



# A Newsletter from FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS, INC.

205 E. MADISON AVENUE, IOLA, KS 66749

Winter 2017 Issue



Christmas is near and the Bowlus is filled with the magic of holiday music and dance performed by children of all ages. But something is different this year. There is a special excitement in the air.

The Friends of the Bowlus has a special gift that they are giving to the community by way of a new addition and fine arts plaza to make the Bowlus more accessible for everyone. It is so wonderful to think that later this spring we will be able to use the new east entrance complete with an elevator. What an asset this will be for those who attend Bowlus events that have accessibility issues.

The Friends of the Bowlus has been saving for this project for many years and raised \$1,000,000, which has been complemented by a grant of \$200,000 the Bowlus Fine Arts and Cultural Center received from The Sunderland Foundation. These funds will complete the bear bones of the project but we are still in need of additional funds to

help cover the costs of the fine arts plaza portion of this remarkable plan.

We are especially pleased that after all these years Mr. Bowlus will have gotten the second half of his wish for the Bowlus. Few people realize that Mr. Bowlus had made note in his will that if the fine arts center was not built that his home would be raised and a park located in its place. We all know now that the local board of education accepted the terms of the will and the arts center was built. The new fine arts plaza will be the park that Mr. Bowlus envisioned sitting next to his dream – the Bowlus Fine Arts and Cultural Center.

If you want to be a part of this exciting addition to our community fine arts center, it's not too late. Make your gift now and be sure and let us know you want your donation to go towards the fine arts plaza.

## 2017-2018 FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# CONTRACTOR SPOTLIGHT



Hofer & Hofer & Associates, Inc. is a leading General Contractor specializing in commercial, institutional, and industrial construction in Southeast Kansas and surrounding areas since 2003. Their mission is to provide exceptional service and quality craftsmanship on schedule and at a competitive price. Their company consists of four owners, Michael Hofer, John Wille, Lonnie Cash and Justin Wintjen.

Michael Hofer is the Project Manager for the Bowlus project. Michael has lived in the Allen County area all of his life and has been in the construction industry for over 45 years. The Hofer family has been in the construction industry for 67 yrs.

John Wille is the superintendent on the Bowlus project. John has lived in the Allen County area all of his life and has been in the construction industry for 27 years.



D & R Plumbing and Electric, Inc. is a full service family owned plumbing contractor. Don Murray started the company as a plumbing and heating business in 1964. In 1972 Don partnered with Ron Stout, Master Electrician and formed D & R. Don Murray became sole owner of the company again in 1991 and served as D & R's heart and soul until his death in 2016. Don's son David assumed the management of the company at that time. D & R currently has 5 employees who provide service mostly in the local 4 counties. Residential to commercial contracting, including remodels, repair, new construction, boilers, septic systems, pumps, water heaters and all plumbing small and large, D & R prides itself in being there when you need them.



Boren's Roofing, Inc. began business in July 1954 by Ron's Father, Harold Boren. They are a family owned and operated business who does commercial, residential and industrial roofing.



Kurt Jackson and Michael Covey, owners and operators of J & C Electrical Solutions, LLC will be providing electrical services for the new Fine Arts Plaza. The two opened their business in Iowa in January 2013. Certified and licensed, the staff consists of Jackson, Covey and 3 other employees who perform services in residential, commercial and industrial areas. Kurt and crew will be completing the electrical work on the Bowlus Center's Fine Arts Plaza.

## TEAR IT DOWN TO BUILD IT UP



Construction of the new Fine Arts Plaza officially broke ground on August 8, 2017 with the demolition of the portico on the east side of the building.





# CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

The remainder of August was spent digging, building forms and pouring concrete to provide the base structure for the new entry, elevator, storage areas and loading dock.

The crew also removed brick from the building's exterior to allow holes to be cut for access to these new spaces.



More forms were built and more concrete poured throughout September and October.

In November, the iron went up and we got our first glimpse at how large the new addition is and how it sits in relation to the original structure. The unseasonably warm weather allowed the work to progress quickly!



Crews have set the cinder block structure for the storage area and have completed the shaft for the new elevator, which is scheduled for installation in December. The exterior brick is now being laid. The Friends are pleased with the progress and look forward to the new entrance being completed soon with the plaza drive to follow!



KEN SHETLAR is a life-long resident of Iola. His father, Charlie Shetlar, was one of the architects who worked for Brink & Dunwoody on the original design of the fine arts center, allowing Ken to observe their work during his formative years. Upon graduating from KSU with a civil engineering degree in 1970, Ken joined his father's firm and operated as Shetlar, Griffith, Shetlar for 36 years. Ken retired in 2010 after 40 years of service.

Ken brings to the project a great deal of both engineering and practical business expertise as well as time-honored admiration for the Bowlus Fine Arts & Cultural Center and what it means to his community. Ken has already proven to be a great asset to the Friends Board of Directors as they have made many tough decisions on how to best utilize the funds so graciously donated toward the Fine Arts Plaza project.

The Friends of the Bowlus Board and the Bowlus Fine Arts Center Trustee wish to extend their gratitude to Ken for sharing his expertise to ensure that the new fine arts plaza is constructed in the same quality that is in keeping with the original building. We recognize that Ken has already given hours and hours of his time and want him to know how much he is appreciated!



The Friends of the Bowlus Board wishes all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our membership year started on July 1st and has been very busy.

Our annual meeting, which was held at Miller's on Madison Avenue on August 12, was very successful because of those who gave of their time and energy to put it together. It was wonderful to see such a great turn out. Thank you to all who were part of the program and to those who helped with donations. The food was just wonderful, the program delightful and the conversation lively. A big thank you goes out to the three young ladies who performed for the evening, Josie Plumlee, Hannah Andersen, and Haley Carlin!

Our Construction theme of the evening was chosen because of the construction of the new east entrance to the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. Construction had barely started but is now in full swing! If you haven't had a chance to see what is happening, then come on by and have a look! The construction project on the building should be completed in the new year and the plaza will be completed in the spring.

Before, during and after the annual dinner evening, members were renewing their memberships for the 2017 & 2018 year. As of now, we have 200 plus members! Many of our members made extra donations along with their membership fees. Some gave to the plaza and some gave undesigned donations. We are extremely

thankful for every donation towards our \$1.2 million dollar project! We have such wonderful, generous people in our community.

One of the advantages of being a FOB member is the opportunity to buy season tickets early. Another advantage is the opportunity to attend special events. In October, the first show of the season was The Simon & Garfunkel Story. The Friends of the Bowlus board members provided a special dessert reception in the Community Room at the Community National Bank & Trust before the program. Thank you to those members who came and enjoyed this special event and to those who provided the desserts.



This membership year has been an exciting one and as the progress on the new east entrance continues, it proves to continue to be exciting!

- Diana Asher, President

Friends of the Bowlus, Inc.  
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