

NEWS

VOLUME 86 • NUMBER 39 JULY 2020 WWW.OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM

A Message From the Executive Director

... Club offering several lunchtime options throughout July



Steve Villamonte

Greetings!

During the month of June, the Omaha Press Club restaurant was open Monday through Friday for lunch. On June 22, we entered Phase III of Gov. Ricketts' directed health measures. Under this plan, bars and restaurants are allowed to operate at 100 percent capacity. Up to eight people can sit at a table. You are allowed to sit at the OPC bar. However, salad bars and buffets are still prohibited.

However, since we reopened, business has been sparse. During this time, Christine and I are handling all of the restaurant operations alone, including managing the kitchen. We will add additional staff as we have more business.

Our calendar is wide open right now. If you need event space — whether for daytime or evening — please contact Christine at opcchristine@gmail.com. The Press Club is unique in comparison to other facilities. We require reservations and can accommodate social distancing with ease due to the layout

of the restaurant. This is a value for dining out with regards to your health and safety.

The club will remain open for the month of July, and the board will assess our usage and demand before determining whether we will have our annual August closing. As a member, you can help the club by using the facility — either by dining in or ordering takeout.

The regular Lunch menu is available in the restaurant, and the Express menu is used within the buildings for pickup or delivery. For folks in the buildings, we can make a delivery to the guard station in both the original First National Bank building and the First National Bank tower on the half-hour for customer pickup (11:30 a.m. / noon / 12:30 p.m. / 1 p.m. / 1:30 p.m. / 2 p.m.).

We have added a new Family Meals menu for Curbside pickup. These are a special item for each day of the week that can be pre-ordered for pickup at lunchtime, hot and ready to enjoy. You can order just the entrée item, or a full meal. Each order serves four people.

These specials are:

Monday: Chicken marsala, vegetable du jour, garlic whipped potatoes, choice of salad (Thunderbird or Caesar), rolls and butter.

Tuesday: Salmon beurre blanc, vegetable du jour, risotto pilaf, choice of salad (Thunderbird or Caesar), rolls and butter.

Wednesday: Chicken piccata, vegetable du jour, fettuccine, choice of salad (Thunderbird or Caesar), rolls and butter.

Thursday: Prime rib with au jus and Chantilly, vegetable du jour, twice-

baked potatoes, choice of salad (Thunderbird or Caesar), rolls and butter.

Friday: 16-piece fried chicken, whipped potatoes and gravy, cole slaw, rolls and butter.

Curbside Family Meals can be picked up from the 10-minute parking area on Dodge Street (near the entrance of the DoubleTree Hotel), by selecting a time at the top of each hour: 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. These meals must be ordered online from our website the day before.

For our Takeout, Delivery or Curbside online ordering: <https://www.toasttab.com/omahapressclub/v3>

Or click on the “Order Online” link in the top left corner of our website: <https://omahapressclub.com/>

If dining in, the Press Club door will be propped open during business hours for a “touchless” way to enter the club. Sanitizer stations are set up near each restroom.

First National is mandating that all employees wear face masks in common areas: lobbies, hallways and elevators. This will also be the rule for members coming to the Press Club while in the common areas.

Our goal is precautions for all, as we operate the restaurant to serve our members, First National employees and building tenants. We look forward to seeing you!

To reach me during this time, email: opcdirector@gmail.com

Thank you! See you at the club.

Steve L Villamonte Sr. CEC, BS
Executive Director
Omaha Press Club
402-345-8008

2020 - 2021 Officers

Tom Shatel
President
Omaha World-Herald

Roger Humphries
President-elect
Roger Humphries Photography

Dale Ervin
Treasurer
First National Bank

Bridget (Weide) Brooks
Secretary
Image Building Communications

Jeremy Maskel
Immediate past president
Omaha Public Schools

Board of Directors

(2019-2021)
Chris Allen UNO
Kristyna Engdahl MECA
Mike McKnight WOWT
Erin Johnson Infogroup
Liz Hruska Nebraska Legislature Fiscal Office

