

FNBT NEWS

First National Bank & Trust Co.
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Buffalo Bank celebrates grand opening Aug. 8

Community leaders and bankers gathered on Aug. 8 to celebrate the grand re-opening of First National Bank & Trust Co.'s Grand Avenue location just days after an extensive remodeling and temporary closure of the main lobby.

Keeping with its reputation as "The Buffalo Bank," hosts served buffalo sliders, old fashioned lemonade, and lots of door prizes to a crowd of nearly 200 midday.

Guest speakers included CEO John Gorton, Chickasha Mayor Chris Mosley, State Rep. David Perryman, Weston DeHart of CMSWillowbrook Construction Management, and Grand Avenue Bank Manager Sharon Bowman. Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors staged a ribbon cutting led by Chamber President Mark Rathe.

This renovation, which added new technology and redesigned the space for customer convenience, was fit into a unique construction timeline, bank officials said.

Working with construction experts and contractors, FNBT compressed the construction timeline down to two weeks, instead of three months. In practical terms, this means the bank was closed to lobby traffic for two weeks in June, while contractors worked around the clock to update interiors, enhance lighting, and add new fixtures and woodwork.

"This remodeling was aimed chiefly at customer convenience and comfort," said Kyle Abrahams, CFO for FNBT. "Grand Avenue is one of our busiest lobbies. The reorganization of its floorplan was vital for customer service. We believe this will be a very welcome improvement for our customers who visit the office, and we are committed to providing the best experience possible."

Long-time customers may remember that when the building was built in 1985, the main entrance was located on the south. Eventually the bank expanded to the north, and its entry moved to the north end. For customer convenience, this remodeling moves the teller line closer to the entrance.

"We are excited to remodel this space for our customers," says Grand Avenue Bank Manager Sharon Bowman, a 36-year banker. "We have new technology – more cash recyclers – and we've made the space more logical for privacy, security and traffic flow. We take care of a ton of business through our eight drive-through lanes, and now we'll be equipped to handle more lobby business."



Community leaders, bankers and local friends gathered for a ribbon cutting at the Grand Avenue location of First National Bank & Trust Co. on Aug. 8. Holding the ribbon, from left, are VP Deposit Operations Beverly White, Multibanker Kandice Martin, Grand Manager Sharon Bowman (with scissors), CEO John Gorton, Executive Assistant Rebecca Jones, Multibanker Chandler Pinkley, Teller Morgan Conder and Weston DeHart of CMSWillowbrook. Also, in the picture are Oklahoma Rep. David Perryman and Chickasha Mayor Chris Mosley, as well as lots of Chamber members and bankers.