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For Immediate Release
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Columbia Ballroom Set to Reopen After Devastating Fire

By Rick Szabrak

Columbia Station, OH _ The Columbia Ballroom has a storied history in northeast Ohio. It now starts a new chapter as it rebounds from last March's devastating fire.



The Ballroom is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year and is accepting new bookings as the building has been fully repaired and even upgraded. But a year ago there was concern that a 90th year wouldn't happen.

Heidi and Shane Goodman, third generation owners of the Columbia Ballroom, paused operations last winter to finish upgrades to the building. But less than a month before they were ready to reopen, a fire broke out and almost destroyed a piece of Columbia Station history.

"Our first reaction was to make sure everyone that was working on the building was safe," said Shane Goodman, whose family has owned the Columbia Ballroom since it was converted from a barn in 1931. "We're thankful everyone got out in time. But as we saw the flames shooting through the roof we feared the building would be lost."

Area fire departments rushed to the scene and were able to extinguish the flames before they did irreparable harm. But it was the support of their community that also helped limit the damage to the building. Dozens of people comprised of family, friends, and community members helped dispose of water and debris.

Within hours the debris was cleared. But the damage to the roof, windows, and floor made the Ballroom look like a shell of its former self.

"It was heartbreaking to see a building that our family had worked so hard to restore look like that," Heidi Goodman said. "But I felt even worse for the brides who were planning to get married at the Ballroom."

As the Goodmans worked with insurance companies and contractors to repair the building, they also helped those who had events planned at the Ballroom find other options.



Through it all they learned how important the building was to so many people in northeast Ohio.

“The outpouring of love and concern by our small community warmed our hearts,” Heidi said. “Some of the people we knew. Some we didn’t. But all held a special place in their hearts for what the Columbia Ballroom represents and brings to the community.”

The Ballroom has brought thousands of people to Columbia Station throughout the years. It was once a bank barn that housed wool and animals before it was moved to its current location in 1929. It was converted to a ballroom two years later and became well known for the dances it hosted, especially during the Big Band Era. Notable band leaders that stepped foot inside the Ballroom include Tommy Dorsey, Fletcher Henderson, and Bob Crosby.

Shane and Heidi took over the business from Shane’s father, Guy Goodman, and focused on hosting weddings and other events. Shane, a chef by trade, provides the catering for the weddings. Heidi, who has a degree in design, leads the wedding planning. It’s been a recipe for success as the Columbia Ballroom was voted Best Wedding Venue by Cleveland’s Hot List and Cleveland Magazine in 2020.



“Columbia Ballroom has long been a very special place in Columbia Station,” Columbia resident Michael Simon said. “What wonderful history it has. Not only bringing Big Bands to the community but also many memorable dances, weddings, reunions, and parties. Guy and his parents are smiling down right now and Columbia is so happy the Ballroom will live again.”

Guests will see a new look to the Columbia Ballroom. The building includes 9,000 square feet of white oak hardwood floors and

bright white interior. The large lanterns over the ballroom floor were replicated and enhancements to the entryway and bar area give it a more dramatic feel.

The Goodmans hope that one day their three sons will continue the story of the Columbia Ballroom.

“Many people had their first dates and fell in love under this very roof and now couples get to celebrate their marriage here,” Heidi said. “It was so important for us to rebuild and save this historic space so it could be a home to many more memories to come. Holding onto the legacy that will be passed onto a fourth generation of Goodmans.”

The Columbia Ballroom will host an open house this Sunday, March 7 from noon-4pm.