

Community Service



Intentional Servanthood

As a TRUE community bank, our service has always been the main organizational mission. The drivers for our mission include consumer lending, business banking and real estate lending to the residential, construction, renovation, and land purchase customer. Our goal is two-fold: we strive to educate the community about our banking products and streamline the process to initiate and complete transactions. Over the last 24 months alone, our real estate lending has increased over 500%. Fulfilling this need allows us to improve property values in the community and to preserve the charm and historic appeal of our city and county.

The extension of this servant-minded approach reaches across many sectors of our community, as we seek opportunities to support and lead.

The year 2021 demanded that our efforts be centered around the campaign to Rebuild our Courthouse. On February 4, 2021, the centerpiece of our community was tragically set ablaze, with only the historic rock walls and columns remaining, despite heroic efforts of local firefighters. In the hours after this horrific event, county leaders began transitioning from a mindset of “Why us?” and “Why did this young man strike at our historic landmark?” to a mindset of “Let’s get going and get this courthouse rebuilt!”. As the county’s depository, we initiated setting of accounts to receive donations, which arrived from across the country. In addition, we established a GoFundMe account to make it easier for remote donations to be captured. Our bank President, Michael Cope, along with our Board of Directors issued a strong statement of support by donating \$100,000 to the newly established ‘Rebuild our Courthouse’ fund and meeting with the County Judge and Treasurer at 8AM the morning after the fire. Our goal was to signal our immediate and on-going support to come alongside our county team and bring our courthouse back to its original grandeur. Additionally, we provided meals for local firefighters, sheriff’s office personnel, county employees and state fire marshal personnel for 3 days after the fire, given their ongoing efforts related to the fire. The immediate community outpouring that included donations, fund raising events and outreach to others has been impactful. The other community bank in Mason pledged \$100,000, and ongoing efforts have brought the total today to \$430,000 and counting! Additionally, a group of local leaders was appointed by the County Judge to coordinate the fund raising campaign and ***Friends of the Mason County Courthouse*** is now officially a legal entity and has filed for a 501C(3) non-profit status. Current TCB VP of Lending, Curtis Donaldson serves as the Vice-President of the group, and TCB former bank owner and President, Bobbie McMillan serves as the President of FOMCC. Many events are being planned to raise monies for the renovation, including a major fund raiser with several music artists and live auctions on October 30th on the Mason Square. The goal of the group is to raise the \$4 million shortfall needed to complete the rebuilding of our courthouse. To date, IBAT has been very helpful in spreading the word to community banks across Texas and support our local efforts. Since the IBAT email blast, 2 community banks have donated over \$7,500 to the campaign and other banks have noted they will attend the fund raiser in October and participate in the auction! We will remain focused on our support and leadership for this cause, until the courthouse is rebuilt and the necessary funds are committed.

Beyond deep involvement with the Courthouse, TCB has been involved several other service areas in the Mason community, to include:

- Redeployment of PPP Fees to local non-profits and youth activities and the Courthouse Campaign,
- Support of the expansion and renovation of our local food bank,
- Support of Bluebonnet CASA, during the pandemic, via setup and promotion of their GoFundMe campaign, as they had to cancel their fund-raiser.
- The continued service of bank staff on local boards and leadership groups that include Mason County Chamber of Commerce, Mason ISD Education Foundation, Mason Community Scholarship Fund, Friends of the Mason County Courthouse, Steady Steps Childcare Program, The Seaquist House Foundation, Riata Foundation, Mason Hospital Board and founding of the Mason Community Advocates Group.
- Mason Community Advocates, a group of 10 local business leaders is focused on supporting the economic viability of our community by leading a vision and strategy to ensure sustained progress and continued enhancement of our local culture. The group takes on mission- critical issues including affordable housing, long term viability of our square and other community businesses, support for the local food bank, partnering with Mason ISD to launch an internship program for students and re-launch of our local Farmers Market.
- Bank Staff plays an integral part of engaging with Texas A&M Medical School's Rural Initiative to secure Mason as a pilot location for collaboration between our local clinic and the A&M Health Science Center. The forward-looking mission is to ensure long-term succession plans for our local clinic, internships for med students in our rural clinic and launching a mini-Med School at Mason ISD to recruit rural young adults into the medical field.
- We enjoy the frequent provision of coffee to Mason ISD teachers and staff, sheriff's department, fire department, EMS, county offices, city offices, and other first responders and community leaders throughout the year, as a small token of our appreciation for their continual service to our community. In the process, we are able to support out local coffee shop!

We will continue our proactive and intentional approach to service in our County and community.

Our goal is to always be **More Than a Bank!**



The Tragic Fire

The night of February 4, 2021 will live in infamy for the small town of Mason, Texas. An eerie orange glow could be seen for miles as our beloved courthouse burned before our eyes. With one heartless act, the symbol of our community for over 100 years was taken away.

