



COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION

# THE Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

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**Knowing the ropes!** When Colonial Fox Theatre opened in 1920, it was known as *hemp house*. No! Not that kind of hemp. Theatres with rope and pin fly systems were given that name due to the use of hemp rope that was common in early theatrical rigging.

**Scenic backdrops** were hung by rope then connected to one or more sandbags through a series of pulleys before being secured by a pin to the pin rail. Once the pin is removed the sandbag drops and the scene is lowered. As you can imagine, if someone did not “know the ropes,” sandbags could be dropping when least expected. The restored Colonial Fox will have a modern counterweight system. However, to preserve the history and knowledge of the *hemp house*, we will archive what is left of our hemp system and create a display of our formerly operating pin and rail hemp system, including the block and tackle and sandbag.



**There’s No Place Like Home for the Holidays!** And nothing welcomes folks home during the holidays more than the Christmas Lights on Broadway. Our beautiful lights and main street rival any in the country and are a testament to the care and pride that is given to our Broadway Holiday Tradition by the City administration. Twelve years ago this full and complete street display was almost lost to us. Fortunately, generous downtown business owners stepped in to propose a solution. Although these

decorations are not exactly the same as they were in the early days, they are remarkable and continue to call to mind the nostalgia and the joy of the holidays.

**Thank you so much!** We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those who helped to make the year-end **1920 CIRCLE Annual Fund Drive** a success. Your generosity allowed us to secure our year-end challenge grant of \$30,000! Your charitable gift is recognized in the attached **1920 CIRCLE Annual Fund DONOR HONOR ROLL**. Thank you!



### **A Cast of Thousands!**

Well, maybe not thousands, but Pittsburg Middle School's *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* boasted a cast of 42 talented and enthusiastic actors. This delightful musical about a young girl whose curiosity leads her down a rabbit hole of adventure, was directed by Kimberly Arzoian and

Janette Mauk. The performance was at the Memorial Auditorium for this one time only night of madness and magic. This was a fabulous event for the young actors at PCMS to strut-their-stuff to citizens of Pittsburg. You may read a wonderful description by Stephanie Potter in the Pittsburg Morning Sun. <https://www.morningsun.net/news/20191211/pcms-theatre-to-perform-musical-alice-in-wonderland-jr>

**The Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation** is offering a parking solution in the downtown area. If you live and work downtown, we know how important it is to be parked close to your destination, so we are offering reserved parking in our parking lot next to the theatre. Monthly parking is \$50 dollars and day parking is \$5 dollars with all proceeds going to the restoration of the Colonial Fox Theatre. If you would like to rent a parking space stop by the Foundation office or call 620-235-0622.



**May the best of the New Year  
be with you and yours!**

### **QUESTIONS?**

Please call us at (620) 235-0622 or e-mail us at [info@colonialfox.org](mailto:info@colonialfox.org)  
Our website – [www.colonialfox.org](http://www.colonialfox.org) / Our address - P.O. Box 33 / Pittsburg, KS 66762

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The MARQUEE is provided to individuals and businesses who help advance the cause of philanthropy through the renovation and operation of the Colonial Fox Theatre.