

POSSIBILITIES IMAGINED

**POSSIBILITIES**  
**REALIZED**  
*for THE STARS*  
*Grand REOPENING*

POSSIBILITIES  
REALIZED

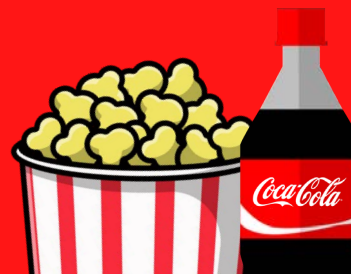


THANKING OUR  
COMMUNITY!

OCT. 1-8, 2022



**SIP BACK  
& SMILE**





PILOT NEWS GROUP PHOTO / JAMIE FLEURY

The REES Ribbon Cutting. Established on Feb. 1, 1940. Restored Oct. 1, 2022.

# The REES: Possibilities Realized

BY JAMIE FLEURY  
STAFF WRITER

MARSHALL COUNTY — After more than five years and over \$4 millions of support, The REES Committee along with members of the community celebrated the long-awaited grand re-opening of the “labor of love” in downtown Plymouth Saturday, Oct. 1 with the beginning of a week-long celebration.

That afternoon, Denver Bierman and the Mile High Orchestra performed in River Park Square and led over fifty trumpeters in an effort to set a non-adjudicated world record for the most trumpeters in one place playing an original song written by Bierman himself, “My Hometown.” Bierman was presented with a Key to the City by Mayor Mark Senter.

Bierman thanked Mayor Senter and the City of Plymouth for the honor that he considered a blessing. He said that he believes that one of the reasons he has been put on earth is to encourage people noting that life can be hard a lot of times.

“If I can be someone that can be an encouragement to someone else in any season of their life, then that is what I want

to use my music for. I don’t want to just play a trumpet as high and as loud as I can until I could pass out on the floor - I mean - that’s not the kind of legacy that I want to leave on this place. But I want to be able to be someone that can be a smile, that can be an encouragement, that could remind folks that the sun is going to rise again, and that there’s hope and truth and purpose for their lives - and I found that hope and truth and purpose through my Lord, my Savior Jesus Christ. This community is a huge part of that for me. The foundation of my life was built here, and I cannot thank you and this city enough for everything that you have so generously, richly poured into me and into my own family. God bless each and every one of you and may God bless Plymouth, Indiana.”

Saturday evening, individuals who purchased tickets for the Grand Re-Opening “REES for the Stars” met on Michigan St. for prayer, a dedication, dinner, the ribbon cutting, and the first performance ever in the newly renovated REES by Denver and the Mile High Orchestra. A crowd gathered eagerly anticipating entry to the theater, which is so much more than a theater now.

Mayor Senter presented the REES

See REES, Page 4

## REES, from Page 3

Theater Committee led by Co-Chairs Randy Danielson and Donna Pontius with a Key to the City prior to the ribbon cutting. Danielson thanked Mayor Senter for the presentation of the key.

"Thank you very much. Truly did not know that was coming, Mark, thank you for this. But it is the REES committee that brought this forward. It wasn't just Donna and I. We might have persevered, but we were surrounded by great people, surrounded by a great community, a great county, a great state, and a great nation. Thank you."

A dedication of the Bob Pickell Performing Arts Stage was held, honoring members of the Pickell family who were given priority seating in the front row Saturday evening. Bierman and REES committee member Linda Starr shared reflections on Pickell. Starr shared a passion with Pickell that everyone should not only know the music to the "Star Spangled Banner" but they

should also know the words. Pickell required his students to sing the anthem solo before passing his class. Bierman also played the "Star Spangled Banner" on his trumpet from the balcony at the start of the event.

The tribute for Pickell read: "The Bob Pickell Performing Arts Stage. Named in recognition and memory of the beloved Plymouth educator who dedicated his 38-year career sharing his love and enthusiasm for music with his students. Made possible by a grateful community."

The reflections and his dedication were followed by a standing ovation to honor the legacy of Pickell and his family who was present.

Danielson also honored the memory of committee members who passed away, Lane Laffoon, who crafted the medallions that embellish the walls of the newly renovated REES, and Ellen Skinner who was instrumental in the

design of the stage. "We appreciate both of them for all their efforts."

During the live auction, Plein Air paintings of The REES painted by Heartland Artists Gallery artists were auctioned off with the high bid going to Jon Miller's painting bringing in over \$2,000. Peter Schumacher's hand crafted electric guitar went to high bidder Dr. Louis Plumlee, D.D.S. for \$9,500.

Bierman and the Mile High Orchestra entertained guests well past ten o'clock.

Danielson did not have time to mention every individual by name that The REES committee wanted to thank, so he thanked everyone for every gift of time, financial support, and help that they have provided since 2016 when a group of high school students ignited a passion to restore The REES. Though the renovations would not begin immediately, a seed was planted by those youth who expressed that desire to see their beloved theater **See Realized, Page 5**

### Proclamation City October 1, 2022



*WHEREAS,*

*The Rees Theatre Committee, led by Randy Danielson and Donna Pontius, have proven to be one of the most important boards that The City of Plymouth has ever witnessed; and*

*WHEREAS,*

*For nearly six years this committee has been steadfast to the renovation of one of Plymouth's cornerstones of our beautiful downtown; and*

*WHEREAS,*

*The Rees began operations at 100 N. Michigan on February 1, 1940. It was owned by Stewie and Opal Rees and the first film ever played here was "REMEMBER THE NIGHT"; and*

*WHEREAS,*

*After going through many owners and operators over the years, it still brought in so many great memories for children and adults alike; It was a mainstay in our community For nearly 70 years; and*

*WHEREAS,*

*But this committee has tripled in size since it all began in December of 2016. I don't have enough room in this proclamation to name them all' But let's remember Donna Pontius, Randy Danielson and many, many more for bringing this wonderful new attraction forward and let's REMEMBER THIS NIGHT from here on out; and*

*NOW, therefore, I, Mark Senter, by the virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor, and on behalf of the entire City Council and all our citizens, do hereby present the Key to the City OF Plymouth to The Rees Project Committee and their many ways to raise Funds, recruit volunteers and retain in-kind donations to make this happen.*

*Mark Senter,*

*Mark Senter*  
*City of Plymouth, Indiana*

# Realized, from Page 4

restored.

