

# NEWS

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## A Message From the Executive Director

*... We're closed in August, see you in September!*



Steve Villamonte

The Press Club is currently closed for our annual summer break. This year, we're closed for the entire month of August (the annual club closing normally includes the last week of July and part of August).

We will reopen on Tuesday, Sept. 1. At that time, club hours will follow our regular lunch schedule, and we'll be open for evening dining when we have sufficient reservations. Please contact Christine at [opcchristine@gmail.com](mailto:opcchristine@gmail.com) or call 402-345-8008 if you are looking to reserve an event at the club — we have space available daytime and evenings starting in September. She will also plan dinners for anyone who wants an evening event with 10 or more guests. She'll be checking her messages during the club closure, so reach out now!

As of Sept. 1, the regular lunch menu will be available in the restaurant, and the Express menu in the First National Bank building and tower for pickup or delivery. We make deliveries to the guard stations in both buildings every half-hour (11:30 a.m. / noon / 12:30 / 1 p.m. / 1:30 p.m.

/ 2 p.m. and Fridays from 4-6 p.m.) We will also have our Family Meals menu for curbside pickup. These meals must be ordered on the website at least 24 hours in advance, and these can be picked up from the 10-minute parking on Dodge Street (near the entrance to the DoubleTree Hotel) at the top of each hour (11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.).

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

We recently learned that First National Bank will not have tenants or employees back in the building until January 2021. This makes the Press Club one of the safest facilities to dine in anywhere in the state.

The Omaha Press Club restaurant is unique in comparison to many 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.

Even if you are not taking advantage of our dine-in or takeout opportunities, we appreciate you continuing to support the club by paying your dues. Due to the type of club we are, we have not been eligible for the government's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that many Omaha restaurants have taken advantage of. Therefore, our dues revenue is especially vital to our survival during these difficult times. We want to be here for you in 2021 to celebrate our 50th anniversary of the club — and we need your help to do so.

We'll continue to come up with innovative ways to serve our members in the meantime. For example, on Friday, July 31, the club offered a "Fried Chicken

Friday" curbside pickup. The meal was extremely popular, and we received comments from multiple customers who said they would like us to do this event again. Board members were involved in the planning and even helped with order pickup. The plan is to continue to offer this again — including different entrées, like our popular prime rib — and grow the takeout demand. This is a great way to support the club in addition to dining in.

Here's a reminder of the safety guidelines in place when the club reopens Sept. 1:

- For public safety, the Press Club door will be propped open during business hours.
- Sanitizer stations will be set up near each restroom.
- First National is mandating that all employees wear face masks in common areas (lobbies, hallways, 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 continue to serve our membership, FNB employees and tenants.

The club is currently operating in Phase III of the governor's directed health measures. Bars and restaurants are able to operate at 100 percent capacity. Eight people can sit at a table. Salad bars and buffets are still prohibited.

To contact me best during this time: [opcdirector@gmail.com](mailto:opcdirector@gmail.com)

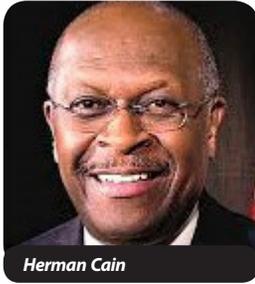
Thank you and see you at the club (in September!).

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

## The Press Club remembers:

### Herman Cain, 74

**H**erman Cain, the business leader who revived the fortunes of Omaha-based Godfather's Pizza, died July 30 in Atlanta of complications of COVID-19. He was 74.



Cain, at the time a Pillsbury executive, moved to Omaha in 1986 to take charge of Pillsbury's poorly performing Godfather's subsidiary and returned the chain of pizza restaurants to profitability. He then led a group of investors in buying Godfathers from Pillsbury in 1988.

In 1991, Cain gave one of the most memorable performances in the long history of Omaha Press Club Shows. OPC Show writer and performer Bill Kelly created a new set of lyrics for the John Lennon classic "Imagine." Donning a choir robe and flanked by backup singers, Cain belted out "Imagine There's No Pizza" and received standing ovations during two gridiron show performances at Peony Park.

