



## CITY OF COLUMBUS

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### Column #35 – Pavilion Pride

#### “Under the Clock Tower”

The Crawfish River, the Columbus Community Hospital, the Train Depot, the beautiful parks, and City Hall. Don't these places make you think about our great City? As a Columbus native, don't they stir up memories for you? Perhaps no other location evokes as much nostalgia as the centerpiece of Firemen's Park, our 100-year old Pavilion.

I'd make that argument – that nothing is more “Columbus” as the Pavilion. Why? Besides its timeless beauty and symbolic status as a key piece to our history, the building means so much to so many...but in many different ways. Those of our well-seasoned residents will recall the days of Saturday night dances there, with big bands playing (I've heard stories of the famous Tommy Dorsey Orchestra and Louis Armstrong). Others recall an annual Columbus Fair being held at pavilion and grounds, which was a celebration of the harvest and all things agricultural. I personally remember going to the pavilion as a kid and watching movies there on Saturday mornings, while others remember roller skating there.

What makes the Pavilion significant this year besides its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, is that it is finally getting some needed upgrades to make it even more of an asset to us. Later this month, if you head to the park you will start to see construction work going on, a project that is long overdue and made possible by the generosity of so many people in our great hometown. In the past year and a half, private donations, some very large, but from many individuals and all very appreciated have made the project a reality. With the care of the Columbus Historic Land Preservation Commission, the HLPC has guided the project through plan design and approval, bidding and construction readiness.

By the end of the project, the Pavilion will be more accessible to all through the addition of an elevator. New restrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor and a remodel of the restrooms on the ground floor are also on tap. A newer, better and more accessible pavilion will allow for the building to be utilized even more than it already is. As a top-notch wedding and celebration venue, these improvements will be key to bringing in resources to the city and visitors to the community. Those coming for an event at the pavilion may also patronize a local business or two during their stay. The more people that see Columbus, the more will like Columbus as we all can attest.

So when you are on your evening walk this summer and go through Firemen's Park, or if you go down there for a July 4<sup>th</sup> Event, or a Crawdads game, have a look at the Pavilion as it gets it's needed improvements. Hopefully, the work done there this year will allow more people to form more fond memories about the centerpiece of Firemen's Park.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue before city government, please contact me down at City Hall at 623-5900 or via email at [pvandersanden@columbuswi.us](mailto:pvandersanden@columbuswi.us).

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