
P Manhattan/Riley County, Kansas RESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

Greetings from the President

March/ April 2006

My Dear Preservation Partners,

Greetings and good wishes that the spring weather is lifting your spirits the way it is mine (in spite of the snow forecast). There is plenty of news in the Preservation community these days, but I'll try to be brief.

The first big item on our plate is the upcoming dedication ceremony and celebration for Manhattan's newly restored Union Pacific Depot. Each day new signs of life appear in and around the depot, each of them more wonderful than the last. Interior and exterior lighting (wow, check out those street lights!), bathroom tiling and fixtures, a new kitchette, not to mention the incredible new TOWER complete with all of the detailed stone work that makes this building really spectacular. I simply cannot express how exciting it is to walk through (as Jim and I did with Mike and Judine Mecseri last weekend) and see all of the changes and to imagine how much everyone in the community is going to enjoy it.

The date for the dedication is set so mark your calendars!! Saturday June 3rd beginning at 2pm. We have a full slate of activities planned, turn of the century goodies, presentations, entertainment and lots of surprises. We will also be unveiling the name of our anonymous donor at that time, so you'll want to be there to give them a big thank you from all of us. We will need EVERYONE'S help to make the dedication a success, so if we call on you to lend a hand please carefully consider giving the Alliance your support on that day.

Other news: the fate of the abused but magnificent Queen Anne at 617 Colorado remains a concern. Members of the Alliance took a brief tour of the structure a week or so ago and another attempt to see the building was made on March 17th. Unfortunately, the owner had changed the locks and did not leave a key locally with anyone so that inspection was minimal.

Continued on pg 2....

Calendar Of Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 13

Bi-Monthly Meeting for Board and interested members*

Thursday April 27

Bi- Monthly Meeting for Board and interested members

May 4-6

Kansas State Historic Preservation Conference,
Lawrence KS

www.visitlawrence.com

Thursday May 11

Bi-Monthly Meeting for Board and interested members

Thursday May 25

Last meeting of the Board before the Dedication

SATURDAY JUNE 3 2-4pm!!!!

Union Pacific Depot Dedication

*April & May board meetings are held at First Congregational Church at Juliette and Poyntz starting at 7:30p.m. Enter through the door facing Poyntz that is nearest the Church's parking lot. We usually meet in the basement.

Beginning in June our board meetings will be held at the Union Pacific Depot on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Note: Individual committee meetings are called by the committee chairs. Please contact your committee chair directly to find out when and where they meet next.

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In the meantime, however, the Alliance was offered up to \$10,000 in start up loan to purchase and rehabilitate the property if we manage to gain control of it (a real vote of confidence). We will keep the membership informed as each new chapter unfolds. Some Good News: the staff at the Kansas State Historical Society are keeping a close eye on the situation and are standing ready to help us prevent the building from being demolished. Certainly they will deny a demolition permit as will the Historic Resources board, so keep your fingers and toes crossed!

Section 106 Review: As a result of the cultural resources survey of Wards 1 and 2 that was completed by the City of Manhattan last year at the behest of the Historic Resources Board (several of our members serve on that board) the state has identified seven structures in the area slated for redevelopment in the 3rd street corridor. Under Section 106, the Federal Government is obliged to review the effect of its own project on historic properties. Dial's investment group has applied for federal funds and that has triggered the review. Consulting parties include Dial, the Federal agency under NEPA, the State Preservation Office, the City of Manhattan, Downtown Manhattan Incorporated (Main Street Program) and US! We have been given a place at the table to discuss the effect of the development on Manhattan's historic and cultural resources and to potentially make changes to the 3rd Street redevelopment plan. It will be an uphill battle, but we have a champion on our side. Bernd Foerster will represent us at the negotiations and we can all be sure that his experience and expertise will be seriously considered. Go Bernd!

I can't tell you how grateful I am to be a member of this organization. Other groups talk but we are real down to earth movers and doers. Have a look at the report on the Emporia Main Street presentation as an example. Lets support our new membership committee (creatively chaired by Debbie Saroff) by seeking out other preservation minded individuals who share our vision and get them involved in making Manhattan a better place to live, now and in the future,

Bonnie



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THE EMPORIA MAINSTREET PRESENTATION



What do the Emporia Main Street Program and the Manhattan Main Street Program have in common?? Well, if you don't know you were not at the joint meeting of Manhattan Main Street and the Manhattan/ Riley County Preservation Alliance held on March 2nd at the Wareham Theater.

There are several answers but the best one is that our director, Lisa Rockley is a former member of the Emporia program and she and Mary Helmer, the Emporia Main Street director are the ONLY two certified Main Street Directors in the State of Kansas.

What does Emporia have that Manhattan doesn't? A National Trust Great American Main Street Award!! One of only five cities in the USA to get this coveted award last year, Emporia was recognized for making business development assistance a pillar of its program by providing tax rebates, business "incubation," educational training and a zero % revolving loan fund for new business enterprises to relocate to their historic downtown.

In addition to all this, the Main Street program and the city applied for help to restore the historic Granada Theater, now a Main Street attraction. For every dollar of the city's investment in the downtown, the program has returned \$33.00 in private investment.

Thanks very much to Mary Helmer and the other Emporia staff and business owners who took the time to share their inspirational tale with us. Let's do what we can to make Manhattan a "Great American Main Street" city!!

NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The membership committee has been working on new ideas to broaden our membership base. This year, the membership drive will take place earlier than in years past. The year will be May 2006 to September 2007.

Listed below are the benefits you will receive

\$500+ Landmark
(\$450 tax deductible)
All of the below plus...
Tower Print

\$250+ Preservation
All of the below plus...
Special Preview and Debut Social of
the Union Pacific Depot (for 2 people)

\$100+ Historical
All of the below plus...
Invitation to special events (for 2 people)

\$35+ Maintenance
All of the below


\$15+ Student
Newsletter
Education Seminars

(All memberships are 100% tax-deductible unless
otherwise noted.)

THE REHABILITATION OF THE
MANHATTAN DEPOT IS NEARLY
FINISHED!!!

THE DEDICATION CEREMONY WILL
BE JUNE 3 BEGINNING AT 2P.M. TO BE
FOLLOWED BY AN OPEN HOUSE UNTIL
4P.M.

If you would like to help with planning the dedication
ceremony, or would be available to help on June 3 please
contact Liz Harmon by email: lizaharm@gmail.com or
phone: 913-909-2589



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MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ACCEPTANCE

Yes! I want to be a part of the Special Preview
and Depot Social of the Union Pacific Depot,
donating at the Preservation or Landmark Level.

PLEASE RESPOND BEFORE May 6, 2006

\$15+ STUDENT
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