Danielson with wife Eleanor, Pontius with husband Allen, and a small team united to see that vision accomplished. With the help of a community that seed manifested in the restoration of The REES and that grand re-opening celebration that was held Saturday. "We are here as a community of friends, family and public servants all with a passion for The REES, the arts, and the quality of life here in Plymouth. We will not be calling out any specific thanks this evening because there are literally over a thousand people who have partaken in this. So, our sincere word of thanks appears on this beautiful beacon in downtown Plymouth - the marquee says it all - 'Now Showing: The Return of the REES', thanks to you," said Danielson. He also thanked the more than 100 volunteers who helped to put the event on Saturday evening.

Pontius shared a reflection made by the Technical Director who could not be



PHOTO PROVIDED

Community dinner in front of the newly renovated REES Theatre.

present Saturday evening that Marshall County was the village that raised the child, The REES. She thanked their spouses, Eleanor and Allen for their outstanding

patience and support, those who attended the event and the community. "But when I look at this crowd I'm just gobsmacked. That's my new word for the day. It just real-

ly does my heart good and I thank everybody for coming out and I thank everybody who supported us. It is a community of love and this was a labor of love."



# Denver Bierman and the Mile High Orchestra



PHOTO PROVIDED



PILOT NEWS GROUP PHOTO / JAMIE FLEURY

Plymouth native Denver Bierman and his band, the Mile High Orchestra performed twice on Saturday, Oct. 1. The first time was in River Park Square. Denver wrote two original songs for the attempt to break the world record for the most trumpeters in one place playing a song. The trumpeters in attendance played Bierman's song, "My Hometown."

Bierman and the Mile High Orchestra would later perform on The REES Theater stage. They were the first performers ever in the newly renovated REES.

Our family serving yours for over 30 years!



# Montgomery Well Drilling

Complete Well Service • 4" to 12" Wells

Residential, Commercial, Irrigation Wells

12499 Olive Trail, Plymouth, IN 46563 • 574.936.6239 • montgomerywell@yahoo.com

# Mayor Senter presents Key to the City to Co-Chairs

On Saturday, Oct. 1 REES Theater Co-Chairs Randy Danielson (center) and Donna Pontius (left) were presented the Key to the City by Mayor Mark Senter.

Danielson expressed that the renovation of the theater wasn't accomplished by just them, but by the community.

"It wasn't just Donna and I. We might have persevered, but we were surrounded by great people, surrounded by a great community, a great county, a great state, and a great nation. Thank you."



PILOT NEWS GROUP PHOTO / JAMIE FLEURY

**WE PRIDE OURSELVES WITH GREAT FOOD,  
QUALITY SERVICE AND FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.**



2227 N. Michigan • Plymouth • (574) 935-5100 • [ChristosFamilyDining.com](http://ChristosFamilyDining.com)

**Hours:** Sun.-Thurs. 6-9pm • Fri. & Sat. 6-10pm



# Plymouth Foundry, Inc.

*Serving our Customers since 1946*

***Wishes the Rees congratulations  
on your grand opening***

**Growing Both People and  
Business by Supporting the  
Community for Over 75 Years**

- **Green Sand Iron Castings**
- **Gray Iron Casting**
- **Ductile Iron Casting**
- **3-D Printing**
- **Value Added Machining**



**Learn More**

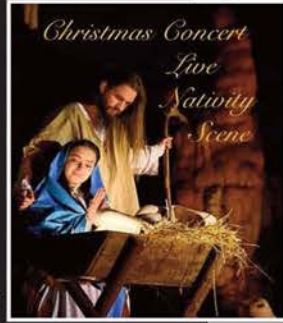
[www.plymouthfoundry.com](http://www.plymouthfoundry.com)



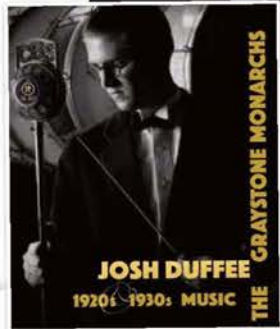
# WHAT'S NEXT AT THE REES?



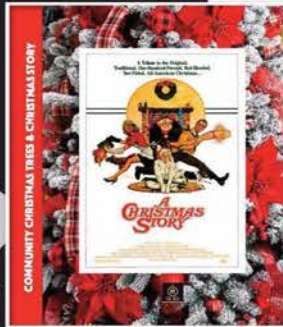
1



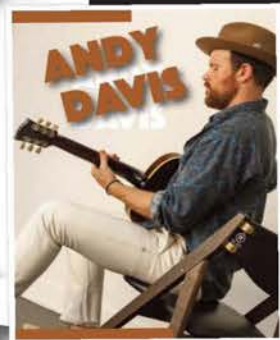
6



2



7



3



8



4



9



5



The REES  
www.reestheatre.com

## 1. Young Frankenstein Oct. 29

PG. Following the Ghost Walk.  
Adult tickets \$5 Kids 12/under free

## 2. Josh Duffee & The Graystone Monarchs Nov. 12, 7- 9pm

Balcony/Meet & Greet \$65 Main Floor \$40

## 3. Andy Davis Nov. 19, 6-8pm

Balcony/Meet & Greet \$50 Main Floor \$25

## 4. Brett Wiscons Nov. 23, 8-10pm

Thanksgiving Eve. It's a Holiday Reconnect!  
Balcony/Meet & Greet \$55 Main Floor \$30

## 5. X-MAS Stand Up Comedy Night

Dec. 3, 7-10 pm Presenting a "Santa Drank All the Eggnog" night. Tickets \$15

## 6. Christmas Concert/Live Nativity

Dec. 10, 6-8pm Free Will Donation will be given to local charity. Maxinkuckee Players.

## 7. Community Tree Display

Dec. 16, 6-8pm Dec. 17, 10am -1pm  
\*Tickets to view & vote on Xmas trees \$3  
**A Christmas Story** Dec. 18, 2pm  
Adult tickets \$5 Kids 12/under free

## 8. The Polar Express Dec. 22, 7pm

Adult tickets \$5 Kids 12/under free

## 9. New Year's Eve with Memphis Underground & Tyler Sherwin

Dec. 31, 6pm-midnight  
Celebrate this New Year's Eve with magic at the REES! Balcony \$125 Main Floor \$75

574-337-7337 www.reestheatre.com

# Dinner in the Street



PHOTO PROVIDED

The REES for the Stars Grand Reopening 'Dinner in the Street' had the community come together to share a meal in celebration.

