

# Marquee

# From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

July 2019 / ISSUE TWO / VOL I

**So glad you like The Marquee!** "I received the latest issue of Marquee and loved the photos. When I think back to what the Colonial Fox looked like when you started it's amazing to see it now. Out of all the things I miss about SEK, excluding family, helping work on the theatre is at the top. ... Thank you for all you do to bring life back to the downtown area and especially for bringing the theatre back from the dead." – Roger Buck, St. Charles, MO

# Do you remember the five visionary

contractors who unified a grass-roots campaign to Save the Colonial Fox and then initiated emergency measures to halt the damage? Here they are installing temporary downspouts with the help of CDL Electric. Who were these heroes? Brian Berndt, Paul Keys, Bob Berry, Randy Konek, and Jon Splitter. Many Thanks!!





It takes a village. Our volunteers are passionate about the restoration of the Colonial Fox Theatre and deserve high praise for their hard work. We greatly appreciate all they do to make our events possible! If you would like to join this exceptional team visit www.colonialfox.org or call us - 620-235-0622!

**BACK to BROADWAY 2019!** Mark your calendars for August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We celebrate the return of PSU students with a rousing concert by regional favorites *The Ben Miller Band*. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$15 for the general public. Experience the Colonial Fox and Downtown as they were intended – for enjoying live music, great food, and gathering as a city to celebrate the incredible revitalization of our great Downtown.

# Does this Marquee look familiar?

The first home of the Fox marquee (that we know of) was the *Midland Theatre*. The Midland was constructed in 1908, however Midland was not its original name; it began as the Wonderland, then the Vaudome, the Electric, and finally the Klock in 1916. We don't know where the marquee originated, but it didn't land on North Broadway until 1926 when a major remodel transformed the Klock into the Midland Theatre.



We are so sad at the passing of our dear friends Ken Wilkerson and James Buche. They will be missed by the entire community. Our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.



Hurrah for Pittsburg! Our fabulous City was awarded a \$16,000 Kansas Historic Preservation Fund Grant from the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office. These funds will be used to hire a historian to unearth the secrets of our downtown buildings. The research into these historic buildings will be exciting. The Colonial Fox is proud to be a part of the surge of historical buildings being restored to their former glory.

What people are saying about the Colonial Fox: "In some ways, the Colonial Fox is like a representation of Pittsburg itself. It's full of history, has made lots of recent progress but isn't quite there yet. At the heart of Pittsburg is downtown. And the heart of the downtown is the Colonial Fox. For the town to be completely reborn for the 21st century and really live again, it needs its heart to beat strong." Matt Burton, Vecino Group, Springfield, MO

**Did you know?** Asa Messenger was the contractor behind the construction of the Colonial Fox Theatre. He was noted for his work on other Pittsburg landmarks such as the Masonic Temple, the Besse Hotel, the National Bank, and the building of Russ Hall at the Auxiliary Manual Training Normal School, now Pittsburg State University.

### **QUESTIONS?**

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

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.