



Newsletter 6/2007 -- Volume 1, Issue 2

## Colonial Fox Foundation

# Green Room Newsletter

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Dr. Grady Smoot

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### Upcoming Date to Remember

Area 51 Benefit Concert  
June 16th, 2007  
JB's Bar & Grill

## The Lights Return to Broadway

When the Colonial Fox Theatre reopens its doors, it will provide a venue for professionals and amateurs alike, and will feature theatrical performances, music concerts, and a variety of independent/classic films. The theatre will house a café and educational and corporate meeting space. Our plans for future programming include becoming host to art exhibits, film and music festivals and extended performing art workshops. This multi-use capability holds the key to meeting all the community's needs.

### **Independent & Classic Films**

The Colonial Fox Foundation wants to provide film lovers the opportunity to enjoy first rate films in the comfort on an intimate, inviting and cosmopolitan atmosphere. The theatre's nostalgic ambiance makes it perfect for showing vintage and independent films.

### **Theatrical Performances**

Once home to vaudevillian entertainers, the theatre's stage can accommodate theatrical lighting and stage equipment. The CFF wants to bring local, regional and national acts to perform on the stage for the people of Southeast Kansas.

### **Live Music**

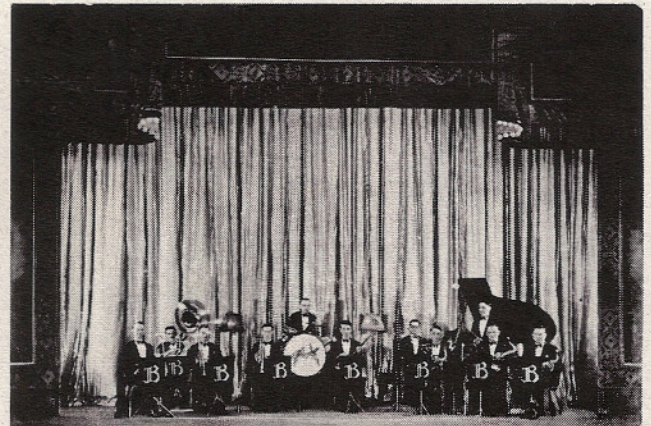
The Colonial Fox theatre will provide an alternative night spot not presently available by showcasing homegrown Kansas talent as well as a broad range of live performances.

### **Private Screenings**

The Colonial Fox Theatre will provide the perfect venue for developing artists to showcase their start-up movie projects. The theatre is the perfect atmosphere to take "home movie night" out on the town. Friends and family will view the premiere showings of family weddings, holiday get togethers, and memorable events in children's lives.

### **Education & Extended Workshops**

The vision of the Colonial Fox



*Photo courtesy of Nick Sell.*

Foundation is to establish a theatre where citizens can not only view the movie, concert, play, or art show, but also have the opportunity to learn how to create those events. The Colonial Fox Foundation will develop educational programming, which will provide the resources, the training, and the occasion for its students to display their works.

Eventually, the Colonial Fox Foundation would like to sponsor in-depth Extended Performing Arts Workshops. These master workshops will be unique to the Four State Area in that they will bring together accomplished artists and interested students to share in a creative collaboration over a one or two week period.

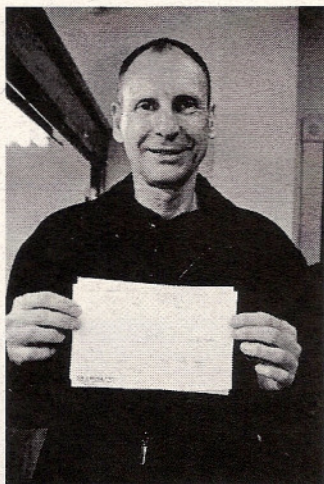
### **Meetings & Community Events**

The Colonial Fox Foundation wants to offer multimedia capabilities to local businesses and community organizations for special events. The venue is perfect for fund raisers, client and employee recognition parties and birthday and anniversary celebrations. The theatre hopes to be able to offer catering for these events.

### **Café & Catering**

The Colonial Fox Foundation will incorporate a gourmet cafe in the theatre. The cafe will feature a simple but diverse and upscale menu. Live entertainment and meetings can be catered by the cafe for a complete Colonial Fox experience.

## Groundbreaking Treasurer Bids Farewell to the Board



George Weeks, CFF founding treasurer, proudly displays tax receipt.

