

THE CATALYST



August 2020

TASTE of COLUMBUS
2020



Raffle

ELECTRA TOWNIE GO! E-BIKE

\$10 per ticket or 3 for \$25

Win 1 of 2 bikes valued
at \$1,500 each.

Compliments of:
Nebraska Cycling & Fitness

Proceeds will benefit the Central
Community College and the Columbus
Area Chamber of Commerce.

Drawing: Oct. 11 - Need not be present to win.

PARTNERS



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

20th Taste of Columbus takes to the road, goes online

Due to COVID-19 and the inability to gather more than 600 guests into the same location for its traditional beverage and appetizer taste-testings, this year's committee decided to change the event's format. In addition to an online auction held Oct. 11, a special passport featuring restaurants and wine and spirit vendors from Columbus and the surrounding area will be sold and redeemable through March of 2021.

Proceeds from both endeavors will be split between this year's selected recipient, Central Community College – Columbus and the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce. A non-profit organization is selected each year by the Chamber's Board of Directors through an application process.

"Central Community College in Columbus is a tremendous, locally available asset for post-secondary education and adult training," said Jeanne Schieffer, Chamber president. "CCC was selected as this year's non-profit benefactor because of its tie to the mission and work of the Chamber. The college will use the proceeds for student scholarships."

CCC is excited to help plan the event.

"CCC's staff has created some unique auction items and exciting, regional packages families and friends will enjoy," said CCC-Columbus President Kathy Fuchser. "We have everything from a culinary evening with Todd Williams, a nationally recognized artist and former CCC graduate, to a Raider Rex appearance for a child's birthday party."

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The Chamber Thanks Our Diamond Level Members:



Follow Us!

@Colnechamber





Jeanne Schieffer-
My favorite part about working at the Chamber is the honor to represent the best community in Nebraska.



Sharyle Sands-My favorite part about working at the Chamber is working with a passionate group of volunteers.



Sandie Fischer-My favorite part about working at the Chamber is working with all the Chamber members & volunteers.



Kara Asmus- My favorite part about working at the Chamber is the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the future of Columbus.



Jessica Caban-My favorite part about working at the Chamber is connecting with all the people of Columbus.



Jessie Eureka-My favorite part about working at the Chamber is working with amazing people who strive to make Columbus SOMETHING GOOD.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ken Curry
(Chairman)



Chad
VanCleave



Dr. Kathy
Fuchser



Jake Gable



Renee Mueller



Todd Duren



Jeff Ohnoutka



Sammy
Renteria



Frank
Steffensmeier



Dr. Travis
Tessendorf



Michelle Stirek



Carlos
Velazquez

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

-Bill Flint, Treasurer -Mayor Jim Bulkley -Jerry Engdahl
-Bernie Hansen -Karina Perez

OUR MISSION

*Enhancing the economic well-being and
quality of life in the Columbus Area.*



AUGUST SPONSOR

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Hospitality sponsors provide beverages for meetings held at the Chamber. In exchange, a sponsor is given a table to showcase their business in the board room.

**Lobby Sponsors are also available! Call Sandie Fischer at (402) 564-2769 to showcase your business in the Chamber lobby.*



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Unlimited opportunity to do meaningful work has remained a constant in our area, despite the global pandemic which has slashed jobs across the country. The unemployment rate for Platte County in June was 5.6%. There are 1,035 unemployed people. Most of those are temporarily furloughed and will return to work very soon. We are excited to see our available labor force is the highest we have observed since the summer of 2009. Our companies are growing and expanding, new businesses are setting up shop in our city, and schools are seeing increased enrollment. All indicators show new people

are coming to work in Columbus.

A quick glance at local job postings shows just under 900 jobs are advertised in Platte county. Central Community College received a \$2.4 million grant for workers retraining, helping our workforce improve skills and earn a higher income. Eligibility requirements and the courses available can be found at ccneb.edu/nwri. The application process will be closed on August 16th and classes begin August 17. There is no shortage of opportunity for those who want to go to work. That's good news we will continue to spread.

