



# THE Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

August 2020 / ISSUE FIVE / VOL 2

**Theatre Spotlight:** The story of the Burford Theatre begins prior to its opening in 1924. J.R. Burford and stockholders decided that Arkansas City, KS needed a theatre of beauty and character.

They engaged the Boller Brothers for the design. The Boller Brothers selected a Spanish Renaissance theme to develop the interior decor of the theatre. In 2004, B & B Theatres donated the Burford Theatre building to the Arkansas City Area Arts Council and a dream for restoring the historic architectural



centerpiece of downtown Arkansas City was formed. It took thirteen years of hard work, but on September 29, 2016 at 2:00 pm, the doors were opened. A new generation now enjoys this majestic theatre as it presents movies, music, performances, special events, weddings, celebrations, and live theatrical performances. The restored 1924 version of the theatre is now a cornerstone in the life of this city of 14,000, helping to build community.

**620 Day returned in June!** The Pittsburg Downtown Advisory Board was excited to announce plans earlier this year for the 2020 June 20<sup>th</sup> celebration: **620 Day**. This is a day when citizens are encouraged to shop local and enjoy the special discounts offered by different downtown retailers and restaurants. This year's special reveal was the design of the new Pittsburg flag. Congratulations to Levi Weilert for presenting the winning design. A huge thank you to Imagine Pittsburg 2030 and the nearly 1,100 people who voted for helping make this decision! A special thanks to all the businesses for doing their part to make sure social distancing was made possible for a thoroughly enjoyable and important day for Pittsburg.



**Colonial Fox Milestones:** In 2011 the Theatre experienced a breakthrough: We reclaimed the interior environment. First was the mold and asbestos abatement project. The crews of Gerken Environmental Enterprise and ACM Removal completed the work.

Thereafter, dampness from cracks in the north wall had to be repaired. Heikes Masonry & Restoration began repair of the North Wall on April 30. After a thorough power washing and “chasing and filling” the cracks, the wall enjoyed a new coat of elastomeric paint. This was topped off with major work by Home Center Construction to install a French-drain system in the basements, Additional and essential structural repair was also completed. Milestone indeed! Now our basements are bone dry, usable and ready for the renovation of the main performance hall above!



**City of Pittsburg Announces Grants for Local Businesses and Food Pantries!**

Local businesses now have access to two separate grant programs, each designed to help those affected



by the COVID-19 pandemic. Both are GRANTS, not loans, but are administered through different entities. First are the SPARK funds. These are administered through the Crawford County Commission and include \$1.47 million to assist local small businesses and nonprofits (fewer than 100 employees) affected by the pandemic. Grant amounts will range from \$1,000-\$20,000. All applications must be received by noon, August 6. Next are the CDBG-CV funds. These are

administered through local City governments (and the County for those businesses outside of Pittsburg, Frontenac and Girard), these funds are specifically for those small businesses (fewer than 100 employees) retaining low to moderate-income employees. Fifty-one percent of all Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs retained must meet the low-to-moderate income threshold. The deadline for this program is August 14.

**Did you know?** *The first class was taught in the town in the fall of 1877; A. J. Georgia was the teacher. It was kept in a schoolhouse that was erected during the summer. The building was a two-story frame, containing two departments.*

**QUESTIONS?**

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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.