

Manhattan American



A Weekly Newspaper Carrying The News Of Our Community
A Russell Publication

(USPS 065-010)



Volume 63, Number 35

Phone 815-478-3255

Manhattan, Illinois

Thursday, September 17, 2009

50¢

Be part of the plan District looks for input on Central Park

by Mary Bernhard

Tonight (Thursday, Sept. 17), there is an opportunity for residents to take part in the planning of Manhattan Central Park.

Park District officials will be on hand to show plans and hear ideas and concerns beginning at 6 p.m., in the basement of the First Bank of Manhattan in Foxford Plaza.

The Manhattan Park District is working with Hitchcock Design Group to develop a plan for the potential restoration/preservation of Manhattan Central Park.

There will be a brief presentation to educate the community on the Park District's overall open space plan and point out some of the current issues identified as possible improvement needs for Manhattan Central Park.

Hitchcock Design Group will seek input from attendees on what is important to residents for the potential plans.

MYAA (Manhattan Youth Athletic Association) is especially asking members and all See 'Central Park', page 17

Absolute Vision Care opens in Manhattan

by Mary Bernhard

The construction dust has settled as Absolute Vision Care has opened its doors in Manhattan.

Residents would not recognize the inside of the old bank building that has sat vacant for more than two years at the corner of Foxford Drive and Rt. 52, adjacent to Berkot's Grocery parking lot.

"We started construction in June," Dr. Rick Peterson said. "We are excited to be open. We have state-of-the-art, brand new equipment."

Peterson added that the goal of the office was to be virtually paperless. Results of vision pre-tests are electronically available in the doctor's exam room.

"We are a Beta site for this type of software," Peterson added.

Four doctors will be on staff and available to see patients as they rotate working between Absolute Vision Care's Crestwood, Mokena and now Manhattan locations.

"We opened the Mokena

See 'Absolute Vision', page 19



MANHATTAN PATRIOT Mikey Albrecht wraps up the legs of the Cal-Park Rams ball carrier for the tackle. Story and more photos inside.

MYAA Baseball looks to add field

by Mary Bernhard

Manhattan Youth Athletic Association is moving forward with a plan to bring much-needed baseball fields to Manhattan. Executive Vice President Dan Lenz came before the Manhattan District 114 Grade School board to request use of property at Manhattan Junior High.

Lenz reported on maintenance goals of existing fields on the school's property.

"We have an on-going effort for maintenance and repairs," Lenz told the board. "Benches and bleachers at Anna McDonald are in need of repair."

Another maintenance goal is to replace the grass on the north field at Anna McDonald.

"What we are looking to do is get rid of the grass on the infield and bring in an infield mix. We would put in a newer clay and granite material which is a dust material," Lenz elaborated. The area would be a safer environment for the kids to play on and will eliminate dust in the area."

The clay and granite would be laid under the new grass mix.

Lenz added that it is the organization's long term goal to have

all of the fields in Manhattan comprised of the same material.

The biggest project Lenz proposed was a new baseball field for the junior high.

"As you are well aware, we are in desperate need of more playing area in the community," Lenz said. "There are only three fields in Manhattan, and Central Park does not work well with younger kids."

"We had a large number of games we had to cancel, rained-out games we had no way to make up this year," Lenz said. "We didn't have the space for it. We are looking as an organization to build one additional field adjacent to the baseball field at the Junior High. We are asking the board to make that addition to the school property."

Lenz clarified that the MYAA would pay for the additional field, and it would be utilized specifically for softball.

Pete Slattery, head of maintenance for the district, commented that there didn't seem to be a conflict.

"It seems to be okay with everybody," Slattery said. "I think we can run the cross-country course around it. There are some low areas in there."

School Superintendent Howard Butters added that MYAA members and school staff had looked at all the pros and cons.

"We looked at how the Patriots would be affected," Butters said. "We tried to look at this as many ways as we possibly could."

"We feel that this would be a good move for the community and the kids," Butters added.

"How would this impact the addition to the school?" board member Tim Doyle asked

"We explained, and they understand, it is a possibility the field would have to be removed when we need that property," Butters responded.