The event saw 17 food and beverage stations from across Marshall County. Each shared their unique delights with the guests.

The Whitewater String Trio and Twins at Play filled Michigan Street as the guests dined.



PILOT NEWS GROUP PHOTO / JAMIE FLEURY

Jon Miller and other members of the Plein Air, from Heartland Artists Gallery, were painting the scene of the Grand Reopening of the REES (left).



Marcelino and Evelin Vargas from Mila's Mini Market were one of the 17 food vendors to participate in the Dinner in the Street event.

# Bob Pickell Performing Arts Stage dedication

A dedication of the Bob Pickell Performing Arts Stage was held, honoring members of the Pickell family who were given priority seating in the front row Saturday evening.

The tribute for Pickell read: "The Bob Pickell Performing Arts Stage. Named in recognition and memory of the beloved Plymouth educator who dedicated his 38-year career sharing his love and enthusiasm for music with his students. Made possible by a grateful community."

The reflections and his dedication were followed by a standing ovation to honor the legacy of Pickell and his family who was present.



PILOT NEWS GROUP PHOTO / JAMIE FLEURY

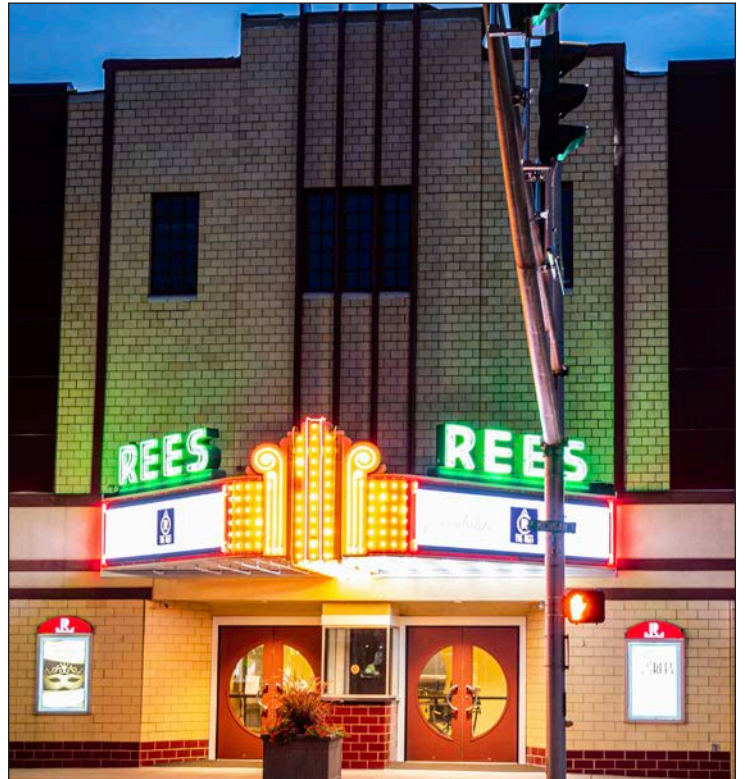
# GIBSON IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE REES!!



# GIBSON

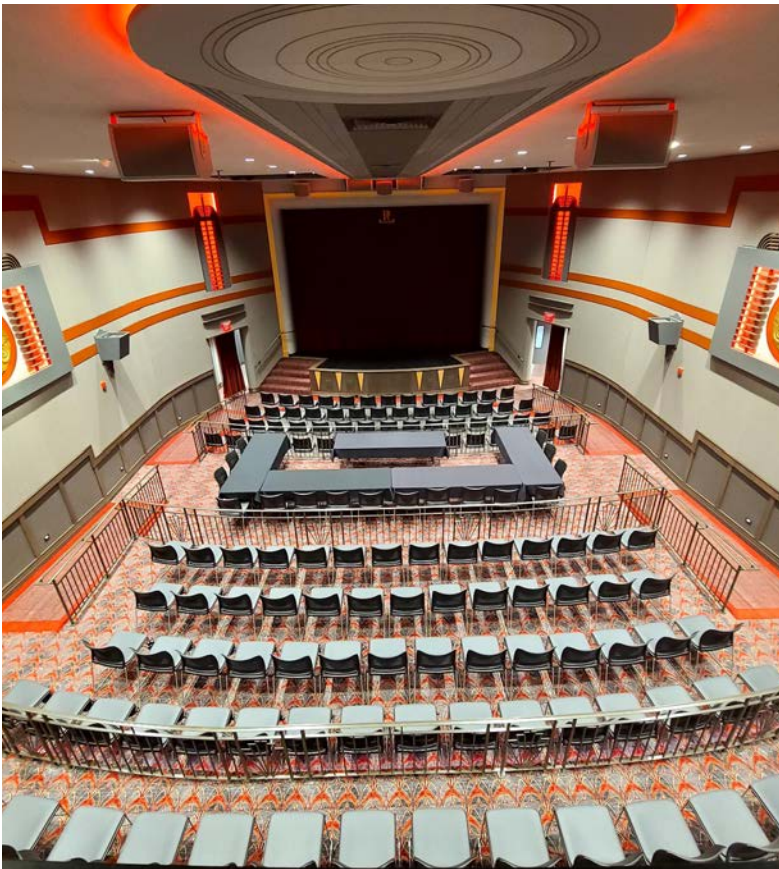
[www.thegibsonedge.com](http://www.thegibsonedge.com)

# Before and After





# CONGRATULATIONS on the Grand Reopening of the REES!



We're honored to have played a part in the renovation of this magnificent theatre that has been a Plymouth landmark for generations. Wishing the REES Theatre all the best in the years ahead as it continues its tradition as a center for arts, culture, education, entertainment, and events.



[kuert.com](http://kuert.com)

## Guitar sells for \$9,500

During the live auction, Plein Air paintings of The REES painted by Heartland

Artists Gallery artists were auctioned off with the high bid going to Jon Miller's painting bringing in over \$2,000. Peter Schumacher's hand crafted electric guitar went to high bidder Dr. Louis Plumlee, D.D.S. for \$9,500.

