

# PROJECTS AT REGISTRY, MAUSERT ON SCHEDULE

By Phil Demers, North Adams Transcript  
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The Registry of Deeds building on Park Street in Adams, as... (Gillian Jones/North Adams Transcript)

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ADAMS -- Residents noticing the work under way at the Mausert Block and the Registry of Deeds buildings on Park Street can rest assured that both projects are moving along on schedule, according to Director of Community Development Donna Cesan.

The facelift projects on the buildings began earlier this year, using funds remaining from a Community Block Development Grant the town received in 2010.

"Energy efficient windows have been installed at the Registry of Deeds, and progress is being made removing the old mortar from the brickwork on the building's facade," Cesan said. "The contractors are doing a very good job and the building is going to look terrific when they're all done."

While the town is at the helm for the Registry of Deeds project, town funds are only being used for facade work at the Mausert Block, the former home of a Woolworth's department store. The rest of the work is being handled by Braytonville Properties, who bought the building for \$60,000 in March. Internal improvements will include apartment design, safety standard updates and a new fire escape.

The building contains 18 efficiency apartments and 23 storage units. Perhaps most important to the town, however, are the street-level storefronts, which could amount to as many as five new commercial spaces on the town's primary street.

According to Cesan, it may take several years for the building to be fully renovated, but town officials are

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aiming to land five new commercial tenants in the space within 2012.

"It's a process that is currently in a very important stage," said Town Administrator Jonathan Butler. "The visual enhancement on Park Street will be significant and should be done this season."

At the Registry of Deeds, contractors are taking great pains to maintain the 'classic' look of the building with the facade restoration work.

"It's been a careful, deliberate process to maintain the historic character and the building's integrity," Cesan said.

The town is currently working carefully with contractors and architects to match the mortar style and refinish the brickwork, and the project is "nearing completion," according to Butler.

"If someone were to ask me what the two toughest looking buildings on Park Street were when I first took this job, it would have been these two," said Butler. "So it's very exciting to have the projects going on in tandem."

A new coat of paint is expected for the Registry of Deeds within the next several weeks, and the \$250,000 overall project at the building is "nearing completion," according to Butler.

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