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Tuscaloosa train stations gets a "face lift"

By Meredith Armstrong



The Tuscaloosa train station got a fresh coat of paint and some upgrades thanks to a local garden club's persistence.

Like a lot of things in Tuscaloosa, some people believe the minor renovations to the train station; have the University of Alabama football program to thank.

Diane Salls is the president of the Ceres Garden Club who led the charge for a fresh coat of paint, new benches, a flag pole, and fresh flowers.

Salls thinks the negative attention the train station received with Alabama fans that took the train from Tuscaloosa to New Orleans for this year's National Championship, was the extra push people needed to chip in.

Salls said now she thinks that station accurately represents Tuscaloosa. "I do now. I did not, but I do now. We look so much better than what we have in many many years."

The renovations did not cost the City of Tuscaloosa anything, but what Mayor Walt Maddox calls "sweat equity."

The renovations to the train station aren't complete. There's a goal to rip up the current platform and completely resurface it in a couple of years.

The city recently put money into upgrading the street lamps and sidewalks near the station.

But the mayor acknowledges even with the upgrades, the train station is not what it needs to be.

Mayor Maddox said, "We still several years off, but today was the first step. Getting the minimum upkeep done, beautifying it. We're going to continue. Today's not, as I mentioned earlier, a stopping point. It is really just the beginning of us trying to resurrect this old train station."

The Ceres Garden Club hopes to bring the 102 year-old building back to life before time passes it by.

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