Schumacher crafted the electric guitar from Indiana Poplar wood taken from an original truss within the REES. When the trusses were being removed and replaced, Schumacher received a piece and began designing the guitar. He is a graduate of Plymouth High School, Class of 2021.

His idea to craft the guitar was meant as a way to help support the REES.

"I love the idea of giving back to The REES in my own way," he said in an article published by The Pilot News earlier in the year.

In the photo to the right (from left to right) are internationally known acoustic guitarist Pierre Bensusan, auction winner Dr. Louis Plumlee, and guitar crafter Peter Schumacher.



PILOT NEWS GROUP PHOTO / JAMIE FLEURY

# *Congratulations*

on the opening of The Rees

**No Gimmicks • No Added Fees**

**JUST GREAT PRICES,  
GREAT SERVICE, GREAT PEOPLE!**

Call us-we have a great price for you



**Plymouth L.P. Gas**

11699 Lincoln Highway Plymouth

**936-2431**

# Stewart Rees visits the Grand Reopening

Rees was born on April 28, 1902 to Ellis Stewart Rees and Mary Elizabeth Blei Rees in Francesville, Indiana. Stewart's mother passed away when he was about 20-years-old. Three years later in 1925, Stewart and his father, Ellis, came to Plymouth.



That year was the same year he married Miss Opal Hoover, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Hoover. According to a 1927 wedding announcement in the Lafayette newspaper Journal and Courier, the wedding took place on June 14, 1925 at Eaton, Ohio.

By that time, Stewart and Ellis had purchased and remodeled the Gem Theater on East Garro Street. It wasn't long before Stewart and Opal would set their eyes on another location for a new theater.

In an article published in

See VISITS, Page 18



**CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY WITH ART FOR OVER 40 YEARS!**

**We are a nonprofit Visual Arts Organization in Marshall County, providing the community with classes, events, exhibitions and public art projects.**

**Gallery Hours  
Tues - Sat 10 am - 4 pm**

- Welcome artists and those interested in the arts
- Promote multi-media visual art forms
- Encourage mutual support of local artists
- Share art exhibits, classes, programs, and education
- Build an artistic link with the community
- Strive to make exhibits, building, classes, and events accessible to ALL individuals

[www.heartlandgallery.com](http://www.heartlandgallery.com)

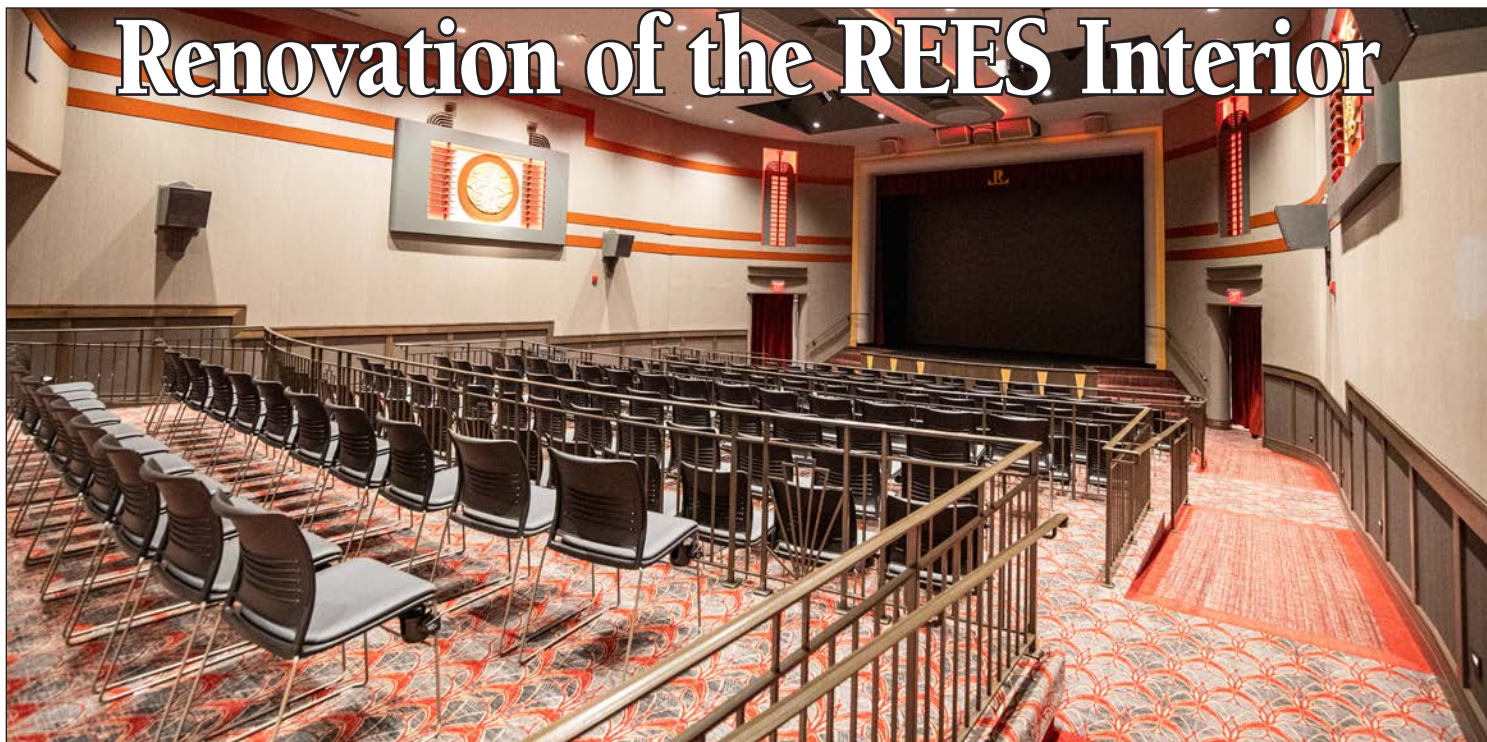
Check us out on social media



101 N. Michigan St., Plymouth

(574) 936-9515

# Renovation of the REES Interior



About five years ago, the renovation of the REES Theater began. Now it's complete and open to the public for a myriad of events and activities ranging from weddings, movies, gatherings, family reunions, school functions, plays, and so much more.