RED, WHITE, KABOOM!



THANK YOU SPONSORS!

KaBoom Sponsors: Jackson Services and Ernst Auto Group

Level Red Sponsors: Loup Public Power, District Platte Valley Precast, The Massman Family

White Level Sponsors: Pinnacle Bank, Columbus Children's Healthcare, Runza, Ken & Robin Curry, Pat & Jackie Pope, Gene Steffy Ford, Behlen Mfg. Company, Cornerstone Bank

Blue Level Sponsors: Columbus Bank & Trust Company, Kosch Financial – "In honor of all our Armed Service and all they do", Mike's Glass Service- Mike Zastera Owner, Sleep Inn & Suites, RVW Inc., Milk n It Express, Tuls Dairies, Bank of the Valley, Darrell, Dan & Lori Olmer - Z Last Electric, H & R Block, Master Care Services, Pella Windows & Doors & Jerry Nauenburg, Schumacher, Smejkal, Brockhaus & Herley, P.C., BankFirst, OfficeNet, FLEXcon, B-D Construction, Holiday Inn Express, McDonald's, First Nebraska Bank, Ace Sanitation Service, Mitchell Peterson, Insurance Services Columbus, Columbus Steel Supply, Columbus Sertoma Club, Koch Excavating Company, Columbus Noon Kiwanis Club, ARL Credit Services, Ewert's Drywall, Mike Greiner's Furniture Warehouse, Parkview Trailer Court, Doug & Karin Rieger, Deb & Tom Loseke, Lynette's Dance Studio, Eye Physicians, P.C., Columbus Tire & Service, Tim & Kim Kwapnioski, Wayne & Lisa Ballentine, James & Nancy Hanna, John & Julie McClure, Sundown Motel, Ameriprise Financial, Sam Hogeland & staff, Holiday Inn Express, Vishay, Sleep Inn & Suites, Advanced Consulting Engineering Services

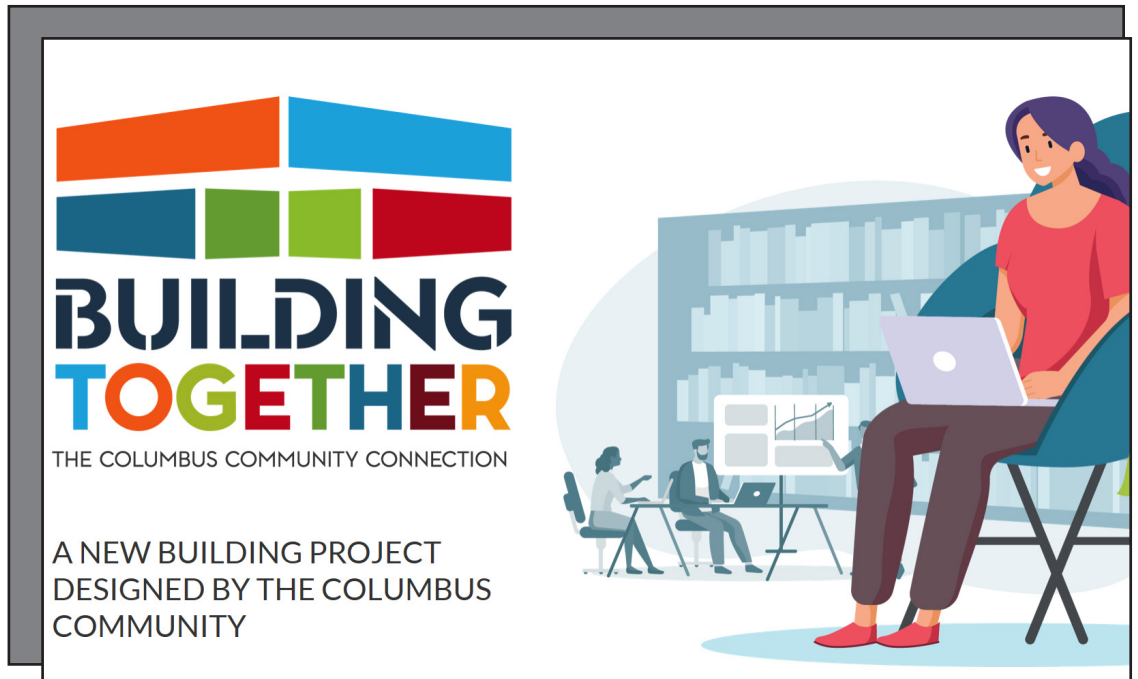
VOTE YES!