(2020-2022)
Allen Beermann Retired
Woody Bradford Houghton Bradford Whitted
Bridget (Weide) Brooks Image Building Communications
Roger Humphries Roger Humphries Photography
Gary Willis NP Dodge Real Estate

Communications Committee

Cindy Workman • Don Summerside
Gary Willis • Jennifer Bull • Karen Way
Tom O'Connor • Anne Walsh • Sandra Tursi
Bridget (Weide) Brooks • Hunter Samuels
Lauren Robinson • Todd Andrews • Jon Brooks

Committee Chairs

Communications Gary Willis, Cindy Workman
Education Dr. Bob Meyers
Executive Committee Tom Shatel, Roger Humphries,
Bridget (Weide) Brooks and Jeremy Maskel
"Face on the Barroom Floor" Roger Humphries
Hall of Fame Woody Bradford
Marketing / Membership Bridget (Weide) Brooks

OPC Foundation

Wendy Townley <i>President</i>	TRUSTEES
Bridget (Weide) Brooks <i>Vice President</i>	Elaine Allen
Josh Bucy <i>2nd Vice President</i>	Chris Christen
Steve Jordon <i>Treasurer</i>	Henry Cordes
	Mike Holmes
	Howard K. Marcus
	Peggy Rupprecht
	Hugh Reilly
	Joseph Weber

The Press Club remembers:

Father Val Peter, 85

The Rev. Val Peter, executive director of Boys Town for 20 years, died June 30 at age 85.

Peter led Boys Town from 1985 to 2005. In 1994, the Omaha Press Club honored him as its 58th "Face on the Barroom Floor."

Born and raised in Omaha, Peter attended elementary school at Holy Cross and high school at Creighton Prep. He went on to earn two doctoral degrees.

Peter taught at St. John's Seminary — now Mount Michael in Elkhorn — as well as the College of St. Mary and Creighton University before joining Boys Town.

During his time at Boys Town, Peter helped to expand the institution at several sites across the country. He also oversaw the remodeling of four dormitories and the addition of new family homes to allow for helping more girls on campus.

"Boys Town children could always count on Father Val to give them hope, encouragement and unconditional love," said Deacon Tim McNeil, chancellor for the Omaha archdiocese. "He knew the children by name, and he knew their personal stories.

Tony Jones, alumni director at Boys Town,



Father Val Peter

said Peter's "heart was just open for children." And he was able to connect with anyone, Jones said. "Father could speak to an 8-year-old and then go into a board meeting and speak to a Ph.D. It didn't matter what spectrum you were on. Father was able to identify with you on any level."

Jim Van Arsdall, 72

James E. Van Arsdall, E.D., a longtime member of the social sciences faculty at Metropolitan Community College and a member of the OPC Education Committee, died June 18 at age 72.

In 2007, Dr. Van Arsdall was awarded the Metropolitan Community College Academic Affairs Beacon Award for excellence and innovation in meeting the changing needs of students and the community.

Before joining Metro in 1985, Van Arsdall was an assistant professor and program coordinator for continuing education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and was the former director of conferences and institutes at Old Dominion University.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gloria J. Sorey, and is survived by a daughter, Whitney Van Arsdall.



Jim Van Arsdall

Photographer Mike Plews Retires at WOWT

WOWT Chief Photographer Mike Plews, an OPC member better known as "Pierre," has retired after 40 years at Channel 6.



Mike Plews

Jimmy Carter was in the final days of his presidency when Plews first walked into the TV station as an employee on Jan. 2, 1980.

"He leaves us with a legacy of hard work and pride in the product," said David Kaplar, WOWT news director. "He is someone who always answered the call and asked what more he could do to help."

"I know I speak for the entire newsroom when I say he's earned a break," Kaplar added. "Because of COVID and distancing, we have decided to make plans for a celebration for Mike later this year, hopefully when we can assemble a larger group to properly pay tribute to him."