As one might imagine, when you're renovating a building that was built in the 1865 some challenges might arise during the project.

"The biggest challenge, really, throughout the entire thing is that it's a Civil War era building," said Don Wendel. "And then the next challenge is making it multi-purpose."

In order to focus on the green initiative and making everything state-of-the-art, Wendel stated that all of the electrical, plumbing, HVAC is all new. Everything was removed and replaced with up to date material.

When the REES opened in 1940, it seated approximately 600 people, and the sole use of the building was film watching. Now, 82 years later, the REES will be used for six core purposes: Dance, Cinema, Education, Music, Theater, and Events.

## Lighting

Another thing that was changed completely was the lighting system. Wendel recalled that when he visited the REES as a kid, it wasn't as brightly lit. Which, he said, was to be expected since it was a movie theater.

One of the improvements is the installation of LED lighting. There are also LED lights that can be changed to five or six different colors.

## Floors

Another change to the original design is the flooring.

"So now you come in, and of course it looks different



because it used to be single sloped floor and now, we have tiers. And that's so that we can use them for wedding receptions. We can set tables or we can set this whole thing with chairs."

One of the other major changes to the flooring is that it's heated. That's right, the floor is heated during the winter or colder weather. "We'll use it a lot of times in the winter for some base heat as opposed to using our other rooftop units," Wendel said. "Heat rises."

## Stage

One of the things that had to change to fit that multi-purpose goal was the stage. Wendel **See INTERIOR, Page 17**



# Interior, from Page 16

said that the stage is now bigger to accommodate live bands, performances, theater, orchestras, etc. All in all, the stage was made to be 20 feet bigger.

## LED Screen

A multi-purpose entertainment building wouldn't be complete without a screen to show movies and other visual entertainment. The interesting thing about the screen on the REES stage is that it isn't just one screen. There are multiple panels that make up the 15 ft x 20 ft LED screen. Wendel assures that when the screen is on, you won't be able to tell the difference. One of the benefits of having the multiple panels is that if one panel is damaged the whole screen doesn't have to be replaced. Simply take out that specific panel and insert it with a new one and you're good to go.

The screen fits the multi-purpose theme because it isn't just for movies. "Let's say you have a seminar, and you have a lecturer up there speaking. You can have someone up there speaking at the podium using the screen for graphs or whatever you want," said Wendel.

The screen isn't fixed to any specific spot on the stage either. It can be moved backward or forward on the stage to accommodate any event. "Let's just say you were doing a wedding reception and you want to have the wedding party up on the stage. That (the screen) goes all the way back and then you could be running their wedding video on it," said Wendel.

The screen can also be modified to fit size restraints too. Wendel used the wedding reception again as an example. He said that if the wedding party is on the stage and you don't want the party to block the bottom part of the video, the bottom part of the screen doesn't have to be turned on.

"It's really state-of-the-art, easy to use, and adaptable," he said.

## Seating

With the change from single to multi-purpose, that means that the building won't be able to fit that 600-seating capacity. Now, the seating capacity for the renovated REES will be approximately 250. With the changes you've read about above, it's no wonder why a reduction to seating had to happen.

Even with all of these changes, Wendel stated that their goal was to keep the original look and feel of the REES. "I really think it's the overall goal of ours to revitalize this property and try to maintain the original design...We wanted to stay true to the art deco."

If you've been studying photos from the 1940 opening, you'll be hit with a blast from the past when you enter the REES. Meticulous care was taken during the renovation to ensure that every detail has been taken into account. One



such detail are the two 34" medallions on the north and south walls. Those medallions were carved from an old blueprint by Lane Laffoon. Wendel said that Lane carved 1-foot templates of the medallions and that others finished crafting them when Lane passed away suddenly on Aug. 20, 2020.

"I'm sure it was a labor of love for him," Wendel said of Laffoon's work.

## Overall

Even though the changes to the interior are vastly different than those of 1940, the REES still serves as a state-of-the-art venue of entertainment for not just Plymouth, but for all of Marshall County.

"The Rees, when it was built in 1940, they sold it as a state-of-the-art movie theater. They had air conditioning, which back then was unusual. Well, now we are selling it as the same thing. It's state-of-the-art," said Wendel. "You have all of these modern conveniences wrapped up in a Civil War era building."

# Visits, from Page 15

the June 21, 1939 edition of the Culver Citizen, it stated that Stewart and Opal would start construction on a new theater, located at the north-east corner of Michigan and LaPorte Streets.

"The entire program, including purchase of the buildings, remodeling, equipment and fixtures, will cost approximately \$75,000, Rees announced," stated the article.

Another article, written by Ida Chipman and published in the Dec. 13, 2006 edition of the South Bend Tribune described Rees as being experienced in the entertainment business. "Stewie had a lot of show-biz experience - he had been involved in silent movies and later talkies for

25 years or more," Chipman wrote.

Stewart was a generous theater owner. Detailed in another edition of the South Bend Tribune, is one such example:

"Plymouth's two local theaters have planned free Christmas shows for children of the city. A special show this afternoon in the Gem theater was given by Stewart Rees, manager. Thursday afternoon Thomas Bowles, manager of the Rialto theater, will give a free matinee for children." - South Bend Tribune, Dec. 22, 1938.

The Rees Theater opened its doors on Feb. 1, 1940, showing the film "Remember the Night."

See GRAND, Page 19



# BOWMAN'S

TIN SHOP

Residential & Commercial HVAC  
Heating & Cooling  
Plumbing PCI 1500071  
Custom Sheet Metal

**24 Hour Emergency Service**

Locally Owned & Operated for Over 33 years  
[www.bowmanstinshop.com](http://www.bowmanstinshop.com) • [bowmanstinshop@gmail.com](mailto:bowmanstinshop@gmail.com)

## 574-936-3234

Come See Us at our New location at  
1576 Hoham Dr, Plymouth IN



# Grand, from Page 18

Outside of the theater business, Stewart was a member of the Presbyterian Church, the Plymouth Kilwinning Lodge 149, Chapter 49, and the Chamber of Commerce.

He also served as an active member of the city's Fire Department for many years. During his tenure as a firefighter, Rees sustained an unusual injury.