In the late 1990s, NBC television began running public service announcements with the tagline, "The more you know ...". The purpose was to provide useful information on a broad range of topics and engage parents in

their children's learning. The tagline is a good fit for a new website launched by the City of Columbus to educate the public as to the future library and community space.

The project, which has been developed with the help of the public, brings together art space, a contemporary library, community gathering areas, and a children's museum. The location will also be combined with our future City Hall and, together, will serve as an anchor for community use and the benefit of all. Get to know the project by visiting a special website - <https://buildingtogethercolumbus.org/>. There you can watch a presentation which walks you through the project, the facility's amenities, and the advantages such a community facility will provide Columbus. Take some time to watch the overview, because the more you know ... the more you will want to vote for the project in November.

THE MORE YOU KNOW...ABOUT THE LIBRARY



AGRIBUSINESS & TRANSPORTATION SPEAKER



The Chamber's Agribusiness & Transportation Committees have invited Jessica Kolterman of the Lincoln's Premium Poultry operations to speak on August 27 at the Ramada at noon. Jessica will speak about topics including: truck traffic, where the chickens come from, the benefits of having better access from and the chicken barns southwest of the

plant. This is a great opportunity to meet Chamber members, but also to be educated about issues that affect our local economy and infrastructure.

If you are interested in attending, call (402) 564-2769 by Aug. 24 to RSVP.

Lincoln Premium Poultry

>>Continued

The auction also includes stay-and-play golf packages, an originally designed wine bar, singing valentines, family zoo packages, home goods, outdoor items and so much more."

Meanwhile, the "Experience Columbus and the surrounding area" passport will feature some of the best food and beverage vendors this area has to offer along, with the opportunity to redeem the culinary specials into March of next year. In addition to supporting the October event, the passports will make terrific holiday gifts for employees, spouses, and friends.

Passport sales will begin in September along with the launch of a dedicated website for all the silent, super-silent and grand auction items and packages. If you are interested in donating an item or including your restaurant or wine and spirit venue in the passport, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 402-564-2769 or info@columbuschamber.org.

This year's event is chaired by Kathy and Dean Fuchser and Karin and Doug Rieger. The 2021 Taste of Columbus recipient is Columbus' Habitat for Humanity.

FIVE NEW COMMODORE VISITS

As businesses open up, the Chamber Commodores have been requested to visit new businesses. The Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the month of August will consist of five Commodore Calls with businesses including: Wemhoff Consulting, Red Door Designs, Columbus Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Mental & Behavioral Health, Inc., and Pee Wees South Side Oil Lube and Repair.



The September calendar is filling up fast, so don't miss your opportunity to have the Commodores visit your business!