Local and area firefighters worked tirelessly to save the historic courthouse, but the fire destroyed much of the top of the building, leaving just a shell of its former glory.



Estimates for rebuilding our courthouse are costly at
+ \$20 Million

In the wake of tragedy *We Will Rebuild*

"I personally feel like I lost a member of my family and so many people have told me how heartbroken they are over this disaster. Character is tested by fire and the citizens of this county are made of strong stuff and we will overcome this tragedy."

- Judge Bearden



Funding for Courthouse Rebuild:

Mason County Courthouse Insurance
\$6.5 Million
+
Texas Historical Commission Grant
\$3.7 Million
+
Texas State Legislature
\$6 Million

Which leaves us to fundraise for
Over \$4 Million Needed

About the Rebuild

The citizens of Mason County set to work quickly, looking towards the future of rebuilding our beloved courthouse. A structural analysis has proven that the remaining walls and columns can be saved, acting as a foundation for the renovations. "As County judge, it is my goal to rebuild our Historic courthouse, not to replace it with a new or modern structure," says Judge Bearden. That rebuild is priced to cost about \$20 million, not to mention the costs of repairing the lawn, irrigation and trees. Funding for this project comes from several sources: the Texas Association of Counties (insurance proceeds), the Texas Historical Commission (grant) and a lump sum appropriation from the Texas Legislature. Despite these sources, we anticipate a shortfall of \$4 to \$5 million. Therefore, the Friends of the Courthouse has been created to supply private gap funding.



Help our cause with online donation at
www.FriendsoftheCourthouse.com,
or simply mail a check to one
of our local banks!

Friends of the Courthouse

*Friends coming together to rebuild
the symbol of our community*

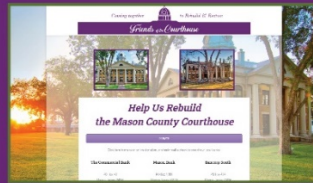
About Us

The Friends of the Courthouse was formed in the wake of the tragic Mason County Courthouse fire to rebuild the symbol of our community. In this moment, we've come together to rise above the devastation and redefine our future. With so many people reaching out to help, this tragedy has turned into an opportunity to grow closer in appreciation for not only what is lost, but what we choose to build upon and appreciate for years to come.

Our Mission

Our mission is to raise funds to provide financial support for the County of Mason in its efforts to reconstruct and restore the Mason County Courthouse to its original grandeur.

Our board Members include:
Homer Sanchez, Randy Kruse, Brandon Willis, Chris Hicks, Connie Stockbridge, Bobbie McMillan, Curtis Donaldson



Visit our website
www.FriendsoftheCourthouse.com
to learn more

Want to donate to our cause?

Make an online donation on our website,
or simply mail a check to one of our local banks!

The Commercial Bank
PO Box 40
Mason, Texas 76856

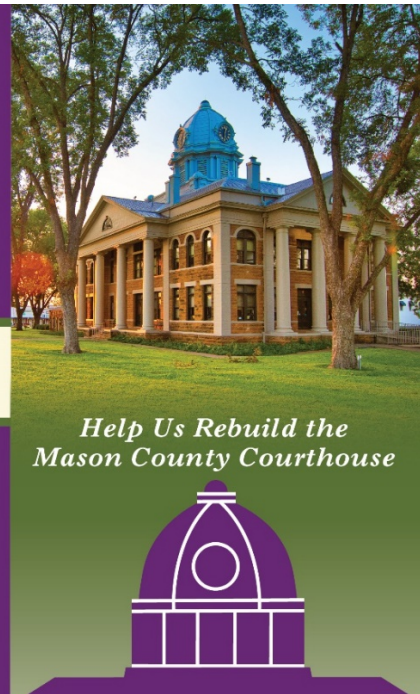
Mason Bank
PO Box 1789
Mason, Texas 76856

Bancorp South
PO Box 434
Mason, Texas 76856

Your generous donation is tax-deductible.
Our 501(c)(3) Tax ID is XXXXXXXX



Mason County Courthouse Fire - 2021



*Help Us Rebuild the
Mason County Courthouse*



*Friends
of the
Courthouse*

www.FriendsoftheCourthouse.com



The Commercial Bank
Mason, Texas

Community Service

Intentional Servanthood – More than a Bank

Summary:

Community Service and being intentional about that service is at the forefront of our bank culture and paramount to how we operate each and every day. This year we stretched that a bit more with the Mason County Courthouse fire and helping lead the charge to rally support for funding the shortfall of \$4 million to ensure the county has the funds to rebuild the courthouse to its original grandeur. Each week we discuss and think through ways to support our community given the landscape is changing rapidly and needs each week may be different. From small gestures such as sending a specialty coffee to show our gratitude, to contributing to fund raisers for non-profits, to reaching out to customers to inform them of programs that are available to help them financially. Being intentional is a daily process and our goal is to keep getting better at it every day.