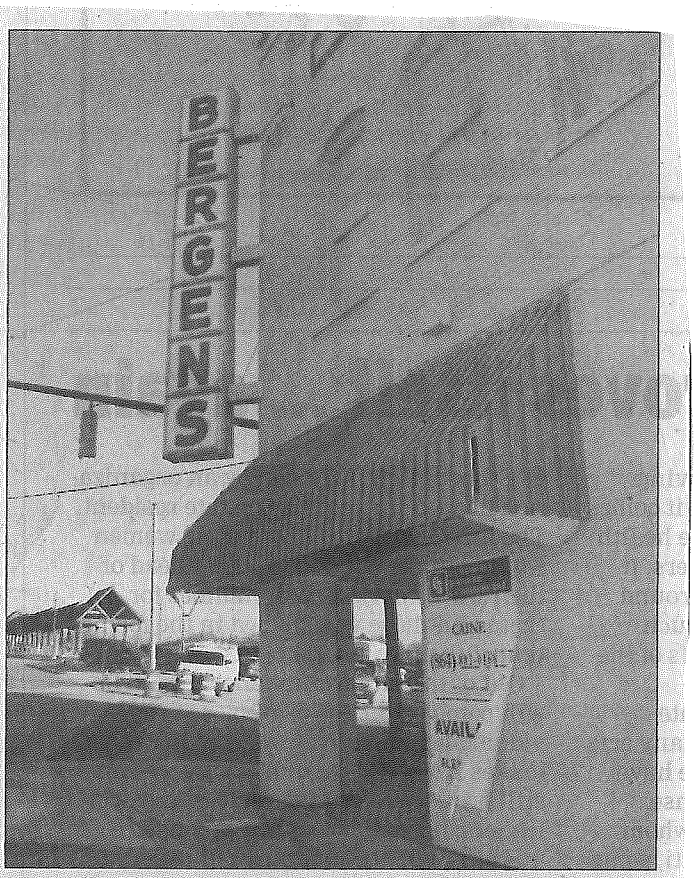
Shedd confirmed to The Journal that she will be opening the building up as a resale, consignment venture.

"They're going to basically rent out spaces for small retailers to come in and operate there," Halbig said.

The business will be known as "The Mini-Mall," and Halbig was wary of comparisons to an indoor flea market.

"I don't like to use the term flea market for this. I'm not saying that's what they're doing here," Halbig said. "This will give retailers who work on a smaller scale an opportunity."

Former owner Robert Burgen closed the store in 2008 after it had become an icon of the downtown Seneca scene during its more than 50 years of operation. Despite the name change, Halbig said he understood that the historic "Bergens" sign will remain on the front of the building.



JESSICA NELMS | STAFF

The Bergens building on Ram Cat Alley in downtown Seneca will soon be open for business again, this time as "The Mini-Mall."

GARLAND APPOINTED TO SENECA BAR

Seneca resident Tammy Garland was appointed to the city's Board of Architectural Review. The appointment was made after the City Council discussed the vacancy on the BAR in executive session. In open council, a unanimous decision was reached.

Garland will replace Lauren Holmes, who resigned from the governing body of the city's design review district and historic district.

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