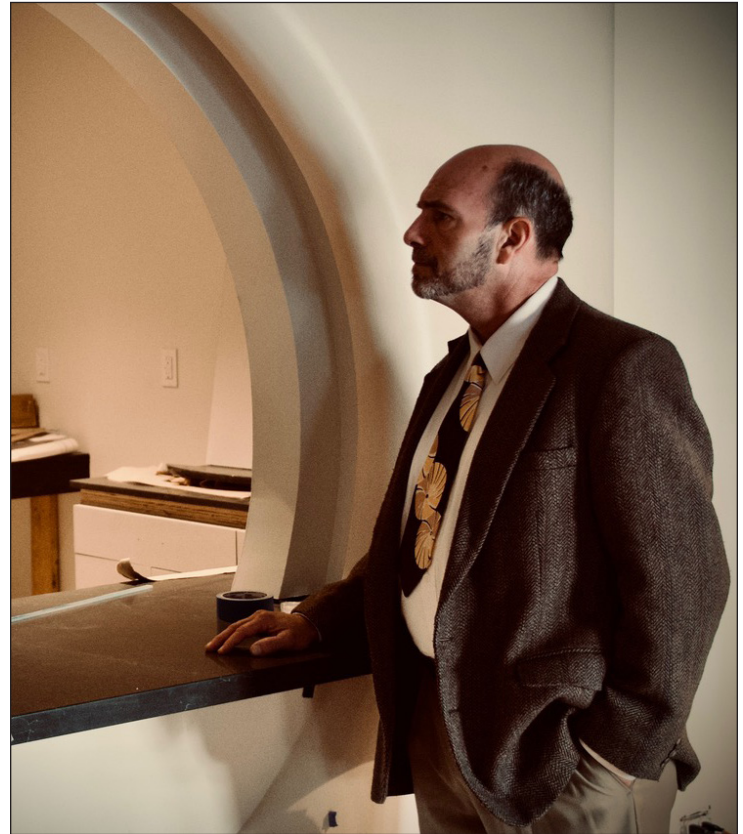
According to an article printed by the Evansville Press on Nov. 18, 1927, Rees was injured by ringing the alarm bell.

The headline reads "Bell Falls on Head" and states, "Bell ringing was listed as a hazardous occupation here today while Stewart Rees, 21, was recovering from an accident yesterday. The town fire bell fell on his head while he was ringing it."

Stewart Rees passed away on April 10, 1953 and was laid to rest at Oak Hill Cemetery in Plymouth. The Rees Theatre would continue to operate and change ownership multiple times until it showed its last show "Old Dogs" on Dec. 22, 2009. After an extensive restoration, the REES is reopening on Saturday. Even though Stewart Rees isn't alive to see the impact he and Opal had on Plymouth and Marshall County, he would be proud to see the community come together to preserve their theatre.

"Donna, I, and the entire project committee are very proud of what this community has accomplished in regard to preserving the legacy of The Rees Theatre as well as the commitment Stewart and Opal Rees made to the community when in 1940, they opened the most advanced rural theater in all of Indiana and possibly the Midwest. This has been a real tribute to them," said Co-Chair Randy Danielson.

If you attended the Grand Reopening, you might have seen Stewie Rees looking at what his legacy has become.



**It is a great joy to see our community accomplishing targets, striving hard to attain something and achieve goals at the end.**

**Sincerely,  
The Oliver Ford Family**

**Oliver**  
FORD • LINCOLN

1001 E. Jefferson St., Plymouth, IN 46563

**800-448-8292**

[www.oliverford.com](http://www.oliverford.com) • [www.oliverlincoln.com](http://www.oliverlincoln.com)

# REES celebrates Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



765-480-2423    [solargai.com](http://solargai.com)

**“Congratulations on a job well done! A Plymouth treasure is restored and better than ever!”**

 Think: Solar  
Think: GAI  
[SolarGAI.com](http://SolarGAI.com)

**765-480-2423 • [solargai.com](http://solargai.com)**

# *Congratulations* *on the Re-Grand Opening of The Rees!*



EST 2019  
**Ella & Ava**  
BOUTIQUE

**105 W. LaPorte St • Downtown Plymouth**

# Marquee shines light on community events

If you haven't been inside the REES Theatre yet, you've most likely passed by it while traveling through downtown Plymouth. One of the features that was improved upon was the marquee.

In 2019, Plymouth was named the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Community of the Year. December of 2019, the Indiana Office of Rural and Community Affairs awarded Marshall County Crossroads the distinguished Stellar Communities Award for Great Hometowns. In that application for Stellar, The REES was chosen as the hall-mark project for Plymouth.

Through the Stellar award,

See SHINES, Page 25



## LEGACY OF SUCCESS

Brown & Brown General Contractor's has been involved in the Wakarusa community and surround areas since 1939 and are in our second generation.

We take pride in our work and value our team members.

We are highly qualified and have the experience and record to substantiate this claim.

**Brown and Brown**  
GENERAL CONTRACTORS, INC.

124 S. ELKHART ST. P.O. BOX 487  
WAKARUSA, INDIANA 46573-0487  
PHONE: (574) 862-2171 | FAX: (574) 862-3930



# REES holds Community Tours

On Sunday, Oct. 2, part of the Grand Reopening activities included community tours of The REES Theater. Here are some photos from that day of tours:





