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## **Restoration of historic 83-year-old courthouse tower begins**

Restoration has begun of the tower on the Sarasota County Historic Courthouse, located at 2000 Main St., Sarasota. The work is expected to be completed in July 2010.

Access to existing walkways, corridors and adjacent facilities will be maintained whenever possible during the project, but people are urged to use caution near active areas, and to anticipate the presence of noise, dust, water, debris, construction materials and workers.

The office of Karen E. Rushing, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller, located in the courthouse, will continue to serve citizens during normal business hours throughout all phases of construction.

The Sarasota County Commission awarded the \$838,950 construction contract to Willis A. Smith Construction Inc. on Nov. 10. Plans include the repair of concrete, brick masonry, glazed architectural terra cotta, clay tile roofing, decorative woodwork and related items for the original tower and connecting colonnades.

Both the construction firm and the architectural firm, Gregory Hall Architect of Sarasota, are restoration specialists.

During the restoration of the original tower, water under high pressure will be used as part of the process. The used water containing debris will be captured and properly disposed of to prevent polluted runoff from entering the stormwater system.

The brick structure was constructed in 1926 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All work will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Properties.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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