

Proud of Power and Progress

By Bob Hausmann (Columbus Public Library Board President)

I have been a resident of Columbus for the majority of my life. First being raised here, then moving back after some time away, and now having raised my own family here, for as long as I can remember, Columbus has been known as, “The City of Power and Progress”. What do these words refer to, some may ask? We are the site of several public energy companies, hence the word “power”. While I am certainly proud of how much our energy companies mean to not only our city, but to many cities across the state, the word, “progress” is the word I am most proud of as a Columbus citizen.

For a city to continue to grow and thrive, there must be progress. Progress is needed for people to not only want to move to a new city, but for those who live there to want to stay. I am proud to say the city of Columbus has shown that we are dedicated to progress. With the passing of the public vote last November to build our new Columbus Community Building, which will house our library, city offices, art gallery, and community room, and include space for a new children’s museum. If you drive by the location of our previous library building in downtown you will see obvious signs of progress. The old building is gone. Large pieces of equipment are now digging and working to get the site ready to erect the new building. The irony with the “Power and Progress” example I have been talking about, is the original building that was our library for decades, was Nebraska Public Power District’s building, prior to moving and progressing to their current site.

In the very near future, this new building designed specifically for these resources to grow and thrive for decades to come, will be raised in its place. The new building will be something our community can be proud of now and for future generations as well. This type of progress is one of the many reasons families will see Columbus as a destination they want to move their families to, and also a reason our current families will want to stay. We need to continue to change with the times and think and plan for the future. Not just for us to enjoy today, but for those people who will choose Columbus as their home decades from now. Columbus truly is a city of power and progress. A city of which we all can be very proud.