New Six Mile bank to open in April

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

SIX MILE — Six Mile residents, currently without a bank to call their own, will soon see that distinction come to an end.

Town officials said recently that Our Bank is expected to open sometime in April. The town had featured a bank of some type for 94 years before First Citizens closed its doors nearly a year ago.

Mayor Roy C. Stoddard said the town is looking forward to the opening of the new bank, adding it will offer full-service as well as drive-up and 24/7 drive-through ATM service.

"There are 13 churches that have a Six Mile ZIP code, and they're looking forward to the bank opening as well as businesses that won't have to travel so far to make deposits," Stoddard said.

Our Bank is part of the Carolina Premier Bank, and officials say extensive work has been taking place to prepare for the grand opening.

"They've stripped the wiring completely out and put everything new in," said the mayor, adding, "The front will have windows and flower boxes in each window, a new awning and a permanent sign will replace the banner that is on top of the building, along with a night drop box and the extension of the parking lot to the rear of the building."



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Six Mile Mayor Roy Stoddard, right, and Brandon Patterson, with Zorn General Contractors, of Seneca, observe the interior of what will soon be "Our Bank" located in the former First Citizens building. The new bank is expected to open sometime in April.

Council member James Atkinson said a vintage 1919 vault, built when the only option was to hand mix concrete, will be the highlight of the refurbished 1,000-square-foot building.

"This project was essentially a total redo, with the inside stripped down to the ceiling and wall studs," Atkinson said.

Amy Macari, chief administrative officer for Carolina Premier Bank, said the bank is looking at all aspects of the design for the refurbished building – even down to the furniture.

"We're looking for that old bank feel, maybe not all from the original bank, but from the era in which the original bank opened," Macari said.

Atkinson said the building would contain a marble top from the original Bank of Six Mile, donated by the son of one of the founders, and a bronze plaque on the outside of the door entering the building that recognizes the original founders and organizers of that bank.

"I am sure my grandfather and other founders would be surprised to see the full-circle evolution of banking from 95 years ago, when it took two wood burning stoves to heat the building, and the day when banking was done in ink with a simple signature to the same facility remaining functional and trendy for today's form of banking," he said. "It has indeed come full circle, and what was once old is new again."

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James Atkinson
Six Mile Town Councilman

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