
P Manhattan/Riley County, Kansas RESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

Greetings from the President

May/June 2006

*My Dear Preservation Partners,
Countdown to Dedication!!*

Just in case you have been out of the country or otherwise preoccupied (as if ANYTHING is more important!) the newly refurbished Union Pacific Depot will be dedicated to the public on Manhattan Day, Saturday, June 3rd beginning at 2pm!

A large crew of stalwart volunteers has been busy for weeks attending to all the details that accrue with throwing a party for a city of 40K. We are well on our way now, with the invitations finished and mailed, the music and food all squared away, and the program written and proofed.

Of course none of this will be of any consequence if we lack for volunteers to help us with crowd control, door management, and even decorating—a small sample of the host of jobs to be done. So, the bottom line is, please give our committee chair Liz Harmon a call if you are free to help for an hour or two on the 3rd of June. Please see her request for volunteers on page 2 in this issue of the newsletter, and let her know you are on board!

In other news, the Membership Committee, chaired by Debbie Saroff has been doing double duty, helping with the dedication and a very high powered membership drive simultaneously. The letters for the drive went out a few weeks ago and the response has been astonishing. Clearly people in Manhattan have come to know and appreciate the work of the Alliance and are willing to become substantial partners with us. A preview party for members joining at the \$250.00 level is planned for May 30. It's going to be an elegant evening—the first of many to come I'm sure.

Landscaping around the depot has been an issue for several Alliance members as were the regulations for the use of the facility. I'm please to report that both of these concerns have been settled to our satisfaction.

Howe Landscape, in consultation with the Alliance and City Parks and Rec will be installing new plantings in and around the Depot and maintaining the site for five years.

Parks and Rec received permission to use 12K of the StateTax Credits for rehabilitation (thanks to Katrina Klingaman of the Kansas State Historical Society for bringing these to our attention last fall) for additional plant materials for the site. Result: a beautiful entrance and setting for the Depot to match the stunning rehabilitation.

The city commission also gave the nod for the regulated and responsible use of alcohol at the Depot.

Continued on pg 2...

Calendar Of Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 25th

Last meeting of the Board before the
Dedication

SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd 2-4pm!!!!

Union Pacific Depot Dedication

Thursday, June 8th

Monthly Board Meeting at the Union Pacific
Depot

Fall 2006

Preservation Award Ceremony—
so check out the categories on our web site
www.preservemanhattan.org and keep an eye
out around town for potential nominations!

May board meetings are held at The First
Congregational Church at Juliette and Poyntz
starting at 7:30p.m. 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.

This will insure that the Depot is well used by groups and parties of all sorts and at all times of the year.

And FINALLY there is some action at 617 Colorado Street. The owners of the house have indicated that they want to sell. The board voted at their last meeting to use \$600.00 (of the funds we have been given to use for the potential restoration of this beautiful old Queen Anne) for a preliminary appraisal. The Wilson Company will be doing that appraisal very soon and we will be able to put together a fair bid to the owners.

If there is something Alliance members understand, its that one small step at a time will, in fact, take us a very long way. If you feel its time to come along with us, please attend our next meeting on May 25th, 7:30pm at FCC as we steam into the last bend in the rail line and cruise on into the station (train noise here). See you at the Party!

Bonnie

THE GRAND OPENING OF THE DEPOT IS ALMOST HERE & WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Preservation Alliance is preparing for the depot dedication ceremony, and we are looking for a few items and people to help make the ceremony great!

- Volunteers from 2-4:30 on June 3rd, to help us serve ice cream, pass out programs, and help with traffic control.
- 4 EZ up tents which can be set up on concrete.
- Patriotic decorations, such as bunting and American Flags.

We will be using these items for a few hours on the afternoon of June 3rd! If you can help, or have an item we can borrow, please contact Elizabeth Harmon at (913) 909-2589 or lizaharm@gmail.com. Thanks!

OUR NEXT POTENTIAL PROJECT - 617 COLORADO



Progress on the potential restoration of 617 Colorado street continues. The board approved the use of funds dedicated to the restoration of the house to do an as-is appraisal of the house and the duplex next to it. That appraisal has been recieved and will form the basis for any loan the M/RCPA decides to take out for the purchase of the buildings. The owner has indicated his willingness to sell, and particularly to sell to a buyer who will not tear the building down.

Jim Sherow and Michael Mesceri have done extensive exploration of the house for its condition and to determine a new floor plan for restoration should the Alliance purchase the structure. Mike's first draft of the floorplan was presented to Alliance members and the board at the May 11th meeting and several members made helpful comments.

Pat O'Brien has started to collect the needed information for putting the building on the National Register of Historic Places--a crucial first step in qualifying the building for state tax credits.

In the coming weeks, Mike and Jim, on behalf of the board, will contact contractors and receive bids on major components of the restoration such as roof, plumbing and electrical. At that point, we may be able to make an offer.



We are still a long way from even having possession of the building, but things are still moving in the right direction, meaning, the building is still standing and the code office is pleased with our efforts to buy the house and restore it. More to come in future newsletters. . . for more information, feel free to call either Mike (776 4735) or Jim (565 0086) at home. -*Jim Sherow*

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR MEMBERS WHOSE
GENEROSITY ALLOWS US TO DO SO MUCH!**

STUDENT LEVEL (\$15)

Pat Zarger
Hal Dace
Liz Harmon
Sally Lee

**MAINTENANCE LEVEL
(\$35+)**

Phil and Dawn Anderson
Lance and Melanie Klein
Tom and Karen Roberts
K Taylor
Stuart C. and Nancy B. Williams
Judy Willingham
Alice Edmunds
Elaine Mohr
Patricia and Ray Weisenburger
Cheryl Walters
Criss Mayfield
Lawrence and Mary H. Pollack
Clark and Nancy Danner
Gerald and Martha Powell
Richard and Kimberly Smith
Bill Pallett
Mary Ann Fleming
Endacott Lighting
Jane Gibson
Jean Hulbert
Ruth Abbott
Corina Hugo
Vladmir Krstic and Marina Pecar-Krstic
Jeanne Jaccard Parker


* The membership drive started early this year to allow members the opportunity to be the first to view the depot. All membership dues received between now and September are good through September 2007.

HISTORIC LEVEL (\$100)

Meri Werner
Mimi Balderson
Suzanne Siepl-Coates and Gary Coates
Brian and Jayme Morris-Hardeman
Virginia M. Quiring
Bruce and Leslie Snead
Rev. H. Wayne and Beverly Fink
Marjorie Heyne
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Fran Ellis
Forrest Chumley and Barbara Valent
George and Julie Strecker
Gene Laughlin
Commerce Bank
John and Barbara Rees
Marilyn McCord

**PRESERVATION LEVEL
(\$250)**


Burke and Margery Bayer
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Steve and Deborah Saroff
Chuck Tannehill
Marsha Tannehill
Ron and Dixie West
Gwyn Riffel
James Sherow and Bonnie Lynn-Sherow
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