**"That day will be seen as a turning point in the history of the Colonial Fox Theatre."**

**- George Weeks**

Thanks to our wonderful donors and volunteers, the Colonial Fox Theatre crossed an important threshold on April 9. The theatre was foreclosed upon last year by Crawford County for the nonpayment of property taxes since 2002. A group of contractors then began meeting to figure out how to save the theatre. A public meeting in December 2006 motivated others to become involved. Immediately, the Colonial Fox Foundation, or the CFF, began meeting weekly to develop a strategy. The focus of the CFF was on the date, April 11th, and the need to address the payment of the back taxes and the public sale.

The tax sale was initially set for January. After several postponements, the sale date was set for April 11th. At the time, these delays were a source of minor relief, since it gave us extra time to get our act together. We discovered the theatre was likely to be bought by someone who intended to tear it down for extra parking - a tragedy in our minds. We knew avoiding the tax sale by paying the taxes was the only way the theatre could be saved. This set of circumstances kept us motivated, with that April 11th date always on our minds.

Many members of the CFF put on fundraisers, sent out letters and the first newsletter, and talked to numerous people. Others researched everything from the history of the theatre, to how other theatres survive, to the organizational structure of a foundation. Some people made in-kind donations. When cash donations began to come in, we were elated that other people

wanted to see the theatre restored. As April 11th approached, we were still uncertain as to whether we would be able to avoid the tax sale or if we would be witnessing the wrecking ball on Broadway. With one week to go, we were blessed with enough donations. We could march into the courthouse in Girard and pay the taxes. Success was now possible.

On April 9th we would pay the taxes and make our first payment to the owner, gaining title to the theatre. The festivities began at 1 PM at Strecker Title Agency, where the sale documents were signed. Eight intrepid CFFers met at the Crawford County Courthouse at 3 p.m. with one check for taxes, one for court costs, and one to register the deed. First, we swarmed to the court office to drop off the first check for court costs. Then we went to the county treasurer's office and found Joe Grisolano smiling back at us. He smiled for the photographer as all eight CFFers handed the tax check over. Then we needed a receipt from next door. Finally, we registered the deed, which seemed almost anticlimactic. After about an hour, we had all our business accomplished.

That day will be seen as a turning point in the history of the Colonial Fox Theatre. We are paid up on our taxes. We have made the first payment on the purchase of the theatre and have insurance on the building. We have developed an organization that has the trust of people in the Pittsburg area. The future looks bright for the Colonial Fox Theatre.

## Introducing Cynthia Harvey: CFF Treasurer



CFF Treasurer  
Cynthia Harvey

Cynthia Harvey moved to Pittsburg almost two years ago from Santa Monica, CA. Many factors went into the decision for her move to Pittsburg, including the awareness that our town is ripe for revitalization.

After graduating in 1980 with a degree in business, Cynthia worked at a CPA firm, auditing banks and doing taxes for large corporations. She became a CPA in 1984, had her first child, and then went to work for an income tax software company. In 1994 Cynthia completed her MBA and spent many years directing the team that developed and maintained the partnership tax program. In 2001 Cynthia returned to school to become a psychotherapist. She was

licensed in California as a Marriage and Family Therapist. She then decided to move to Kansas. Rather than complete the course work and internship necessary to be a licensed psychotherapist in Kansas, Cynthia decided to change career paths and has enjoyed much success in her jewelry business, Cyndee's Accents.

Due to her love of old architecture and independent films, Cynthia was very excited to hear that there was a revitalization effort in place for the downtown theater. She quickly became a member of the Colonial Fox Foundation team. When the need for a treasurer arose, Cynthia graciously stepped up to the plate.

## Dear Supporters and Friends...

Welcome to the second edition of the Greenroom newsletter. **Building the future, while preserving the past.** This is an expression that has come to me several times as we work to bring the Colonial Fox Theatre to Pittsburg again.

The Colonial Fox Theatre's restoration will preserve the past by retaining and restoring unique architectural history. We are in the protection stage at present. Contractors are working diligently to repair the roof and protect the theatre from the elements. Meantime community volunteers are cleaning debris from the basement and office space.

Big-hearted businesses and contractors are helping us build the future. Many local businesses have agreed to partner with us in our effort to clean up the theatre. Their commitment of time and materials has been most generous. Pittsburg is rallying to our cause and more businesses are coming forward every day!

Building the future will also be accomplished through the development of strong guiding documents and a solid organizational structure. There will be a Board of Trustees that will consist of up to 24 members from all areas of the community. Within the Board will be an Executive Committee as well as working committees.

We have developed the documentation to file for 501(c)3 status. Until we acquire this status we are using

the 501(c)3 status of the Stillwell Hotel Heritage and Educational Foundation and the services of the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas.

Two vital organizations for ongoing fundraising and programming support are the Friends of the Colonial Fox Theatre and the Colonial Fox Theatre Players. The Player's mission is to produce and sponsor theatre, live music and other programs relating to theatre and performing arts entertainment to educate audiences in the Four State area. The Friends' mission is to build a constituent group for the Colonial Fox Foundation. This will provide critical operating support for CFF.