In 1994, Cain was honored as the OPC's 56th "Face on the Barroom Floor." That was the same year that he became board chairman of the National Restaurant Association. He also served as a director and later chair-

man of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Cain left Godfathers in 1996, moving to Washington as president and CEO of the National Restaurant Association and then returning to his hometown of Atlanta in 2000, where he hosted a radio talk show and wrote syndicated newspaper and online opinion columns.

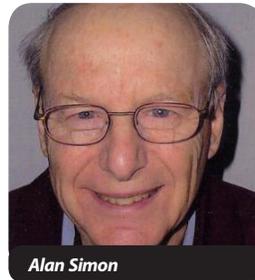
Active in Republican politics for years, Cain was a candidate for the 2012 presidential nomination but withdrew after allegations of sexual misconduct, which he denied. Most recently, he was co-chairman of Black Voices for Trump in the 2020 campaign.

### Alan Simon, 85

**O**maha Steaks Chairman Alan Simon died on July 10 in Laguna Beach, California. He was 85.

Alan and his late brothers, Fred and Stephen, were honored together in 2008 as the OPC's 118th "Face on the Barroom Floor." The three were the fourth generation at the helm of Omaha Steaks and helped make the brand recognized around the world.

Alan and his brothers were responsible for such innovations as the company's mail-



order catalogs, inbound call center and automated order system, and the company's first retail store in 1976.

Omaha Steaks was founded as a butcher shop in 1917 by the brothers' grandfather and great-grandfather. In 100-plus years of operation, Omaha Steaks has become one of America's largest marketers of beef and the largest small-parcel direct shipper of gourmet foods in the United States.

Alan Simon is credited with creating the packaging to allow large shipments of steaks and transforming the meat shipping industry. Omaha Steaks' 400-item product line generates revenue of about \$450 million in annual sales – a total of about 4 million packages a year.

The fifth generation of Simons continues company operations, with Alan's son, Bruce, the president and CEO of Omaha Steaks.

Bruce told the Omaha World-Herald that his dad was "absolutely meticulous" in operating the business and a humble person who didn't go in for flashy cars, expensive clothes or large homes. He loved to joke and to dominate a Ping-Pong table.

"I built a room on the third floor at our headquarters just for Ping-Pong," Bruce told the World-Herald. "It had wrestling mats on the walls because you could really get flying around. Dad was a merciless Ping-Pong player into his 70s."

In addition to son Bruce, Alan Simon is survived by his wife, Anne; daughter, Janice Tecimer, and four grandchildren.

### September Forum to offer preview of symphony season

**T**he Sept. 17 Noon Forum at the Omaha Press Club will present a look at what's in store during the 100th season of the Omaha Symphony Orchestra. Jennifer Boomgaarden, president and chief executive officer of the symphony, will be the featured speaker.

Jennifer is no stranger to Omaha, having served as associate conductor of the Omaha Area Youth Orchestras beginning in 1999. In 2005, she became the vice president of education and community partnerships and staff conductor for the Omaha Symphony.

Under Jennifer's leadership, the symphony



was awarded the Leonard Bernstein Award for Educational Programming in 2010. In recognition of her leadership and passion for music and music education, Jennifer received the Omaha Public Schools A+ Advocate award in 2009 and the Nebraska Governor's Emerging Leader in the Arts award in 2010.

She will present an overview of the symphony's 100th season, including special guests, concerts and other events sure to make the season one of the most special in the orchestra's history. In addition, Jennifer will take questions from the audience.

The program will begin at noon and continue until 1 p.m. Lunch, at \$17 per person, is served beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Call 402-345-8008 for reservations or email [opcchristine@gmail.com](mailto:opcchristine@gmail.com). Non-Press Club members are welcome.

### Bacon, Eastman agree to luncheon debate on Oct. 8

**T**he campaigns of Democrat Kara Eastman and Republican Don Bacon have agreed that the candidates will participate in a luncheon debate Oct. 8 at the Omaha Press Club.

The 2nd District congressional debate will be sponsored by the Press Club and the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha. It will be recorded by WOWT Channel 6 and played back on various platforms that the TV station has available. The moderator will be WOWT anchor/reporter Brian Mastre.

The coronavirus may change some debate details, so anyone planning on attending should watch for any changes. The Press Club will, of course, abide by any health directives in place at that time.