# Your Hometown Proven Professionals!



**CHRIS COLLINS**  
Broker/Owner  
Plymouth Office  
574-936-4444



**LORI PARRISH**  
Director of Sales and Marketing  
Plymouth Office  
574-952-6369



**AMY ELIZONDO-KNEPPER**  
Office Manager  
Plymouth Office  
574-936-4444



**MICHELLE LANGDON**  
REALTOR®  
Plymouth Office  
574-952-3701



**MICHELE VANLUE**  
REALTOR®  
Plymouth Office  
574-780-2153



**CATHY GURTNER**  
REALTOR®  
Plymouth Office  
574-360-2324



**KAREN GEHRKE**  
REALTOR®  
Plymouth Office  
574-952-0611



**LYNN KEHOE**  
REALTOR®  
Plymouth Office  
574-286-2229



**NATALIE VOREIS**  
REALTOR®  
Plymouth Office  
574-952-7000



**SARAH YOUNG**  
REALTOR®  
Plymouth Office  
574-286-7112



**TAWNIA THAYER**  
REALTOR®  
Plymouth Office  
574-952-2929



**MORGAN SISSEL**  
REALTOR®  
Plymouth Office  
574-952-4578



**SARAH FUNK-ADKINS**  
REALTOR®  
Plymouth Office  
574-276-8212



**WANDA BALSLEY**  
Managing Broker  
Bremen Office  
574-209-0775



**CESAR ALVARADO**  
REALTOR®  
Bremen Office  
574-209-8402



**SHAWN REED**  
Managing Broker  
Culver Office  
574-229-6699



**WADE MCGEE**  
REALTOR®  
Culver Office  
630-258-9233



**MARIAH YOCHUM**  
REALTOR®  
Culver Office  
574-653-1347



**EMERIC SZALAY**  
Managing Broker  
Lakeville Office  
574-298-4000



**CARMEN RAMIREZ**  
REALTOR®  
Lakeville Office  
574-520-2560



**STEVE SHIVLEY**  
REALTOR®  
Lakeville Office  
574-910-0110



**PAULA GARIS**  
REALTOR®  
Lakeville Office  
574-220-9193



**ALEXIS PERKINS**  
REALTOR®  
Lakeville Office  
574-850-8151



**COURTNEY DUBIE**  
REALTOR®  
Lakeville Office  
574-249-1125



**STEPHEN DEJULIUS**  
REALTOR®  
Lakeville Office  
574-250-0893



**RHONDA HURFORD**  
REALTOR®  
Koontz Lake Office  
574-250-1835



**JEFF HURFORD**  
REALTOR®  
Koontz Lake Office  
574-250-3019



**FLORA TIBBETTS**  
REALTOR®  
Koontz Lake Office  
574-910-7653



**LAUREL RICCIARDI**  
REALTOR®  
Koontz Lake Office  
574-910-7772



**KELSEY HAYES**  
REALTOR®  
Koontz Lake Office  
574-606-5223



**JESSICA DUFF**  
REALTOR®  
Koontz Lake Office  
574-850-3703



**LISA SLEEK**  
REALTOR®  
Koontz Lake Office  
574-910-0380

**Plymouth Office**  
1435 N. Michigan St.  
Plymouth, IN 46563  
Phone: 574.936.4444

**Culver Office**  
232 S. Main St, Suite B  
Culver, IN 46511  
Phone: 574.842.4652

**Bremen Office**  
1734 West Plymouth St.  
Bremen, IN 46506  
Phone: 574.546.0601

**Lakeville Office**  
909 N. Michigan  
St. Lakeville, IN 46536  
Phone: 574.784.8080

**Koontz Lake Office**  
10873 E. Tippecanoe Dr.  
Walkerton, IN 46574  
Phone: 574.586.3000



# It's a beautiful day at The REES



The REES showed "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" in partnership with the One Book, One City Chili Cook Off on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Mayor Mark Senter dressed up as Mr. Rogers for the occasion. Mayor Senter (left) and Artistic Director and Events Coordinator for the REES Theatre Kathryn Anders (right) introduce the 4 p.m. showing of the film.

## Shines, from Page 22

Marshall County was awarded \$150,000 for six LED message boards; one for each incorporated community which included Culver, Plymouth, Bourbon, Argos, Bremen, and LaPaz. The City of Plymouth designated the iconic and highly visible REES marquee for the electronic signage display for the city.

A generous donation made by Brad and Patty Serf and Art and Lisa Jacobs enabled the REES committee to retain the authentic, historic visage of the marquee while at the same time accommodating the electronic upgrade which will enable more efficient communication.

In the Jan. 22, 2021 edition of The Pilot News, REES Project co-chairs, Donna Pontius and Randy Danielson stated the following regarding the collaborative effort between The REES, Plymouth, City Administration and the Marshall County Crossroads Team. "The entire REES Committee is not only excited about this advancement in the functionality of the marquee in providing more comprehensive promotion of events taking place at The REES, but also the ability to provide informational alerts from throughout Marshall County. The generosity of Marshall County families continue to inspire us and others in fulfilling this mission to revive a landmark of entertainment for the enjoyment of all!"

Before the LED, the sign had to be changed by climbing a ladder. Now, Randy Danielson or Jack Davis can change the message wherever they have access to the internet. Another benefit to the updated marquee is the addition of pictures and other fonts and sizes of letters.

As the community's message board, the marquee is a vital source of information to not just citizens of Plymouth, but to all that pass through downtown. In the past, messages have included welcoming Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch to the

city, showing tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II, welcoming Plymouth Alumni, celebrating accomplishments of local citizens, anniversaries and other milestones, and much more.

# CHEERS

to the Rees on  
your Grand  
Re-Opening!

We'd like  
to propose a toast  
to all who made the  
re-opening possible  
and have given us so  
much to celebrate!



## SERVPRO®

Fire & Water - Cleanup & Restoration™  
514 Beerenbrook, Plymouth, IN • 574-936-5849

# The REES Grand Reopening another chapter in History!

In 1920, there were three theaters in Plymouth: The Orpheum, The Gem and The Rialto. The Gem Theatre opened in 1913. Today, there are also three in Plymouth: Showland, Tri-Way Drive-In and The REES.

- March 18, 1926 - In 1925, the Ellis Rees Family from Pulaski County bought the Gem Theater located on East Garro Street from C.W. Metsker and after an extensive renovation, re-opened it in 1926 with the showing of "The Keeper of the Bees" boasting seating for 375.

- February 1, 1940 - In August of 1939, Stewart "Stewie" Rees and his wife Opal purchased a three-story brick structure known as the VanVactor Building at the corner of Michigan and LaPorte Street and after just seven months of work and \$75,000.00 had their opening premier with "Remember the Night". Seating for 600 patrons and the first projectionist was Bill Glaub.

- 1950 – 1972 - The theater was managed by Wilbur and Faye Weatherhead

who cared for it as if it were their own. The projectionist of this era was Hollis Falconbury.

- 1953 – 1983 - Culver residents Evert & Sadie Hoesel retained ownership.

- September 1983 - Jeff Housouer became the new owner

- May 1987 - John & Gwen Hoesel owned and operated the theater with sons David and Frederick.

- December 22, 2009 - The REES Theatre was closed with the final showing of "Old Dogs".

