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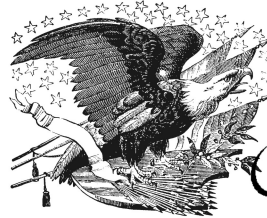
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W E E K L Y

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BACK TO THE FUTURE: WINDSOR FEDERAL BANK RETURNS TO BROAD STREET



Windsor Federal Bank President and CEO Luke Kettles (above in the historic building at 270 Broad Street that is now being renovated) believes that the return of the bank to the downtown will bring a renaissance to the area.
 Photos by John Karas

By John Karas

When Windsor Federal Savings moved most of its operations and personnel from the center of the town to Day Hill Road, in 2019, there may have been good reasons for the decision - space was at a premium at the Broad Street campus, and the International Business style corner building was showing its age. But the move was a big blow to the Windsor downtown that has been trying for decades to find its footing, and many felt it lessened the connection of the

community to the only mutual bank headquartered in Hartford County, whose founding principle is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Now, a changed and larger Windsor Federal Bank is coming back to the center, a vote of confidence to the downtown, and a clear statement of the importance the bank places on its ties with its core constituency: Windsorites.

"The town of Windsor and downtown Windsor is really the

See **WINDSOR FEDERAL** page 9

WINDSOR NATIVE REYNOLD HOOVER NAMED CEO OF LA28, THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ORGANIZATION



The LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games announced Reynold Hoover as Chief Executive Officer, leading the Organizing Committee's staff through the planning and exe-

See **OLYMPICS** page 8

2024 PAUL J. SORBO, JR. HONOREES ANNOUNCED



(Photo, left) On Thursday, April 25, 2024 at the Windsor High School National Honor Society 67th Annual



Induction Ceremony, Sophia Wilson was honored as the recipient of the Paul J. Sorbo, Jr. Scholar Award. She is the

daughter of Grant Wilson and Lisa Tatko. She will attend the University of

See **AWARDS** page 8

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Windsor Federal Bank



WINDSOR NATIVE REYNOLD HOOVER NAMED NEW CEO OF LA28, THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ORGANIZATION

From Front Page

DNA on which this bank was built," explained Windsor Federal Bank President and CEO Luke Kettles, during a tour he gave the Windsor Journal, of the 270 Broad Street building that is now being renovated. "The downtown is where we were founded. We are obviously right across from town hall and the Chamber of Commerce, and we want to be part of that again. This is our flagship office. This is our corporate headquarters."

The plan, Kettles noted, is for the space to again become a fully staffed branch of the bank, with lending staff located there as a well. He, or another executive of the bank will also be spending time in this location.

"We feel it's very important to come back downtown," Kettles stressed. "So much so, that we're investing over two and a half million dollars in this building."

The investment, to put it bluntly, shows. Anyone who knew how the facility looked before, will be surprised by the change. While the exterior of the neoclassical building remains mostly the same (with one difference) the interior is modern, airy, with open spaces and clean lines, a place a contemporary customer will feel at home. The difference we mentioned above is that the two original monumental bronze front doors have been replaced by a glass entrance that offers a direct line of sight to the Broad Street sidewalk and connects the interior of the branch to foot traffic.

An equally important aspect of the renovation, on the other hand, is that the new design stresses what Kettles called "the bank's DNA" - its history with and in the community. Not only the two large WPA-style wall murals depicting Windsor history since the time of its founding have been retained, a "history wall" with photographs and information of the past of the bank is also being prepared. Even one of the initial bank teller windows, which local legend Lon Pelton has saved, is planned to be displayed.

And the bronze doors? They are still there, now installed on the walls just beyond the new entrance, as a kind of historical artworks.

"I have a sincere appreciation for history," Kettles commented, "and I want to make sure that we tie the past into the present. We're trying to mod-



Windsor Federal Bank President and CEO Luke Kettles, with (left) Maureen Sullivan, WFB First Vice President and Corporate Secretary, and (right) WFB Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Mary-Lynn Kinney.

ernize. We're going to be paperless within a year, inside the bank. We're trying to become more efficient, so we can save money and obviously help the environment as well. But we also don't want to lose access to our roots. We want to remember where we came from. We're going to be unveiling a new look and logo that's going to be coming out soon, but we're not going to lose perspective on who we are. And it's going to be the same people. We're still owned by our depositors, but we're just going to try to modernize a little bit, to remain relevant for the long term."

If all goes well, the plan is for the (glass) doors to open to customers on September 1, Kettles calculated.

How about the other building of the campus, at 250 Broad Street, the newspaper wanted to know?

"That building is in a state of significant depreciation," he responded. "Unfortunately, we can't keep it heated or cooled for our employees or customers. That building is going to need a significant amount to become usable again. We're looking at options now but want to consider all impacts to ensure its future use is compatible and will fit in well in the downtown. We don't want to do anything detrimental to the future of Broad Street."

For the moment, though, all the focus of Windsor Federal is

town," he told the Windsor Journal. "Obviously, there's a lot of other projects going on. The Plaza theater building, the Indian restaurant and with the two apartment complexes currently under construction will add to the number of people that are walking around the center. We strongly feel downtown Windsor is very much worth the investment and we are committed to it. We're looking forward to bringing employees back down to be part of that rebirth."

In a statement to the newspaper, Thursday, Windsor Economic Development Director Patrick McMahon said that the town welcomes the bank's decision to return to the center.

"It is great to see the investment that Windsor Federal Bank is making to such a beautiful historic building in our downtown," he said. "Windsor Federal has been an important part of the fabric of Windsor Center for decades and a key partner for so many businesses and organizations in the community. We look forward to the ribbon-cutting of their refreshed space."

2024 PAUL J. SORBO, JR. HONOREES ANNOUNCED

From Front Page

Massachusetts/Amherst majoring in Architecture. This award is given annually in memory of Paul J. Sorbo, Jr., a career educator and long time Superintendent of Windsor Public Schools. Photos: (left, from left) Dr. Terrell Hill, Windsor Superintendent of Schools Sophia Wilson, Recipient, Parents Grant Wilson and Lisa Tatko.

(Photo, front page, right) during the Windsor High School Senior Scholarships and Awards Program, on May 30, 2024, Hanna Blissett was honored as the 2024 Paul J. Sorbo, Jr. Scholarship recipient.

Paul J. Sorbo was Superintendent of the Windsor Public Schools from 1969 to 1988. Throughout his career, Mr. Sorbo sought to unite students from diverse racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. He was a champion for students with disabilities and special needs and worked passionately to develop programs designed to assist all children reach their maximum potential. This scholarship is awarded to a senior who has been accepted for admission to Central CT State University, Paul's Alma Mater.


Hannah is the daughter of Andrew and Flodene Blissett She will major in Nursing.

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