



## St.CharlesPatch

News and Information for St. Charles, IL



Fox Tales

By Jackie Birks 4:50am

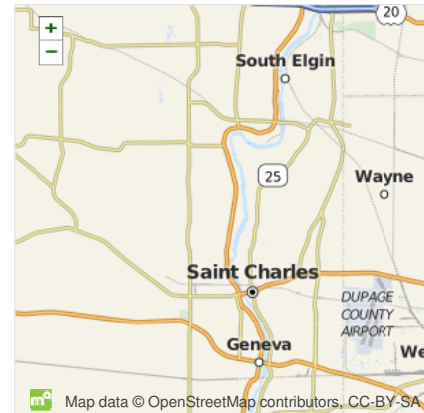
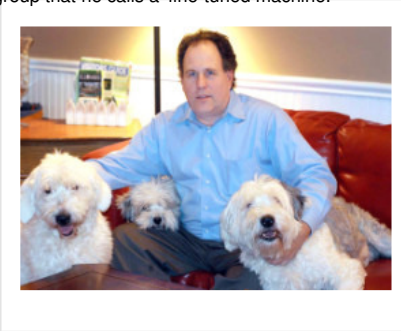
### NEWS

## New Fox Valley Repertory Board Member Presents Fresh Perspective

Kevin Hewitt of St. Charles is happy to assist theater group that he calls a 'fine-tuned machine.'

As [Fox Valley Repertory](http://www.foxvalleyrep.org/)

(<http://www.foxvalleyrep.org/>) rises out of the successful performing arts company formerly known as Noble Fool Theatricals, Kevin Hewitt of St. Charles will be there to lend support and spread the word about what the [Pheasant Run](http://www.pheasantrun.com/) (<http://www.pheasantrun.com/>)Resort-based group offers the community.



Hewitt is one of three new volunteer board members for the nonprofit Fox Valley Repertory, along with Mike Penny, also of St. Charles and Jeffery Meyer of South Elgin.

"I was impressed by the direction of John Gawlik, the artistic director, and what he wanted to bring to the company," Hewitt said. "I talked to John about how he gets a piece of work and goes about setting up the production and the feel of it. We were talking about the play 'Red Herring.'

"They've been in business a long time and they know what they're doing. It's a fine-tuned machine."

Hewitt expects to serve in an advisory capacity as a board member.

"Their performances are always top-notch," Hewitt said. "I enjoy watching plays. I thought, here's a great chance to get involved and see how they really run the business."

John Gawlik, Fox Valley Repertory artistic director, said the organization sought new board members who wanted to get involved with the community and who have an affinity for the arts.

"(We wanted) individuals who saw the value and impact the arts can have on a community," Gawlik said. "We want a mix of different backgrounds and perspectives."

Gawlik said Hewitt, who will serve for at least three years on the board, became a candidate after he'd attended a community meet-and-greet event before an opening night with his wife, Lori Hewitt, who is president and CEO of the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce.

"After meeting with Kevin and seeing his enthusiasm for Fox Valley Repertory, we had a lunch meeting to discuss his further participation with our organization," Gawlik said. "Kevin's enthusiasm and passion to contribute, along with his knowledge of both the Fox Valley area and his business wisdom, made him an excellent candidate. He had a lot of questions about how our organization operated and got to know what kind of personality we are as a team. From there, we knew it was a great fit."

Gawlik said he along with the group's managing director Colleen Tovar report to the board and each season, they prepare the shows, budgets and new projects for the board's review, insight and approval.

Gawlik said Hewitt's experience as an account executive for FedEx will assist the group in various ways during the board's quarterly meetings and beyond.

"The board is a great adviser for helping our small business grow," Gawlik said. "The stories we tell onstage are meticulously chosen for the Fox Valley area. They are stories that hopefully will allow our audience to laugh, reflect and reconnect to current and past moments in our lives that help us understand who we are to each other."

Hewitt likes the fact that the creative staff members have asked him to attend Fox Valley Repertory productions and provide them with feedback in laymen's terms.

"They want to know how I felt about a play," Hewitt said. "They ask 'What did you like?' and 'What didn't you like' about it? John (Gawlik) knows talent and he gets the best."

Hewitt said Fox Valley Repertory will begin communicating more directly with women because they tend to be the ones buying tickets to productions.

"We're discussing what to do to attract that market," Hewitt said. "But what really attracted me to want to get involved was the people of Fox Valley Repertory."

I like to hear about their aspect of the business.”

This is the seventh year Fox Valley Repertory has been based at Pheasant Run. In addition to the name change, the group is organizing a three-week Summer Arts Festival, among other projects.

For more information, on Fox Valley Repertory, visit [www \(http://www.foxvalleyrep.org\).foxvalleyrep.org \(http://www.foxvalleyrep.org\)](http://www.foxvalleyrep.org).

Interested in a follow-up to this article?

***About this column:**Fox Tales is a periodic series that will feature St. Charles residents who contribute to the town's cultural identity through creativity, volunteerism and various other activities. Writer Jackie Birks has more than 20 years of journalism experience and has won several awards for her feature articles. If you have a potential idea, please email her at [jbirksland@gmail.com](mailto:jbirksland@gmail.com).*

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