We estimate that we will need to raise about \$150,000 for the stabilization of the Colonial Fox Theatre. Our Development Committee is actively reviewing the possibilities of grant monies that will reimburse up to 40% of the stabilization costs and qualifying CFF to receive 30% of the theatre's stabilization costs in tax credits. Eventually we will need to create an endowment fund to operate the Theatre through the office of an Executive Director.

Are these goals realistic? Yes! Other theatres have done it and so can we. By joining the 400 for 40K Club, you can help preserve the past.

The Colonial Fox Theatre will Bring the Lights Back to Broadway and 400 people (or groups of people) will have the honor of saying that they paid off the theatre.



Eight Colonial Fox Foundation members hand the tax check over to Joe Grisolano at the Crawford County Courthouse.

**JOIN THE 400 FOR \$40K CLUB**  
\$40,000  
**COLONIAL**  
\$30,000  
**F**  
\$20,000  
**O**  
\$10,000  
**X**  
\$0

The purchase price for the building that houses the Colonial Fox Theatre is \$40,000. By becoming a member of the 400 Club, you will be purchasing a piece of history and reclaiming the culture of Pittsburg.

A plaque honoring the 400 for \$40K members will be prominently displayed in the Colonial Fox Theatre. Each 400 Club member will have his or her name engraved on the plaque. If a group has donated \$100 collectively, the group name will be engraved on the plaque.

This plaque will proudly identify members as contributing purchasers of the theatre.

## The 400 for 40K Campaign

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This plaque will proudly identify you as a contributing purchaser of the theatre.

## Area 51 Benefit Concert

Local band, AREA 51, will be performing Saturday, June 16th at JB's to benefit the Colonial Fox Foundation. The show will start at 8:00pm and they will play until 11:00pm.

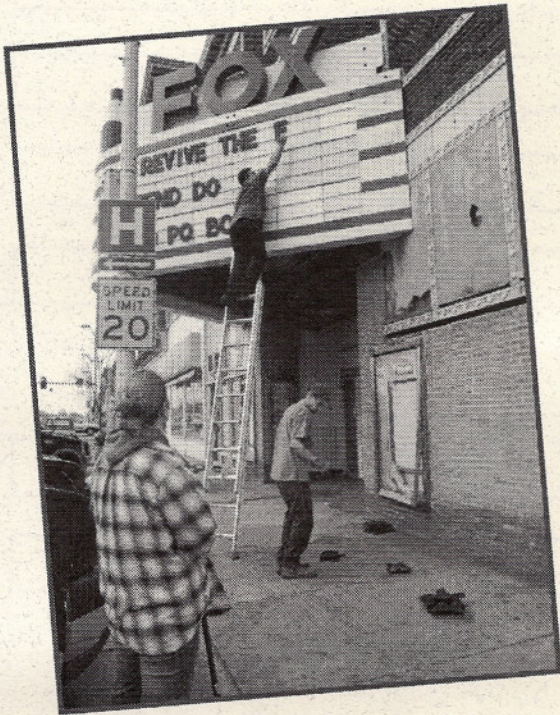
There will be a cover charge at the

door with all proceeds going to CFF. AREA 51 plays favorites from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. Come enjoy a great local band while supporting a great cause.

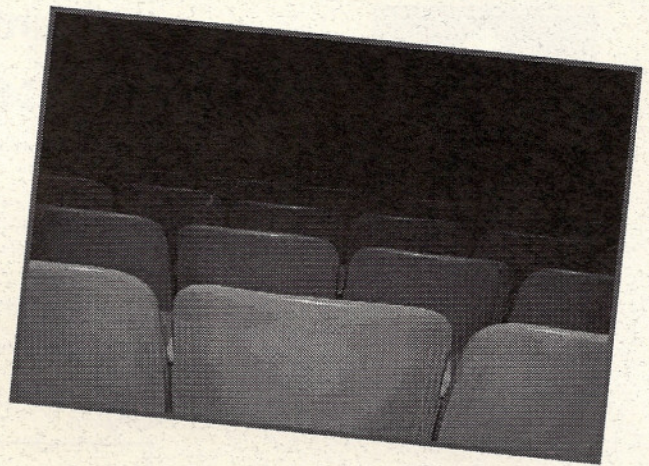


*From the Community...*

**"The Fox is at the heart of Pittsburg."**  
-Jason Dunnington



**"At one point, this was a booming town, the history that happened here is unbelievable! today that excitement is gone, but why not bring a little back? Everyday I walk downtown and walk by the theatre and I wonder what it was like when it was open."**  
-Community Member