-Sharyle Sands, Vice-President

New Chamber Members



-Jeffrey Mulder-
Individual Member



-Dana Liebig-
1913 23rd Street Columbus, NE 68601
(402) 835-5579

LOOK WHO'S A CHAMBER MEMBER



3E, Richard Bergland
A & M Business Printing, Al & Mary Lerch
A.L.M. Services, Alan Micek
All About Nails, Keri Hobza & Renae Evans
Arbonne International, Marie Kapels
Bank of the Valley, John DuBray
Busch Equipment Co., LLC, Ben & David Hellbusch
Casey's General Store, Kristie Mehaffey
Central Sand and Gravel, Mel Kucera
Century 21 Realty Team, Kimberly Hoefer
Columbus Animal Hospital, Dr. Jim & Ann Kramer
Columbus Area Recreational Trails, David Scharff
Columbus Cancer Care Foundation, Joan Keit, M.D.
Columbus Education Association, Joni Ebel
Columbus Motor Company, Dave Whalen
Columbus Noon Rotary Club, Bob Stachura
Columbus Sertoma Club, Janice Hamilton
Columbus Tire & Service Center, Inc., Bob Stachura
Copper Care Wood Preservatives, Inc, William Abbott
Cottonwood Inn, Dianne Wall
Country View Estates, Doug Adamy
D.A. Davidson, Brian Bunke & Terry Millard & Pam Souders
Deets HomeStore, Ron Deets
Downtown Business Association, Kevin Johnson
El Tapatio, Fernando & Teresa Lopez
Eller Heating, Air Conditioning, & Plumbing, Jan Becker
Ewert's Drywall Inc., Douglas Ewert
Funkhouser Construction & Home Inspection, Michael Funkhouser
Goc's Properties, LLC, Toby Goc
Hadley-Braithwait Co., Jon Kiser
Husker Trading, Ken McMeekin
Jarecki Maul P.C., L.L.O., Tom M. Maul

Luminesque, Angelia Shull
McPhillips Distributing/Conklin, Rich McPhillips
Merry Maids, Ruth Hespen
Midwest Machine & Tool, Lowell Jepsen
Modern Asset Management, LLC, Jan Schmeits
Next Generation Kiwanis Club of Columbus, Kaylen Biltoft
Northwest Electric LLC, Ken Knapp
Olson's Pest Technicians, PR & Karla Olson
Optometric Center of Columbus, P.C., K.M. Hobbs
Peace Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Pastor Michael Klatt
Pinnacle Bank, Dann Smith
Platte County Food Pantry, Donna Epley
Region V Services, Gwen Hein
Reinhardt, Elda
S.T.A.R. Escape Rooms LLC, Randy & Joanne Mueller
Samson, Inc., Scott Mueller
Schlesinger Gary
Sears Hometown Store, Steven Long
Sherwin-Williams Company, Matt Siemek
Stealth Broadband, Klint Arnold
The Heritage at Meridian Gardens, Rachelle Congdon
Tooley Drug, Dick Tooley
Torin Products, Inc., Thomas Bernstein
Total Car Care, Mark Foust
Trautwein, Robert & Judy
Trouba, Jerod Law Office
U.S. Cellular, Christy Larson
Window World of Northeast Nebraska, Karla Frey
Xcel Roofing, Katrina Carnes

THANK YOU!



AUGUST 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Due to COVID-19, these events are subject to change.

3	Legislative Conference Call	Chamber	3:00 p.m.
4	Drive for Five Committee	Zoom	7:00 a.m.
	Housing Committee	Chamber/Zoom	9:00 a.m.
	Youth Leadership Columbus	Chamber	12:00 p.m.
10	Legislative Conference Call	Chamber	3:00 p.m.
	Taste of Columbus	Chamber/Zoom	4:00 p.m.
12	Quality of Life Committee	Chamber/Zoom	8:00 a.m.
	Entrepreneurship Committee	Chamber/Zoom	9:00 a.m.
17	Legislative Conference Call	Chamber	3:00 p.m.
18	Finance Committee	Chamber/Zoom	7:00 a.m.
	Business Hall of Fame Committee	Chamber/Zoom	9:00 a.m.
19	Admirals Committee	Picket Fence	7:30 a.m.
	Branding Committee	Chamber/Zoom	10:00 a.m.
24	Engaging Diversity Committee	Chamber/Zoom	11:00 a.m.
	Board of Directors	Chamber/Zoom	12:00 p.m.
26	Latino Youth Summit Committee	Chamber/Zoom	10:00 a.m.
27	Agribusiness & Transportation Luncheon Presentation	Ramada	12:00 p.m.

In case of changes to scheduled events, we will send notifications via email.

PRSR STD
PO
PAID
COLUMBUS, NE
PERMIT #500

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
753 33rd Ave.
Columbus, NE 68601-6427
402.564.2769 Fax: 402.564.2026
info@columbuschamber.org
www.thecolumbuspage.com



