

The Daily Courier

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Bashford Court owners purchase the neighboring Prescott Plaza, bring back Bashford-Burmister name

[Jason Soifer](#)

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One of the more prominent buildings in downtown Prescott has a new owner, who plans to honor its history.

Cliff Petrovsky announced that escrow closed Tuesday on the acquisition of the Prescott Plaza building on Gurley Street.

Petrovsky and the five members in his investment group also own the neighboring Bashford Courts building, which is on the other side of the wall.



Les Stukenberg/The Daily Courier

The entire edifice dates back to the early 1900s and was once known as the Bashford-Burmister building, running as a mercantile store for many years. Solts clothing store, JC Penney and Creative Interiors formerly made the building their home.

Petrovsky said people went there to buy everything from dry goods and traps to firearms and canned goods.

"For years, the buildings were the general store of the town," he said. "The Bashford-Burmister mercantile was where it was happening."

Prescott Historic Preservation Specialist Cat Moody explained that the building was once a single-story structure, and the Bashford-Burmister Company added the upper levels and an art-deco-style façade to make it flow with the Bashford Court building to the west.

Most recently, entrepreneur Ajay Patel had leased the Burmister building, remodeled the building's interior and exterior, added eight separate shops in the 6,000-square-foot main level, and renamed it Prescott Plaza. Patel then sold the lease to property baroness Annette Williams, owner of a number of commercial spaces in downtown Prescott, this past October. Williams died later that month.

"It's not very often that a property like this comes on the market," he said. "It's the right time to do it if you're capitalized to make the improvements to attract the better businesses. And I think it's good for downtown."

Among the changes that Petrovsky plans to make in the space include changing the name back to its historic moniker and making about \$300,000 worth of improvements to the building such

as an elevator, stairs, some electrical work and bathrooms.

That means filling out the main floor with a mix of retail businesses and possibly turning the second floor into a restaurant. "I've had four restaurant inquiries about the space," he said. "I haven't marketed the property and there's been a lot of interest, (despite) the economic downturn."

It's a move Petrovsky and his investment group are making with the knowledge that the tenants in Bashford Court are seeing business improve. Petrovsky said that the three-story retail shopping area is completely leased out.

"Retail sales have improved, things are turning around," he said. "(If) gas prices don't kill us this summer, I think it's going to be a good summer."

Petrovsky did not disclose terms of the purchase. The county's website lists the property's 2012 assessed full-cash value at \$641,834.

Fred Lindquist, owner/broker of Lindquist Realtors, worked on the transaction, as he represents the estate of Annette Williams. Lindquist said Petrovsky's stewardship helps the tenants and the community.

"It's just an all-around win-win situation," he said. "Cliff is very well qualified to do all the things necessary to bring it back to its influence on the downtown area."

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