

# Old Town Hall sits one out

*But work will not interfere with parade*

By Doug Dalena  
Staff Writer

STAMFORD — City officials don't expect construction delays at Old Town Hall to interfere with tomorrow's (tomorrow is Sunday) Thanksgiving parade.

The 100-year-old building, on a triangular parcel bounded by Main, Bank and Atlantic streets, is undergoing the second phase of a multi-year renovation.

Construction crews are replacing the Beaux-Arts limestone building's entry staircase and sidewalks, as well as installing new light fixtures, benches and other fittings.

Because the building's east side faces the Atlantic Street parade route, city officials had hoped to have the concrete for the steps and the sidewalks poured by this week, said Jeff Pardo, the city engineer supervising the project.

The \$1.4 million current phase is intended to restore the building's steps and sidewalks to their original 1906 appearance,

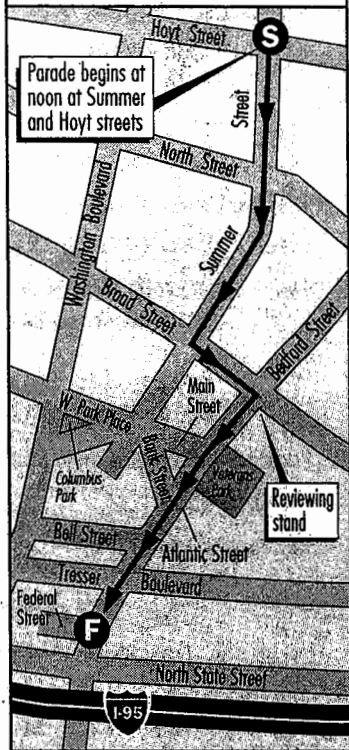
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## Stamford balloon parade

SUNDAY, NOV. 20, AT NOON

Route: Begins at Summer Street/Hoyt Street continuing down Summer Street, making a left onto Broad Street and then a right on Atlantic Street.

Balloons will turn right on Federal Street for deflation. The parade route is about 1 mile long.



Staff graphic

# Parade

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with a few exceptions for modern building codes.

But when workers dug up the foundations of the old steps and sidewalks, they found something they didn't expect: demolition debris from the ruins of the 1871 Town Hall destroyed in a 1904 fire.

"Apparently what they did after the building burned down and they tore it down, is they just collapsed all the material into the void they had," Pardo said.

Workers preparing the ground for concrete forms found old brick, stone and concrete from the original building's foundation that had to be removed because those modern building codes don't allow pouring new concrete over such debris, Pardo said.

The existing foundation also extends farther toward the street than the architect's drawings

showed, so the architect had to change the design of the new steps to work around it, he said.

Crews also found an old sanitary sewer line that had collapsed and filled with brick, earth and stone. Pardo had the contractor replace that sewer line, which serves toilets in the building, with PVC polyvinyl chloride pipe.

Removing the debris and replacing the sewer line, combined with delays in the start of demolition in September, set the construction schedule back by a month.

Pardo said he hopes now to have most of the concrete poured by Christmas.

Parade-goers who want to watch from the west side of Atlantic Street will have to contend with a construction fence and concrete Jersey barriers extending into the road.

But parade organizers don't expect that to block anyone's

view or crowd the parade route, said John Ruotolo, director of operations for the Downtown Special Services District, which organizes the parade.

Because parts of the parade route include raised medians, organizers usually route marchers to one lane or the other, Ruotolo said.

In this case, the parade will go down the northbound lane, away from Old Town Hall and closer to Veterans Park, which has plenty of room for spectators, he said.

"The preponderance of the crowd is on that east side of Atlantic Street," Ruotolo said.

Pardo did recommend that people do not sit on the Jersey barriers.

He said contractors have anchored the fences securely to the ground and tied off fence sections to trees to keep people from going through the fence during the parade.