"Ultimately, it is the school's property and it is up to the board for its best uses," Lenz concurred. "The round barn is the long term solution to an immediate problem. We need an immediate solution. It's an expense, but in the long run, allowing the kids to play ball will make it worth it."

Construction could begin in two to four weeks, depending on requirements the district would have, the weather and other factors.

"We don't want to be disturbing school," Lenz added. "We would like to have it done well before winter to let the field set."

Board member Scott Mancke added an agreement spelling out how the MYAA will fence and/or cordon off the area. The agreement would also need to be signed.

"We don't want kids getting injured during construction," Mancke added.

Caboose refurbishment given boost with Eagle Scout project

by Mary Bernhard

Attendees of Manhattan Fun Day Festival had an opportunity to take a step back in time as the towns caboose was opened for tours. Many noticed several improvements to its appearance, inside and out.

Zacke Naughton, a senior at Lincoln Way Central, has completed his Eagle Scout Project by working with the Manhattan Historical Society to refurbish the caboose.

"I love the enthusiasm on the part of the historical society," Naughton said. "I had approached the Historical Society last October to ask to repaint the caboose but found out it was already being done."

That didn't stop Naughton and Historical Society members from coming up with a wish list of other items that needed to be done to improve the caboose and the ground surrounding

Manhattan's historical pride and joy.

By May of this year, Naughton had a list of what was to be accomplished including removing rust from the lockers and furnace, replacing railroad ties underneath, greasing the windows, painting the inside with authentic materials and general maintenance overhaul.

Naughton worked all summer organizing at least 25 volunteers and fellow Boy Scouts from his troop who totaled about 220 man-hours. He also was able to acquire donations of lumber for fencing from Alexander Lumber and historical artifacts from railroad employee Kenny Connelly, who is himself a scout dad.

While cleaning, Naughton didn't have to look very far to find interesting artifacts within the caboose itself. Lockers and drawers left uninspect-

See 'Caboose', page 17



ABSOLUTE VISION CARE opened its doors to its first customer last week. Pictured (l. to r.) front: are Dr. James Sowinski, Grant Cromwell and Dr. Rick Peterson. Cromwell was given a \$25 gift certificate for being the first customer. Behind the counter is Absolute Vision's office staff. Pictured are front (l. to r.) Krystal Huckleby and Kathy Filofusi; back: Meechie Hunter and Ashley Rubinas.

'Absolute Vision' — continued from page 1

office as a relief valve for our busy Crestwood office 14 years ago," Peterson said. "Now Mokena sees more patients than Crestwood."

"We never thought years ago that Mokena would grow the way it did," Peterson added. "Now, we see the same foundation here in Manhattan. There will be growth."

Peterson laughed as he explained he will feel right at home as the Mokena office is located across the street from Mokena's Berkot's Grocery.

Three of the four doctors are actual partners in Manhattan's location.

Dr. James B. Sowinski, a Manhattan resident, graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry in 2001 and completed his residency at Newington VA Medical Center in Connecticut, where he performed eye exams with heavy emphasis on ocular disease.

Sowinski is therapeutically certified to prescribe medications for the eyes. His areas of specialty include medical diagnosis and treatment of the eyes, treating traumas and emergencies and contact lens fittings.

Dr. Peterson attended the

University of Iowa and continued his education at the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, where he received his BS in Visual Science and Doctor of Optometry degree. He also received awards for his work in pediatric/binocular vision and advanced ophthalmic care.

Dr. Brian Oswald also is a graduate of Illinois College of Optometry, where he received a BS in Visual Science and Doctor of Optometry degree. He has experienced many changes and advancements in optometry in 23 years.

Dr. Amy Hansen Kwilose graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry in 2005, after attending Lewis University on an athletic and academic scholarship. She has extensive background in areas of glaucoma, anterior segment disease and binocular vision disorders.

The service's mission statement of "Our sole purpose at Absolute Vision Care is to provide you and your family with the highest quality eye care available today" is adhered to by four basic ideals.

The ideals are: utilizing the latest computerized testing technology, providing patients with



DR. JAMES SOWINSKI checks the eyes of Absolute Vision Care's first customer, Grant Cromwell.

the utmost in education regarding all eye care options relevant to the patient's needs, using the highest quality frames, lenses and contact lenses available, and cultivating relationships by providing friendly, courteous and considerate service at every opportunity.