- September 2013 - The landmark theater building was purchased by local merchants Brian and Lori Van Duyne and Jim and Judy Vinall.

- December 2016 - The property was purchased by Wythougan Valley Preservation Council through a donation made possible by Eleanor and Randy Danielson. The REES Project Committee was formed and led by co-chairs Donna Pontius and Randy Danielson. Brent Martin is the architect of record with SRKM Architecture of

Warsaw, Indiana.

- March 2017 - The REES Theatre Inc. was formed and recognized as a 501(c)3 not for profit and restoration work began

- October 2017 - Completion of Phase I was complete that restored the art deco facade and enchanting marquee.

- 2017 - 2020 - Phase II called for the complete demo of the interior. Phases I, II, and III were funded in total. Phase III allowed for the stabilization and masonry repair.

- August 2021 - The REES was turned over to Brown & Brown General Contractors for the completion of Phase IV that will bring The REES to an opening day in late summer/early fall 2022. This completion phase has been made possible by a grant through the Crossroads Stellar Initiative. The commitment to quality and execution of all of the building trades and suppliers has been evident throughout.

- October 2022 - REES FOR THE STARS!



PILOT NEWS GROUP PHOTO / JAMIE FLEURY

From left to right: Jeannette Surrisi, Sean Surrisi, and Mayor Mark Senter.



PILOT NEWS GROUP PHOTO / JAMIE FLEURY

REES Committee Co-Chair Randy Danielson (left), Eleanor Kacmar-Danielson (right).



PILOT NEWS GROUP PHOTO / JAMIE FLEURY

REES Committee Co-Chair Donna Pontius and Allen Pontius



PILOT NEWS GROUP PHOTO / JAMIE FLEURY

Sarah Smith (left) and Lyn Ward (right)



*Come Check Out the*  
**NEWLY RENOVATED REES THEATRE IN DOWNTOWN PLYMOUTH**

**PWI is proud to have helped revitalize the theatre.**

**(574) 646-2015 • PWIWORKS.COM**

# The REES takes pride in Recycling, Repurposing, and the Green Initiative with this Renovation!

Waste not, want not. That saying has been on the forefront of the minds of the REES Committee throughout the renovation project. In October 2018, the 'silver' screen was cut into strips, removed, and stored until a future use could be determined. That use came about in the form of REES collector bags. With a donation of \$40, supporters of the theater could obtain a bag that was designed using remnants of the screen where generations of movie goers watched action, drama, romance and comedies.

Dozens of removed theater seats have been sold to members of the community. The seats that were beyond repair were dismantled had the wood and metal parts recycled along with the metals throughout the building. Field stones were removed from the original foundation and moved to the kayak/canoe launch in River Park Square. Ceiling joists were also saved and made into table and bar tops.

All the tables on the new balcony are made from the repurposed ceiling joists. The tables were crafted by Allen Pontius. Other projects in the future will utilize the old joists as well.

In 2020, a single donor family

**See GREEN, Page 29**



PHOTO PROVIDED  
Cocktail tables crafted by Allen Pontius from original poplar beams



Bags from reused 'silver' screen.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Solar energy system on REES roof.

PHOTO PROVIDED



## Green, from Page 28

allowed the REES to install an advanced technology solar energy system allowing the theater to go further in the green. In the May 16, 2020 edition of The Pilot News, it stated that “this is undoubtedly a first of this magnitude in downtown Plymouth and in consid-

eration with other decisions that makes this project ‘green’ driven.”

The new rooftop system consists of 76 portrait mounted panels and two inverters with optimizers that are expected to produce about 35,000 KWH annually - the majority of the electric-

ity needed to run everything from the air conditioning and lighting to the popcorn machine. The one-week installation was completed by the Green Alternatives crew in conjunction with Banner Electric.

***Congratulations  
on this addition to  
Marshall County!***



JIM MASTERSON



**MASTERSON  
& ASSOCIATES**

**The Real Estate Corner**

2200 N. Michigan St., Plymouth, IN 46563

Cell (574) 286-8602

[jimmasterson1968@comcast.net](mailto:jimmasterson1968@comcast.net)

[www.plymouthrealestate.org](http://www.plymouthrealestate.org)





# Thank You!

Today wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the many volunteers, supporters, donations, and other support from the community.

## REES for the Stars Event Underwriters:

- Visit Marshall County
- Sweetwater / AllPro Audio
- US Granules
- Gibson Insurance
- Marshall County Arts and Culture Council
- Oliver Ford Family
- Heiden Creative
- Shane's Lawncare
- Hoosier Old Wheels
- Dave and Chris Morrow - Morrow Insurance
- Bryan and Kelsey Bell - Plymouth Family Eyecare
- Kevin and Ruth Boyer
- Greg and Sue Payne

- Glenn and Linda Starr
  - Shane and Angie Klinedinst
- Executive Board:**

- Randy Danielson
- Jack Davis
- Lisa Miller
- Donna Pontius
- Linda Starr
- Don Wendel

## Core Team:

- Eleanor Danielson
- Randy Danielson
- Shelley Heiden
- Donna Pontius
- Linda Starr

## Planning Team:

- Ken Badjek
- Dennis Bottorff
- Eleanor Danielson
- Randy Danielson
- Jack Davis
- Jim Hartung
- Sean Hatfield

- Shelley Heiden
- Judy Lewandowski
- Cindy Martin-Milner
- Kay Miller
- Mark Miller
- Stan Palmer
- Donna Pontius
- Cindy Rash
- Linda Starr
- Dawn Smith
- Lyn Ward
- Don Wendel

## Media:

- Tony Ross and MAX 98.3
- Cindy Stockton and The Pilot News
- Jim and Kathy Bottorff and WTCA 1050 AM

The REES Committee is indebted to the community for sharing their time, talents and treasures to bring this project to fruition!



*Biddle Point*  
— INN & EVENT VENUE —

7290 Michigan Road, Plymouth IN 46563  
**574-936-9190 • [www.biddlepoint.com](http://www.biddlepoint.com)**

*Experience the infusion of hospitality.*



*The*  
**LAKEHOUSE**  
■ ■ ■ *Grille*

620 E. Lakeshore Drive  
Culver, Indiana  
**574-842-2234**  
thelakehouseculver.com

*Open Tuesday thru Sunday at 11am*