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## Fire closes Boulevard Cinema

Posted By Aimee Pianosi  
Posted 22 hours ago



Paul Peterson beside the microwave which he says may have started the fire at the Boulevard Cinema Tuesday evening. The microwave was on the shelf between the two popcorn machines in the background. Peterson says he'll reopen the theatre as soon as possible.

Aimee Pianosi

It's curtains at the Boulevard Cinema in Napanee, but just for a few weeks, after a fire Tuesday night that caused damage in the lobby. The theatres and hallway also sustained water and smoke damage.

Tuesday night at about 6 p.m. manager Eric Gordon arrived and saw flames near the two popcorn machines. He didn't open the door, instead called the fire department.

According to owner Paul Peterson, "the fire department was amazing"

He characterized the timing of the fire as very lucky, noting that Tuesday night is the busiest night of the week, because it's a discount night. There are usually extra staff in the building, and there is currently is a children's movie playing. To him, the fire breaking out when the theatre was completely unoccupied is the greatest relief.

Already by 11 p.m. Tuesday night cleanup crews were on site. All the ceiling tiles have been removed, and staff were picking through, photographing items, and bagging them up either for trash or repair.

Peterson also noted the sprinkler system did its job and kept the fire from spreading to other units in the building on Richmond Boulevard.

He said, "I'm so lucky. We're going to rebuild. We're going to reopen as soon as we can."

Peterson was surveying the damage, and added, "You just realize how amazing people are. A number of people in the community have stopped by. It's just amazing."

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