"It's sometimes more important what you don't see than what you see," Peterson said. "A lot of people think it's all about

glasses and contacts, when it's about the health of the eye."

"Our main goal is to find the need for the patient and fill the need in the most cost effective manner," Peterson concluded.

Absolute Vision Care is at 300 Market Place (the old bank building at the corner of Foxford and Rt. 52). The hours are Monday noon to 7 p.m., Tuesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. However, doctors are on call 24/7.

To make an appointment, call 815-478-7700.

For more information about Absolute Vision Care, check out Web site at www.absolutevision.com. The website features a great deal of educational tools and information about eye care.

Manhattan Business & Professional Directory

Support These Local Advertisers

<p>Police & Fire</p> <p>Emergency 911</p>	<p>Non-Emergency</p> <p>Fire..... 815-478-3197 Police 815-478-3226 Police Administrative.....815-478-4408</p>	<p>Manhattan Officials</p> <p>Village President 815-478-3487 Village Clerk 815-478-3483</p>
<p>GRAND PRAIRIE ANIMAL HOSPITAL 530 W. North St., Manhattan, IL 60442</p> <p>Dr. Bill Wild 815-478-0213</p> <p>By appointment only Specializing in small animals</p>	<p>This Space Available Only \$9⁰⁰ Per Week</p>	<p>MANHATTAN AMERICAN LEGION POST 935 P.O. Box 171, Manhattan, IL 60442 Meeting 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Manhattan Township Hall, 24645 S. Eastern Ave., Manhattan Unless otherwise noted Contact Cmdr.: 815-476-5792 Adj.: 815-478-4135</p>
<p>Morgan Stanley Smith Barney</p> <p>INVESTMENT SERVICES</p> <p>S. Larry Hansen, CFP® Vice President Financial Advisor 15321 S. 94th Avenue Orland Park, IL 60462 708-873-5134</p> <p>Investments and services offered through Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC, member SIPC. © 2009 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney</p>	<p>Elwood-Manhattan Cable TV • 50 Analog Channels • 140 Digital Channels • Pay Per View • On Screen TV Guide</p> <p>Cable TV as Low as \$14.⁹⁵ per mo.</p> <p>High Speed Internet On Line Service</p> <p>Kraus 478-4000 CABLE TV/ONLINE SERVICE</p>	<p>Many Needs ... One Agent Since 1971</p> <p>No matter what your insurance needs, your COUNTRY agent is ready to help.</p> <p>COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services www.countryfinancial.com</p> <p>Bruce W. Bissell 1049 E. Haven Ave., New Lenox Phone 815-462-0022</p>
<p>TIMOTHY J. McGRATH - ATTORNEY AT LAW</p> <p>Available to practice in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elder Law Real Estate Criminal Law Corporate & Small Business Law Personal Injury DUI & Traffic Wills, Trusts, & Estates Zoning Divorce <p>815-478-4020 Fax: 815-478-4084 P.O. Box 615 440 S. State, Manhattan</p>	<p>This Space Available Only \$9⁰⁰ Per Week</p>	<p>HANNIGAN INSURANCE AGENCY Good Service Is Our Best Policy • Auto • Home • Life • Business • Annuities •IRA • Long Term Care • Disability • Auto Loans • Auto Warranty</p> <p>405 S. State, Manhattan, IL (next to Hansen's Villa) Kevin: 815-478-3280; Sean: 815-478-4844 call or stop in M-F: 9-5; Sat.: 9:30-noon; Tues. & Thurs. eve: 6-8</p>
<p>This Space Available Only \$9⁰⁰ Per Week</p>	<p>Southwest Mechanical Inc. d/b as Cochran Plumbing</p> <p>Licensed • Bonded • Insured</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Conditioning • Heating Commercial Work Refrigeration <p>Bill Raymond Owner Phone 815-478-3192 FREE Estimates 235 S. State St., Manhattan</p>	<p>This Space Available Only \$9⁰⁰ Per Week</p>

To Place Your Ad Here For As Little As \$9⁰⁰ Per Week

Russell Publications, Inc.

Call 708-258-3473 ext. 657