



Light from a window outlines the seats of the balcony and a volunteer worker as restoration began on Turner Hall this past weekend.

Volunteers begin work on Turner Hall project

Work on a major project at Turner Hall began this weekend with a number of volunteers turning out to help.

The Galena Fire Department and Fire Chief Bob Smith have arranged for donated labor for a project funded by the Save Turner Hall board. The project includes replastering walls, repairing the staircase, painting walls, and general cleanup among other items.

This past weekend, 38 volunteers turned out on Saturday and 21 on Sunday, according to Tom Winter of the Save Turner Hall board.

The volunteers completed the plaster removal, lathing and blueboarding, Winter said, and the plasterer was ready to begin work on Monday. Replacing the plaster in the front foyer was added to the project, and work was directed to that area on Monday and Tuesday, he said.

A collapsed stone retaining wall in the area of the fire escape was also removed and prepared for the footings. Levens Concrete did the necessary digging and Flynn Ready-Mix donated the concrete, Winter noted.

Many people also donated food for the workers, and Fern Moyer coordinated the food this last weekend. Nelson's Bakery donated the rolls. Save Turner Hall has received memorial money from the family of David Brewer this past week, Winter said.

Not only is the project improving Turner Hall, but is uncovering objects from the past including old bottles, a book from the 1860s, and evidence of the 1926 fire in the form of burned timbers in the window wells.

Much work remains to be done and volunteers will continue their efforts this weekend and until the project is finished. Next weekend, work is expected to be concentrated on scrubbing walls, the ceiling, repairing the front staircase and general cleanup.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the scrubbing, cleaning, painting and masking woodwork.

Anyone interested in helping with the project should contact one of the members of a liaison committee of Smith, Winter, Carl Johnson and Pat Smith.