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# Manhattan / Riley County PRESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 2004

**FROM THE PRESIDENT—JIM SHEROW**

**G**reetings Everyone. As some of you already know, the September meeting will end my term as president of the alliance. It certainly has been an exciting and eventful two years as president, and indeed, it has been my pleasure to serve and represent the alliance. But without the active participation and hard work of the membership, there would be no successes to report. I want to express my deep appreciation and thanks to all those who have made possible the accomplishments of the alliance over these last two years.

Just recall a few of our accomplishments. We're now a non-profit organization or 501 (c) (3) corporation; we launched an aggressive fund raising campaign for the depot; we sponsored another successful holiday homes tour; we joined forces with other community organizations to champion new zoning regulations for the historic portions of town; our voice is now heard by the Chamber of Commerce; we work in collaboration with Downtown Manhattan, Inc. and these are just a few of things we've collectively done.

But we can't sit on our duffs thinking we're done, or that this is enough as is. We're in the middle of the \$3 Campaign for the depot, and there is still much to be done on this score. We're scheduling a great series of public presen-

tations highlighting preservation issues and accomplishments in the city. Our biennial preservation awards is scheduled for our October meeting. And this meeting, September 9<sup>th</sup>, we elect new officers and board members. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this important meeting! Besides electing new board members and officers, we'll be taking stock of the \$3 campaign, and we'll be setting our agenda for the next year. We need your input!

For example, we still have much to do in terms of educating the public about the virtues of preservation as Bonnie's and my recent exchange with the school board indicates. We need to build our membership and further consolidate and strengthen our joint efforts with the Neighborhood Coalition.

I'm proud to say that our organization is making a positive difference in the quality of life in our community. We can continue to do this with everyone's contribution – large or small.

So again, mark your calendars for September 9, our annual election meeting, and for October 14, our preservation awards night. SEE YOU THEN!

Your President  
*Jim Sherow*

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**CHECK THIS OUT!**

**L**ong time Preservation Alliance member Jean Hill is combining households with her mother, Virginia Bigbee, and because of lack of space she is having to dispose of some of her household goods. Generously, Jean is pledging 10% of the proceeds of the sale to the Depot Matching Fund drive, 10% to the First Congregational Church 150th Anniversary Fund, and 10% to Sertoma Charities. The sale of her property will take place at 613 Houston in Manhattan on Friday, September 24 from noon to 8 pm; on Saturday, September 25 from 8 am to 4 pm; and on Sunday, September 26 from 1 pm to 4 pm. Items offered will include antiques, collectibles, kitchen items, furniture, and garden tools. For more specifics, Jean can be reached at 776-6360.

## **\$3 FROM EVERYONE COULD DO IT!**

by Linda Glasgow

**T**he Union Pacific railroad depot in Manhattan was closed down in the early seventies. No one paid much attention to it until Fort Riley Boulevard opened in 1986 and everyone began driving past it. Suddenly people began coming to the Riley County Museum, saying it was a shame to let it go like that.

Some progress has been made. Maybe you've noticed that it does look nicer than it used to.

Previous phases of the building's rehabilitation have seen the stabilization of the foundation, Window repair, asbestos and lead paint removal, and the installation of roofing tiles. Projects to date have been completed using grant money, grant matches supplied by the City of Manhattan, and donations from the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance.

Although the outside now looks pretty good, unfortunately when the building was closed, all the utilities, the plumbing and wiring were removed, so the building is not very usable yet.

Now there's an opportunity to finish the job. A grant has been awarded by the Kansas Department of Transportation for this project.

KDOT will give **\$4.00** for every dollar we can raise. This is an incredible opportunity. If we can raise \$150,000, that will be enough to complete the restoration. If we raise less than that, KDOT will match what we have 4 to 1, then give the rest of the money to some other community. And the offer won't last forever.

Members of the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance, Inc. are working with the City of Manhattan to raise as much money as possible in the next two months. They are calling this the \$3 campaign because if everybody in Manhattan would contribute \$3, the complete grant would be secured.

Donation boxes have been placed in businesses around town as well as at the Riley County Historical Museum.

Checks may be made out to the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance (M/RCPA). Donations may also be sent to the Preservation Alliance at P.O. Box 1893., Manhattan, Kansas 66505-1893. Donations are tax deductible.

Plans call for the depot to be used for a public purpose such as meeting space or possibly a visitors center. More information is available by calling M/RCPA secretary Linda Glasgow at 565-6490 or the Manhattan Community Development Department at 587-2412.

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## **THE GOOD APPLE SYMPOSIUM**

**O**n Thursday, September 9 and Friday, September 10, Harry's Uptown, McCollough Development, the Wareham Family and Bowman, Bowman, Novick, are sponsoring a public forum on our local public schools, our historic neighborhoods and their role in our community.

Several presentations will be offered. The first of these presentations, Thursday, September 9, from 10 am to noon, will be held at the Wareham Theater. Sarah Hansen, Program officer with the Mountains/Plains office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will speak on historic schools. Her talk will be followed by a question and answer session.

From 12 noon to 1 pm, a luncheon will be given with speakers and various board members, commissioners, administrators and city officials.

From 1 pm to 3 pm Dr. David Hough, Dean of the College of Education and Director of the Institute for School Improvement at Southwest Missouri State University, will speak on the K-8 educational model. Again, a question and answer session will follow the talk.

On the following day, Friday, September 10, from 10 am - 12 noon, Vicki Noteis, Urban Planner and Architect, will speak at the Manhattan Public Library on urban planning, schools, and neighborhoods.



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**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Dues date from the Annual Meeting in September. Dues paid mid-year confer membership status until the next Annual Meeting. Dues are \$15 for an individual, \$20 for a family, and \$60 for a sponsor. Checks should be made out to the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance, Inc. c/o P.O. Box 1893, Manhattan, Kansas 66505. Questions? Call Linda Glasgow at 785-565-6490.

If anyone has contributions for future M/RCPA newsletters, please contact Editor, Marolyn Caldwell (776-4862) or email [marolync@flinthills.com](mailto:marolync@flinthills.com).



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**MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY  
PRESERVATION ALLIANCE**

- Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** First Congregational Church, Juliette and Poyntz unless noted  
**President:** Jim Sherow  
**Vice-President:** Michael Mecseri  
**Secretary:** Linda Glasgow  
**Treasurer:** Barbara Poresky  
**Newsletter Editor:** Marolyn Caldwell

**Membership Form - 2004-2005**

Name or names: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership fees are \$15 per individual; \$20 per family.**

**Sponsor fees are \$60/year. Please send a business card for display in the newsletter.**

Further sponsorship information: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this form to M/RCPA, Inc. c/o P.O. Box 1893, Manhattan, KS 66505-1893.**



*The Manhattan Union Pacific Depot, by Corn Duchsene*

**PLEASE COME TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING—THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 9, 2004  
AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, JULIETTE AND POYNTZ, 7:00 P.M.**

The businesses and members featured in the Preservation Alliance newsletter are helping to defray our mailing and printing costs by contributing \$5 per issue. We welcome any and all new sponsors.

M/RCPA  
P.O. Box 1893  
Manhattan, KS 66505