**"My parents met and worked here [at the theatre] when they were younger and fell in love. So it has a special play in my heart and theirs."**  
-Kayla Blanch



**"The Fox Theatre is history... we should all feel proud to still have old historic buildings standing"**  
-LeAnn Ransom



Colonial Fox Foundation

# I want to help the Colonial Fox Foundation Race to Revive the Fox Theatre!

First and last name

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Fax

Work Phone

Extension

e-mail

Website

**If you have not already,  
please ask your  
friends and neighbors  
to support CFF!**

- Mailing list only at this time (please provide e-mail address)
- Send me information about major donations and naming opportunities
- Please send me information about a future membership in the Colonial Fox Foundation

Please circle those areas you are interested helping with:

Community fundraising

Major gifts fundraising

Public presentations

Historic research

Construction and restoration

Event Planning

Anyway the Colonial Fox needs me!

Other \_\_\_\_\_

*I also want to Volunteer!*

Make checks payable to "Colonial Fox Foundation"

Return to: Colonial Fox Foundation

P.O. Box 33

Pittsburg, KS 66762

# COLONIAL FOX FOUNDATION

PO BOX 33  
Pittsburg, KS 66762

## Colonial Fox Foundation

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620.231.2405

E-MAIL:

colonialfox@sbcglobal.net



**We're on myspace!**

See us at:

[www.myspace.com/colonialfox](http://www.myspace.com/colonialfox)

## PLEASE JOIN THE FOLLOWING COLONIAL FOX 400 CLUB MEMBERS IN BRINGING THE LIGHTS BACK TO BROADWAY

John & Kathryn Arthur  
Jim & Donita Barone  
Alexander Bednekoff  
Pamela & Calvin Beer  
Bud Benelli  
*Bud's Jewelry*  
Sharon Bengsten  
C.M. Boccia  
Doris Bradley  
Carolyn Brooker  
A.O. & Donna Brown  
James & Carolyn Buche  
CP Communications  
Laura Carlson  
Jackie & Dick Casey  
Ronald & Patricia Clement  
Ron & Nancy Close  
Jim Copeland  
Gene Corsini  
Vonnice Corsini  
Frances Corsini Memorial  
Fred Corsini Memorial  
Justin Crain  
Thomas Daniel  
Warren & Gail Deatherage  
Tom Gladson Memorial  
Jane Dreher  
Judy Dugan  
*The Decorum*  
Stephen Earnest  
Bonita Falletti  
Carolyn Fehrenbach  
Melissa Fite  
Arnold Flottman, Jr.

Carmen Flottman  
Ewellen Good  
David & Elizabeth Gordon  
Cynthia Harvey  
Ruthellyn Hinton  
Roger & Heather Horton  
Gordon House  
Luella House  
Bob & Elma Hurt  
Jeff & Kay James  
John & Dorothy Johnson  
Marc Johnson  
Robert Johnston  
Diana Kerle  
Rick Lindskog  
Richard & Nancy Lipka  
Don Judd & Wendy Long  
Janette Mauk  
Courtney McCartney  
*Beta Sigma Phi Ro Phi*  
Todd & Kelli McKnight  
Nicole Meyer  
Norman Miller  
*Mid-America Roofing*  
Nancy Miller  
*Mid-America Roofing*  
Kevin Mitchelson  
Bill Morin  
*Broadway Law Office*  
Kay Morin  
*Broadway Law Office*  
Patrick O'Bryan  
*Little's Inc.*

Virginia Ortolani  
Alfred Ortolani  
Jack & Doris Overman  
George & Carolyn Pickell  
Mary DuReece Porr  
Zack Quier  
*Zack's Restaurant*  
Cindy & Elie Riachi  
Jerry Sample  
Rhona Shand  
John & Marilyn Sheldon  
Elizabeth Smith  
Christopher & Sharyn Smoot  
Joseph Grady Smoot  
Lori Ann Spachek  
*State Farm Insurance*  
Louis & Corene Stroup  
Victor & Mary Kate Sullivan  
Mary Sylvester  
Bob & Patricia Terlip  
Robert & Marilyn Thomas  
James & Wava VanBeclaere  
Gene Vollen  
Linda Vollen  
Margaret Walker  
Charles & Kaye Lynn Webb  
Cotton & Judy Westhoff  
Bobby Winters  
Randy & Heather Winzer  
Talatt & Marie Yaghmoor  
Robert Zagonel  
Carolyn Zagonel  
Chicopee Foundation, Inc.  
Friday Study Club

**The mission of the Colonial Fox Foundation is to enhance and encourage the spirit of the Pittsburg area by the preservation and utilization of the Colonial Fox Theatre.**